



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 54

Friday, October 26, 2012

Pages 2963 – 3007

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Environment; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

*Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for Homelessness;
Minister responsible for the Status of
Women*

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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Community and Government Services;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

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(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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Financial Management Board; Minister
of Health and Social Services*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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Whole*

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Energy; Minister responsible for the
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, October 26, 2012

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Honourable 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 9:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed with our session today, I would like to ask Mr. Shewchuk to lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) Moving on with our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 189 – 3(3): 2012
Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier
Scholarship

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, colleagues, as well as the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to congratulate this

year's recipient of the \$5,000 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship. This scholarship is in memory to an outstanding contributor to the creation of a "made in Nunavut electrical utility" and is awarded annually to an exceptional Nunavummiuq pursuing their post-secondary studies.

Mr. Speaker, choosing the recipient is getting more and more difficult as the quality of applicants continues to get stronger every year. This gives me great confidence in our youth and their desire in furthering their education for the benefit not only to themselves but for the future of Nunavut. If these applications are any indication, the future is even brighter, Mr. Speaker.

This year, the selection committee has selected Orla Osbourne of Iqaluit. Ms. Osbourne is currently in her fourth year at the University of Victoria studying biology with a minor in ocean science. While she graduated from Inuksuk High School, Ms. Osbourne spent parts of her childhood in Grise Fiord and Ireland, settling in Iqaluit in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, outside of her studies, Ms. Osbourne has been an active volunteer, not only in Iqaluit, but has even travelled to Sri Lanka to volunteer her time with youth in that country. Here at home, her contributions to the Nunavut Helpline, Iqaluit Food Bank and Soup Kitchen have been greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a quote from her biography that struck me and I hope will have an impact to all listening. "Living a healthy, well balanced lifestyle, is something I passively promote by setting an example. To me that means eating right, exercising

regularly, having time to yourself, spending time with your friends and working hard to achieve your goals, be it studying at school or working in a job.”

Mr. Speaker, this young woman is a great example of those values; her success in the community is only shadowed by her academic successes. I am sure we all wish her continued success in all avenues of her life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Congratulations, Ms. Osbourne. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

**Minister’s Statement 190 – 3(3):
Uqausivut Plan**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as the Nunavummiut who are watching.

Mr. Speaker, a year ago, I had the honour of presenting to this Assembly the first draft of the Uqausivut Plan for the implementation of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*.

Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to advise the members that I will be tabling the final version of Uqausivut Plan during this session.

For the last year, we have listened and spoken to hundreds of Nunavummiut. They generously shared their thoughts and hopes with us. Their recommendations and their wisdom have

enriched our approach and is truly a reflection of the vision we all share for Nunavut.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution and support of our partners in this process, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Office of the Official Languages Commissioner, francophone organizations, and of course, the many officials within the Government of Nunavut who shared a deep commitment to the future of our languages and culture.

The passage of our language legislation marked the first step in a journey equally as bold and ambitious as the creation of Nunavut: the challenge of enshrining and protecting the languages at the very heart of our culture and society.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all Nunavummiut, young and old, from every sector and community, to join us as we take our next step. The journey begins today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Bravo!

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Ell.

**Minister’s Statement 191 – 3(3):
Signing of Collective Agreement
with Nunavut Employees Union
and Qulliq Energy Corporation**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that my department has signed a new collective agreement

with the Nunavut Employees Union and the Qulliq Energy Corporation as of October 19, 2012.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut and the Qulliq Energy Corporation value the contributions and dedication of its public servants. The new three-year collective agreement, from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013, reflects this to the best of our ability in these tight economic times.

The new agreement provides QEC-NEU members with salary increases of 6.5 percent over three years, retroactive to January 1, 2011, and a one-time signing bonus of \$1,100 for each employee on strength as at the date of ratification.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, both bargaining teams for their hard work and dedication, Colin Taylor for his able mediation assistance, and most of all, our QEC-NEU employees for placing confidence in the collective bargaining process. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister of Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 192 – 3(3):
European Fisheries Policy on Seal
Management**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention a

report that was recently adopted by the European Parliament this month entitled "Reforming the Common Fisheries Policy." Section 13 of the report urges the European Commission to "take measures to reduce the negative effects of seals and certain seabirds on fish stocks." It is likely that the "measures" referred to in the report include the lethal culling of seals, as is the current practice in Scotland.

Mr. Speaker, I find it saddening that the EU seal ban was established under the pretexts of conservation and animal welfare. It is extremely hypocritical of the European Union to have banned the placing on the market of seal products for reasons of public morality, yet open up the potential to legitimize the culling of seals in their own waters, where their own regulations will prevent them from fully utilizing these animals. It has always been the position of our government that any wild animal that is harvested must be fully utilized, the perfect example of which is the respectful harvest and use of seals by Inuit.

The EU has taken no action to date to make the Inuit exemption workable in their member states, where sealskin markets have been destroyed. This latest move by the EU to potentially legitimize the killing and wastage of seals in their own waters is therefore just another slap in the face to Inuit and Canadian sealers alike, who respectfully, humanely, and sustainably harvest seals but are prevented from selling their by-products in the EU.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the EU to reconsider their seal ban to Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. I'm not sure you're not the only one who feels that it's a rather hypocritical move on their part.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Minister's Statement 193 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Susan Nichols,
CGA**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month, Susan Nichols, our Acting Director of Financial Reporting and Controls at the Department of Finance, graduated from the Certified General Accountants Program of studies. Not only is this a very proud moment for her; it is a proud moment for the government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that Susan Nichols is sitting in the Gallery behind me, who is the lady I'm talking about.

Accountants perform many important functions in our government, including financial planning, risk and financial management, as well as budget and tax planning. It is very important to have designated accountants working for us.

Susan has worked for the Government of Nunavut for more than six years, most of that with the Department of Finance. She works with all departments and agencies to ensure the quality of financial submissions continues to improve. Susan also works to build the GN's financial capacity and with the Office of the Auditor General to improve our financial

procedures. Her contributions to this work culminated in the Government of Nunavut tabling its 2010-11 Public Accounts on time – a first for the Government of Nunavut.

>>Applause

For Susan, all this hard work happened while completing her professional accounting designation as a certified general accountant. Please join me in extending congratulations to Susan Nichols, CGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Congratulations, Susan. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

**Minister's Statement 194 – 3(3):
Signing of Collective Agreement
with Nunavut Employees Union**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I rose to announce that my department has signed a new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union, effective October 1, 2012.

(interpretation ends) The collective agreement is from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2014. (interpretation) Yesterday, I misspoke as to the dates of the life of the contract. (interpretation ends) So the correct length of time for the collective agreement is October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2014. However, this correction does give me the chance to say again that the Government of Nunavut values the contributions and dedication of its public servants and our

new four-year collective agreement reflects this to the best of our ability in these tight economic times. Thank you, *Uqaqtii*.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 310 – 3(3): Nuiyak School's Library Success

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today and congratulate the Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq for winning the Indigo Adopt a School Contest.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, Internet visitors to the Indigo bookselling website could vote to adopt a school from a number of entries across Canada. Votes came in from around the world. The ten schools with the most votes were eligible to win the top prize of \$10,000 and 365 books.

I would like to note that the community of Sanikiluaq also pitched in an additional \$4,000 in fundraising. The school was doubly blessed.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that I asked questions about the status of new school libraries almost two years ago. It was functioning with some very outdated and worn-out books on a few shelves and stacked on tables.

Mr. Speaker, the Nuiyak School principal and teachers are very excited about what they can now do in their library. New shelving and furniture, new high-interest and culturally relevant books will be the focus. The Nuiyak School library is something to be proud of and the community of Sanikiluaq should be very proud of what is achieved by working together towards a common and very worthwhile goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Member's Statement 311 – 3(3): Development for the People

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of transparent and accountable economic development for the people of Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have been a strong proponent of a balanced approach to economic development in Baker Lake and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, balance means ensuring that the development of our natural resources is undertaken in a way that safeguards our environment and provides a legacy to our children of which we can be proud. Balance means ensuring that the needs of communities are taken into account as part of the economic planning process. Balance means ensuring that we have a climate that is welcoming to business and industry, but also requires transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, let me touch on three specific issues today.

Earlier this week, my colleague from Pond Inlet asked important questions concerning the potential for a development partnership agreement to be signed with the government in relation to the Mary River project. As the House is aware, a development partnership agreement was signed in 2007 in relation to the Meadowbank mine. I continue to believe that it is important for all parties to comply with their obligations under these agreements.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent annual report of the Kivalliq Inuit Association indicates that it has concluded an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement with Agnico-Eagle Mines and that further agreements are expected in the coming months for the Meliadine and Kiggavik mines. As the MLA for Baker Lake and a proud beneficiary of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, I believe that greater transparency would be welcomed with respect to the contents of IIBAs.

Mr. Speaker, access to basic banking services is something that most Canadians take for granted. However, many Nunavummiut live in communities that do not have a physical banking presence. A couple of years ago, there was excitement across the Kivalliq at the prospect of improved banking services. I continue to encourage stakeholders to work together to identify...

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. The member is seeking unanimous

consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well, I would like to thank my colleagues for allowing me to continue.

As I mentioned, I continue to encourage stakeholders to work together to identify what needs to be done to improve access to banking services for our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 312 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Grade 5 Class of
Repulse Bay**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend a good morning to the Repulse Bay grade 5 class.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is sometimes hard to wonder whether or not there will be a community feast. While I was in Repulse Bay, I had the opportunity to share a feast with the grade 5 students at the school. I am very grateful for that. I also thank the school principal, as well as the Mayor of Repulse Bay, Mr. Haqpi, whom we shared this feast with, as well as the grade 5 class. I'm thankful for that.

I wish the grade 5 class in Repulse Bay a very happy day and a very good future. They are our future leaders who will

replace us down the road. I also thank their teacher tremendously.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to speak to the Repulse Bay students and teachers, as well as their principal on October 16, when I went to Repulse Bay, and prior to that. The school principal stated that there are still two positions that have not been filled due to the lack of accommodation. I would like the Minister of Education to think about this in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 313 – 3(3): New Stone Circle Plaza in Coral Harbour

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House of about a good news story in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency provided funding for a community project in Coral Harbour to enable the hamlet to complete the construction of a stone circle plaza. The federal announcement for this project indicated that it will "create awareness about the rich history of the community of Coral Harbour and Southampton Island" and help residents

"build new skills in stone masonry and develop a site that the hamlet can be proud of."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to Minister Aglukkaq for her support of projects such as this.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have been a strong advocate for initiatives that contribute to economic development and diversification in my constituency and Nunavut as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, this investment will also "support the printing and distribution of a tourism brochure and interpretive signage for the community."

I am pleased to see investments that will support a sustainable tourism sector in Nunavut. This is an area that has potential for growth and I support all levels of government working together to identify strategically targeted investments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 314 – 3(3): 2012 High School Graduates of Maani Ulujuk School

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, this summer was a very good occasion for me in Rankin Inlet because I was invited by graduates to attend their graduation ceremony and to speak.

In Maani Ulujuk Ilinniarnvik, the graduates increase annually. The entire gym was packed of Rankin Inlet residents who were sharing in the celebration of the graduation. Even though a lot of the people didn't have students graduating, they all went to participate in this celebration.

There were 31 graduates from Rankin Inlet this summer. These students worked their hardest to graduate. They are as follows:

Jamie Airut,
 Brandyn Airut,
 Jessica Alikashuak,
 Israel Aliyak,
 Rebecca Anderson,
 Meagan Angidlik,
 Seamus Ayaruak,
 Annette Boucher,
 John Bruce,
 Alexandria Komaksuitiksak,
 Cassandra Gordon,
 Cyrus Gordon,
 Denise Graham,
 Rob Kakuktinniq,
 Tagalik Misheralak,
 David Nukapiak,
 Tony Nutarakittuq,
 Erin Pameolik,
 Katrina Pameolik,
 Jennica Pissuk,
 Joyce Ramey,
 Alexandra Rudd,
 Marilyn Sandy,
 Steve Sandy,
 Chantel Sateana,
 Keith Sigurdson (Butchy),
 Luther Siksik,
 Iris Tatty,
 Clarissa Ussak,
 Haley White, and
 Kevin Ymana.

I am very proud of these graduates and I know for a fact that they will have a good future when they start their careers. I am very proud of them and I share in their pride. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. I congratulate those young graduates. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 315 – 3(3):
 Arviat Graduates of Diamond
 Drilling Program**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a very special day and the celebrations that will be happening in my home community of Arviat this afternoon.

Today, the community of Arviat is celebrating the completion of the third Arviat Diamond Drillers Training Program. Ten students have successfully completed the course, making a total of 31 graduates over the three offerings of this course so far.

The current partners for this course are the Hamlet of Arviat, the Government of Nunavut (through the Department of Economic Development and Transportation), Nunavut Arctic College, Northern College of Ontario, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd., Orbit Garant Drilling, Boart Longyear Drilling, and the Kivalliq Partners in Development.

Ten students are graduating today, eight from Arviat and two from Rankin Inlet. From Arviat, they are Adam Pingushat, Alex Gibbons, Ashton Kadjuk, Eric Okatsiak, Gerard Irksuk, Jordy Kidlapik,

Joshua Iblauk, and Patrick Sularayok. From Rankin Inlet, Timothy Pilakapsi and Clarissa Ussak successfully finished the course. Clarissa is the second female graduate of the program.

The instructors for this course are Don Larson and Bill Krakana, both from Northern College. The assistant instructor is Hunter Tattuinee of Arviat. Hunter was a graduate of the program last year and was immediately hired by Boart Longyear. He worked for a full drilling season with Don Larson, one of the current instructors, and Don was so impressed with Hunter's work that he suggested Hunter would be a great assistant instructor for this course. Therefore, Hunter was hired as an assistant instructor, worked with the program for the full eight-week course, and did a great job in helping to administer the program and teach students. Hunter will be returning to Boart Longyear in January.

Our drilling company partners have already expressed interest in hiring several of our graduates. Thirteen of the previous graduates were working on a regular basis as of September 2012, although many more are now temporarily off for the season and will be returning to work in January. Out of the 21 graduates out of the previous two courses, 18 found at least part-time or temporary employment in the mining industry.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like unanimous consent to continue my statement.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are

there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My congratulations go out to all of the graduates on a job well done, and also to all of the families and supporters of each and every one of them. I wish them all the best in life and in all of their chosen careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Congratulations to all of the graduates and to Hunter, the instructor.

>>*Laughter*

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 316 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Rankin Inlet
Recipient of Prime Minister's
Award for Teaching Excellence**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lisa Kresky, a teacher and educator at Rankin Inlet's Maani Ulujuk Ilinniarvik, who recently received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Kresky has been a teacher in Rankin Inlet for nearly a decade. During that time, she has dedicated her time and energy to encouraging students to get the most out of their surroundings educationally, culturally, globally, and even in the world of athletics.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the words of her supporters to be heard.

The principal of the school stated, “Lisa Kresky...exemplifies what a well-rounded, effective, dedicated and exemplary teacher is.”

A former student stated, “Lisa is the best teacher I ever had and puts her students first in everything she does. I am proud to call her my teacher, my coach and my mentor! I wish every student could have the opportunity to be in her class.”

Mr. Speaker, we need more teachers who can make such a difference in the lives of their students and communities.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Lisa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Shewchuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud and privileged to welcome the following fur production and design students in the Gallery today. As you can see, the students are wearing their traditional Inuit clothing that reflect Inuit culture, and this shows the importance of their wonderful designs in which they are gaining skills through the fur and design program.

The fur and design program offers students the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be successful in the sealskin garment industry. This 10-month program focuses on traditional Inuit methods and technologies to prepare skins, design and sew garments, as well as on commercial and contemporary methods for fur design and production. Business courses will familiarize students with the market, consumer demand, and assist the students to become successful in both cottage industries and small business.

Mr. Speaker, please help me in welcoming... I will ask them to stand as I call their name because I think they may not all be here with the list that I have. So as I call their name, I would ask them to stand up.

Susie Akpalialuk of Pangnirtung
Rosie Audlakiak of Qikiqtarjuaq
Elizabeth Awa of Igloolik
Stella Awa of Igloolik
Christina Ijjangiaq of Igloolik, maybe not here
Mary Natsiq of Iqaluit
Kitty Pearson of Kuujuaq now
Margaret Pudlat of Coral Harbour
Mary Wilman of Iqaluit
Mona Netser of Iqaluit, and
Their Senior Instructor, Meeka Kilabuk of Iqaluit.

Now, if I have missed a couple, I am very sorry I don’t have your names here, but I thought I had everybody. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, if I didn’t mention anybody’s name, I welcome everybody to the Gallery and thank them very much for coming here, displaying their beautiful clothing. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. The display of the clothing that they made is a good example. We should send a picture over to those guys in Europe and see what they can do when the seals are going to cull over there.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two individuals I would like to recognize who are well known by Members of this House, as well as by people in Nunavut, obviously.

Donat Milortok from Repulse Bay and Bobby Lyall from Taloyoak, whom I've had the pleasure of serving on other boards and both of them are my friends. So please welcome them to the Gallery and Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to recognize a person as I don't usually have an opportunity to recognize people from Coral Harbour because we rarely get people from there coming into Iqaluit. Therefore, one of my dear relatives, Margaret Pudlat, is the person I want recognized and welcomed to the House as she is taking a course here in Iqaluit. She was already mentioned, but if members could please welcome her. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although they have been recognized, I would also like to recognize in the Gallery Elizabeth Awa and Stella Awa from Igloolik. They are from my community and I would like to welcome them. I am happy to be able to recognize individuals in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also grateful for the women in the Gallery. I like to sew and I'm missing my sewing, so I am grateful to the women for coming here to the Gallery. I would like to welcome Takolik Robert Lyall, who is the son of Mr. Lyall and Nipisa. I would like to welcome him very much because he is a fellow Taloyoak resident and he was here attending the NTI AGM. I think it just ended yesterday. I believe he was partaking in that, so I would like to thank him for representing our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to recognize someone today. I am proud of the entire group of students here who

will be working on sealskins as the world does not want to buy from us, but we will never give up our connection to the seal.

I particularly want to recognize this person who is one of the instructors, my maternal aunt, Meeka Kilabuk. It's quite obvious that she is a tireless worker. As far back as I can remember she has always been busy and involved in various projects, especially in our community. Although there was no government, she was involved in the creation of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. She has been involved in various ventures and initiatives. Now she is an instructor with this group that's sewing traditional Inuit clothes. I am very proud of Meeka Kilabuk.

Additionally, I would like to recognize a fellow Pangnirtung resident who has been taking classes in Iqaluit, I believe, for about two years now. She is Susie Akpalialuk.

I would also like to welcome another visitor because I worked with him when we were past mayors and that's Donat Milortok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am grateful that all of the students are here in the Gallery. The person I spoke to had been involved in sealskin marketing and when I spoke about trying to market sealskins, this group came in at the right time. Their creations are very beautiful. I

would like to recognize this person because I don't usually have a constituent. I would like to recognize Rosie Audlakiak from Qikiqtarjuaq. Welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery. No more? I welcome all of you to the Gallery. It's good to see you all again. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 427 – 3(3): Relocation of Graves in Hall Beach

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, I mean good morning. It's Friday and I'm sorry to say "good afternoon," but good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Earlier this week, I tabled a package of correspondence concerning the longstanding and unresolved issue of the relocation of graves in Hall Beach in the 1960s. I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for writing to the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on this matter. It is clear from the federal minister's reply that the Government of Canada is not willing to accept any responsibility for this matter.

The Municipality of Hall Beach and I have urged the Government of Nunavut to resolve this issue once and for all by providing a one-time compensation

payment. Mr. Speaker, is the Government of Nunavut willing to do this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, this has been quite a long, outstanding issue. As Mr. Tapardjuk says, it goes back to the 1960s. The Government of Nunavut wasn't even in existence until 1999. I have reviewed the file, I have followed the paper trail, there are all of those countless letters back and forth between ministers, premiers, and federal ministers, but nobody seems to be able to resolve the issue, and then it lands on my desk in the last year.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada clearly indicates in their correspondence that they have no record of this event ever occurring. It's very puzzling. I know the community says it did happen. The federal government, to whom they have been corresponding with, said that it didn't happen and the statute of limitations has run out.

I know the mayor's letter asked if the Government of Nunavut would consider legal avenues and I'm sure, as the former Minister of Justice and myself, being the former Minister of Justice, we know that that would be very difficult. I share the concern with the community.

With respect to financial compensation, that's very difficult for me to answer. We have no idea what the costs are and who acknowledges responsibility. What

I'm prepared to do is offer the individuals and the community of Hall Beach counselling and support to those individuals affected and help them with their grieving and healing process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to this event, when the elections were fresh during the first Nunavut government, I believe we all recall that the first minister was Minister Ed. Picco. When he was a minister, he sent an application to the Hall Beach hamlet to record the story as well as to outline what had occurred.

I know for a fact that the Nunavut government has already initiated their assistance to resolve the matter. However, this one particular aspect that they're trying to apply for is the people who were impacted and who did all the work of moving the cemetery. They went through a very hard and stressful time. Their *Qamutiit* were completely inundated with human blood. Their clothing had lingering smells of death.

We have sent letters and it was recorded within the QIA Dog Slaughter Truth Commission. So I would like to ask the minister again: can we ensure that the Hall Beach hamlet be offered another application and whether or not funds can be identified to at least look at this event and to record it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk again for the question. Mr. Speaker, again, I have read the files, I have read the letters. Based on the letters I have read, it must have been a horrible experience for those four persons who were involved and I can't imagine what it was like for them. I can't imagine how it would be like for even me if I was put into that situation.

However, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the department is willing to continue to provide counselling resources to the community and to those individuals. To me, it seems like more of a mental process to help the community and individuals recover than a monetary process. Again, I'm not prepared to consider compensation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue rose after the Nunavut government stated that they would be able to provide assistance to the community to aid in its healing process.

Mr. Speaker, this is the concern: the men who were tasked to move the human remains were told that the cemetery was too close to the community and abutting the proposed lots, so they had no choice but to move the remains. They were told that they would be paid for this work. They were informed that they would earn a substantial amount for this work. Even to this day, they are still waiting for payment. Actually, only one individual is still alive as the others have passed on.

These men who were told that they would be remunerated for this work have reached this day still expecting payment for this work. What else can the minister state to me and to this House, as well as to the Hall Beach residents about how these people can be provided further assistance, not just for the healing process? They were informed that they would be paid in those days and compensated for the loss of their hunting equipment. Can these be reconsidered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud Mr. Tapardjuk for his efforts on behalf of the community and these individuals. Again, by reading the correspondence, I can appreciate the emotional trauma that they experienced.

The Government of Canada checked their files. They called it, and I'll just quote here, the feds say that there's no clear evidence linking the federal government to the event in question. So if the Government of Canada wasn't involved and the Government of Nunavut didn't exist, I don't know who would be responsible.

I'm sorry, Mr. Tapardjuk, but the Department of Health will continue to provide and offer all the support we can to the community, individuals, and families to heal and get over the grieving process. I think this is more of a healing process related to the mind and body than it is to the financial compensation issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue causes me regret and it is completely regrettable that false promises were made. If they hadn't been tasked to undertake this work, then the community of Hall Beach and the community layout would be completely different. This causes me to wonder who is really telling the truth: the federal government who tasked them or the men who actually did that gruesome job.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask this question again with respect to a healing process. The minister stated that they would be able to provide assistance in this area. What type of assistance will this provide to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, we have mental health workers in most communities. The community can contact the Department of Health and Social Services, mental health workers, social workers, and they can work with the community with the counselling. Our officials here in headquarters are aware of the community's concern over this issue, an event that occurred almost 40 years ago. I'll remind them again that the community is seeking help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 428 – 3(3): Development Partnership Agreement with Agnico-Eagle Mines

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

On February 21 of this year, I asked questions concerning the status of the Government of Nunavut's Development Partnership Agreement with Agnico-Eagle Mines. At that time, a dispute existed between the government and the company with respect to its submission of annual reports under the DPA. These annual reports are required to be submitted to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. As a consequence, the company's application under the Fuel Tax Rebate Program had been partially rejected.

My question for the minister is this: as of today, is Agnico Eagle Mines up to date with respect to submitting its annual reports under the development partnership agreement with the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fourth annual report required by the DPA has been submitted on time. The issue that he mentions there in his question was the third annual

report that's in question now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response as well. The people of Baker Lake are very aware of the activities and have questions to see whether or not this government and our partners in the resource sector are abiding by the proper procedures.

In my Member's Statement today, I addressed the importance of transparency in economic development. Under its DPA with the government, the company has obligations in such areas as socio-economic planning, monitoring, reporting, mitigation, education, training, employment, and economic development. Will the minister commit to tabling in the Legislative Assembly copies of the company's most recent annual reports under the DPA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, under the DPA, transparency and openness policies that we abide by, information is shared openly between the partners and our GN departments and with the communities. Once the fourth annual report is ready for tabling, I will surely do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of ED&T chairs a socio-economic assessment committee, which reviews the company's annual reports to ensure compliance with the development partnership agreement. As a follow-up, I just want to ask as well and ensure that my colleagues and Baker Lake is aware: can the minister indicate if the government is fully satisfied that the company is fully complying with its obligations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The negotiated terms in the development partnership agreement, if both parties agree and are in compliancy to the negotiated terms, yes, the company does receive its fuel tax rebate and it has done so the last time. Once the report is available for tabling, I will surely do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People of Baker Lake do benefit from the employment, but as well, the natural perspective for the local community as well as the environment and resources, ensuring that the natural environment is protected and that under the agreements, all of these principles and policies are followed.

With the enhancement of opportunities and those people willing to work and maintain employment and those challenges that face the community in different aspects, there is economic stimulus that we are benefiting from and we are thankful for. Of course, we do have our challenges and barriers, but it's a start for the community to contribute within our own region as well as Nunavut, as well, one of the economic spin-offs.

Mr. Speaker, my question is in regard to my Member's Statement today. I spoke about the importance of finding ways of expanding access to basic banking services in our communities. While I recognize that the government cannot order a bank to establish a new branch, I would like to see it work with stakeholders to identify ways to attract banks to expand their presence to our smaller communities. Can the minister indicate if there have been any discussions about the issue under the framework of its development partnership agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The six guiding principles in negotiating a development partnership agreement with the mining companies out there is exactly that: education and training for Nunavummiut, infrastructure development, and investment that includes physical, energy, communications, and organizational structures; developing and diversifying local businesses; collecting and sharing information with the local community

and the region; investing in new and existing programs to build capacity, social well-being, and economic strength of communities to help employees and their families. I have been saying for the last few days that one of the things that's necessary to get our people out of poverty is economic development, employment.

Mr. Speaker, the second part of the question on putting a bank into communities is purely a business decision by the banks. If there is money to be made there, there is no reason why a bank shouldn't be there if they do their feasibility study and realize that there are profits to be made there.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, most northerners do their banking online. It's rather a replacement for building a bricks and mortar type of building. As you know, the technological highway of today is banking online. It's one of those things that the business community looks at, including the banks. They're leaning more and more to the technological side of doing business and that's one of the things most northerners are doing today, banking online. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 429 – 3(3): Fuel Distribution Services in Taloyoak

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to send my regards and say "good morning" to the people of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. They haven't even started school yet.

It's a good Friday and I'm sure that they appreciate that.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, I made a Member's Statement on March 6, 2012 about the issue of fuel distribution contracts. In my statement, I indicated that "...it is important that the government ensure that bidders have the necessary equipment, resources and infrastructure to successfully fulfill the terms and conditions of the contract." Does the Department of Community and Government Services follow these guidelines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. I recall her statements regarding the fuel contract. (interpretation) Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can say that the Department of Community and Government Services does follow those guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware from our exchanges of correspondence and my questions to him, I have received concerns from residents of Taloyoak about the current fuel distribution contract for the

community. Can the minister explain why the department awarded the current fuel distribution contract to an entity that has not yet built a garage for the storage of fuel delivery vehicles that meets the terms of its contract with the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the very important question. Mr. Speaker, I wasn't part of the party that sat there and decided who's going to get what contract, but I assure the member that when all the contracts were reviewed and looked at, the contracts were awarded on merit and ability to deliver on the contract. That's the conclusion they came to, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In my statement of March 6, I noted the importance of the government having a clear and transparent process for addressing concerns about the performance of contractors. Can the minister describe the process by which his department addresses and resolves concerns that are raised in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When our department is responsible for looking after those issues or if there are concerns regarding contracts which we are responsible for, the follow-ups are done to ensure that the proper contracts are being followed as per the agreements signed by both parties. In this particular case, I could assure the member that we are reviewing that particular file and checking to ensure that the contract is being followed through properly and that the party is following through on their obligations of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your responses, minister. According to information that the minister recently provided in a return to a written question concerning the award of fuel distribution contracts, the current contract in Taloyoak commenced on November 1, 2011 and expires on October 30, 2016. The one-year anniversary of the awarding of the contract is next month. (interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to directing his officials to undertake a formal review of whether the current contractor is meeting the terms and conditions of the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure if they're meeting the terms and conditions in Taloyoak, whether there's

proper distribution of fuel within the community.

(interpretation ends) I understand that fuel that has to be delivered in the community has been delivered so far. From my interactions with the member, I understand there is an issue with the housing of the vehicles for fuel delivery. Our department will be looking at that and other aspects of the contract to ensure that the contractual agreement is being followed through.

As for the issues regarding where the building is going to be and warehousing of the fuel tanks, that's between the municipality and the contractor. Our department is looking into it to ensure that the contractual agreement is being followed, as per the agreement. I'll keep the member updated as that progresses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Question 430 – 3(3): Oil Spill Response Preparedness

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to the people of Pond Inlet and to Ittukuluk. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment, (interpretation ends) Hon. Arreak.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked questions during our recent winter sitting concerning his department's role on the Arctic Regional Advisory Council on Oil Spill Response. The answer provided by the minister indicated that the Arctic

Regional Advisory Council on Oil Spill Response was “focusing its efforts on developing standards for wintering over fuel barges, which has become an issue of great concern across the north and for which there are currently no accepted standards and regulations.”

Can the minister provide me with an update today on his department’s work on developing standards and regulations concerning the wintering of fuel barges and can he indicate when these regulations will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was an application submitted for a floating fuel barge for approval. The application wasn’t approved. There were various reasons for not approving the floating fuel barge. At this time, the details have been discussed about having more than one ship that would serve as the fuel barge with a triple-hulled ship. With respect to actual legislation pertaining to this, they are still drafting these for environmental protection. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer provided by the minister also indicated that the Arctic Regional Advisory Council on Oil Spill Response works to “share and address issues of concern regarding oil spill preparedness and response.” Can the minister indicate how his department is

working to address oil spill preparedness and response throughout the territory and can he say whether Nunavut communities are equipped to deal with major oil spills in arctic waters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member indicated, he recalls part of my response and I thank him for his memory. We are still trying to complete that part of the duties I listed in my response. They’re still drafting up these environmental regulations regarded to oil spills by the federal government. With respect to the smaller communities, we hear about their concerns and we have tried to deal with these oil spill response plans. A lot of the communities deal with smaller oil spills, but with respect to larger oil spills, if that event were to ever occur, the federal government would be responsible for the cleanup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was reported last week that oil is naturally seeping from a crack in the ocean floor off the north eastern area of Baffin Island into arctic waters. A representative from the Geological Survey of Canada was quoted as saying that “Some of these oil slicks are about 40 or 50 kilometres around and when you consider the thickness of an oil film, each one of these slicks represents 25,000 to 75,000 barrels of oil sitting on the sea surface at any one time.”

Although I recognize that this is being described as a natural event, I am very concerned with the possible negative impacts on marine mammals and, in turn, Nunavummiut who hunt and consume these marine mammals. Can the minister indicate what his department is doing to monitor this issue and evaluate possible actions to mitigate its impact? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This article that the member read in the newspaper is right in front of the land where I grew up. That particular fuel leak has been ongoing for many years and we have known about it in the past.

Whenever we had meetings with the petroleum industry in the 1970s between the government, petroleum industry, and the communities, we had informed them about this natural oil leak to the petroleum industry. This has continued for many years. It's not a new occurrence. It's always had a slick in that particular area. So it has been naturally leaking for many years.

At this time, I am unaware if any agency has commenced dealing with this seepage, so I can't speak to it. However, I do know that in that area, the natural oil seepage has been observed for many generations as our ancestors were aware of this area due to slick sheen that resulted from this oil seepage. If people assume this is a new event, that it just started seeping recently, they would be far off the mark.

Those of us who live in and use the marine area, it is part of our history and traditional knowledge as it has been within our collective memory for many years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems obvious, as it's also have been dealt with, that this has been continuing for many years. I totally concur with that. What I'm trying to ask the minister is: why isn't the department trying to look into that matter, even though it has been an actual seepage and an ongoing one as to the effects it might have on marine life as well as wildlife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I'm not sure whether or not this has been dealt with as I haven't had any briefing about whether or not our officials are looking into that matter, but I can task my officials, who are expecting that field, to see what kind of impact it may have on the marine environment. Generally, the Nunavut government is not responsible for the marine environment as our department does not have mandate for it. We can look into that and I will ensure that we task our officials to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 431 – 3(3): Polar Bear Issues

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

We have been kept informed about current events, especially the Inuit. I have a question to the minister regarding polar bears and how it impacts us as Nunavutmiut. I think it was this summer that I read in the news. In English, it reads, (interpretation ends) “Polar bears develop an appetite for narwhal and bowhead carcasses.” (interpretation) It says that the polar bears have an appetite for narwhal carcasses.

>> *Laughter*

I would like to ask the minister if the polar bears’ appetites have changed recently. Could the minister indicate to the House why the polar bears in Nunavut have changed their appetites just recently?

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. That’s assuming they did. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. If you believe that and if you think that is a current change of polar bear diet, I personally don’t believe it’s true. Ever since there have been bowheads and belugas and polar bears, they have always had an appetite for sea mammals, especially mammals with blubber. The polar bear will eat anything that has blubber.

The outsiders keep trying to tell us that these are new trends. We hear that polar bears only eat marine life, but we all know that they eat vegetation and eggs, and so on. So don’t believe everything you read in the news. They have always been able to eat anything from the land or sea as long as it’s available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the people are happy that you said that. The women that go out on the land are very afraid of the polar bears and for that reason, sometimes they us believe in the news about things that are not true. If I could take a look at it and to let you know what the World Wildlife Fund said, it seems like the people of the north are saying that for the past 50 years now, there’s a larger polar bear population and I’m over 60 years old.

There are more polar bears that are starting to come into the communities as nuisance bears because there are a lot of polar bears that are in danger from the hunters and from the people. They have to kill them because they are nuisance bears. First of all, I would like to ask who is looking up to the dangerous polar bears in the communities. The polar bears are endangering the communities and the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising those concerns

about polar bears because, again, this is a question we find with many of our fellow residents in Nunavut. The World Wildlife Fund, the acronym being WWF, is one of the organizations we work with to conduct polar bear population surveys and they have provided funding to conduct studies. I don't think they're part of the animal protection organizations.

We have heard that in the 1970s, the polar bear population has crashed and they have not been studied for many years. We know that the population is increasing and the member is correct that polar bears do endanger people. Last summer, when my wife and grandchildren were camping in the tent, a polar bear with cubs came to our camp. It's kind of scary when there are polar bears right next to your tent.

With respect to whether a polar bear is endangering the community or its citizens, since the member asked about who makes that decision, the person who feels endangered is the only one who will make that decision. If the polar bear is coming into your camp or into your tent, it's up to you to decide to either kill it or scare it off. So once it comes into the personal space of a hunter, they have to also protect their own life and his family, as well as their property. They have that right.

Even if we were to say that if we put a minimum of 15 or 50 feet, it may or may not be correct because every person has personal space where they would feel threatened, so I believe that's a personal decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I know for a fact that the listening audience appreciates that answer. The reason why I asked that is because the guidelines or the legislation related to the determination of a polar bear endangering citizens is integrated. Some conservation officers wait far too long.

I can state that my wife's father, who has passed away, once had a polar bear peek into their tent. Even though the rifle was right there, he couldn't grab it, so he blew at it and it went out. Even before he had put in all his clothing, he grabbed his gun and went outside and said, "I'm up now" to the polar bear. He didn't shoot it; he just told him, "I'm up now," so he poked it with his rifle barrel right on the nose. To me, it would be very scary because some people have different reactions.

Perhaps the minister can update the regulation. If a polar bear were to kill a human, they may also eat from the cadaver and it has happened in the past close to Rankin Inlet. We want to ensure that that does not occur again. Let's develop a very good protocol because some polar bears also slaughter dogs and Inuit are watching this happen as it is close by.

Can the minister agree that the protocol has to be updated so that the people are not scared to protect their property and their dog teams that they wish to safeguard and that these concerns need to be addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 432 – 3(3): Drinking Water Quality Issues in Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy today is Friday. I would like to get some clarification and ask a question to the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of CG&S. (interpretation) I think he and I know that polar bears like pizza nowadays.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) On a serious note, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) there is beginning to be salt water coming into Kugaaruk and the water is very salty and it is getting to be bothersome when you do your laundry because of its saltiness, especially in the wintertime. Some people in Kugaaruk do not have any equipment, such as skidoos, to go and get better water. I would like to ask the minister this question because he works with the hamlet. What is happening with the water quality in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Perhaps at around lunchtime, we can go and have some pizza because he's beginning to make me hungry.

With regard to the salty water in Kugaaruk, I know it is true that the water quality in Kugaaruk is quite salty, so we designated an area where we can have un-salty water in Kugaaruk. We are working with the hamlet council in Kugaaruk to see where we can acquire better water that is not salty. During resupply this coming summer, they will have a pumphouse and when the equipment comes in, they will be constructing the pumphouse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the hon. minister. Once the ship comes next, I will take the minister out for pizza.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister can inform the hamlet or perhaps they are already aware of the fact that there will be a pumphouse arriving next summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the hamlet council wasn't already aware, we will inform them. According to my understanding, I believe they're already

aware of that fact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 433 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut’s Uranium Policy

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

On June 6, 2012, the minister tabled the Government of Nunavut’s uranium policy statement. In that statement, it clarified that the Government of Nunavut will support the exploration and mining of uranium subject to five principles. My questions are based around those principles.

Mr. Speaker, Principle 2 of the Government of Nunavut’s uranium policy states that “Nunavummiut must be the major beneficiaries of uranium exploration and mining activities.” My question to the minister is: what policies or mechanisms does the Government of Nunavut have in place to ensure this will occur? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, it’s written down quite clearly in the Parnautit strategy for mining and we use those on a case-by-case basis. That strategy is used by all proponents, all companies, and

throughout the regulatory processes that NIRB goes through with the proponents and all interested parties. It states that very clearly there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Principle 5 states that “Uranium exploration and mining must have the support of Nunavummiut, with particular emphasis on communities close to uranium development.” Can the minister describe what would constitute support for Nunavummiut and the affected communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process is set out quite clearly in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement through the regulatory process. If there’s any indication that the project is not going to be beneficial to Nunavummiut, whether people are going to be affected, the environment, wildlife, and if the project is not sustainable, of course, we do have a process that goes through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, that being NIRB that goes through the environmental regulations and processes, and have close consultations with the communities. The process is based on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. NTI has a very comprehensive uranium

mining policy, of which certain financial agreements and arrangements have been attached to certain mining and exploration companies. This was promised to be reviewed and when that review occurred, no significant changes were made.

Obviously NTI is in support of uranium exploration, mining, and development. Is this what the minister is referring to in regard to support from the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't necessary allude to that. NTI has their own policy on uranium exploration and mining and whatever they do there is up to them. We abide by the land claims agreement environmental processes and our own strategy that was developed for Nunavummiut in our Parnautit strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, residents from Baker Lake, one of the affected communities close to uranium development, and Grise Fiord had petitions that were introduced into this House. Both did not support uranium mining. Again, if the minister could clarify what the Government of Nunavut means by Principle 5 of the Government of Nunavut's Uranium Policy Statement, which states that it will not move forward on uranium development unless

Nunavummiut support it Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the processes of environmental regulations and screening are through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The body of Nunavut Impact Review Board has an obligation to consult with every community and determine and make recommendations to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development of Canada. Once all the facts are gathered, that's when NIRB makes a recommendation to the minister responsible for that.

If, throughout the process, there are indications of environmental mitigations that can't be handled by the proponent and if it's not a sustainable project, it's not beneficial to Nunavummiut, those determinations are made known to the public through the recommendations of the Nunavut Impact Review Board to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development of Canada Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 434 – 3(3): 2013-14 Capital Estimates

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance and are based around his Minister's Statement regarding the

Government of Nunavut's 2013-14 fiscal update.

The Government of Nunavut's proposed 2013-14 capital estimates are approximately \$152 million. This is approximately 60 percent higher than the Government of Nunavut's 2012-13 capital estimates, which were approximately \$94 million. How did the government determine that the increase is affordable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for his question and concern that the government can't afford these projects. Mr. Speaker, we put out a call letter to all departments. The target was \$94 million and we factor in \$15 million. We usually try to average \$110 million a year. The departments came back with well over \$250 million in capital projects.

As we all know, there's a huge infrastructure deficit in Nunavut. Based on a lot of interdepartmental deliberations and meetings over the summer, officials working with the Department of Finance determined that the government could afford the \$152 million for 2013-14. We spend a lot of time in the Department of Finance monitoring cash flow. We work with the Department of Community and Government Services. We have many programs; the Building Canada Fund, gas tax funds; and funds flowing in and out. So this is what the department determined.

We brought some projects forward that were deferred because of the housing corporation, housing issue there a couple of years ago. Those projects were deferred to allow us to complete those houses and they are going back on the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated, "We have focused on addressing the pent up demand for capital funds in our plans for 2013-14 as opposed to introducing new capital initiatives." In stating this it is hard to discern exactly what the minister means by saying "addressing the pent up demand for capital funds." Could the minister elaborate on what is meant by this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's quite simple, Mr. Speaker. In my earlier answer, we had over \$250 million in departmental requests. It could easily have been over a billion. We know that there is a need for over 3,000 houses in Nunavut. We know that every community requires municipal infrastructure. It could be community halls. It could be health centres, high schools. You name it, it's out there. We met with the Prime Minister of Canada this summer in Cambridge Bay. We told him that over 20 years, there is a \$6 billion infrastructure deficit. We didn't give him the details, but he took note of that.

So there's a pent up demand. With our limited capital budget, we have to work with our cash flow and the programs that the Government of Canada provides to all provinces and territories. There is the Building Canada Fund, the Gas Tax Fund, and the rural infrastructure fund. We are addressing our pent up demand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the minister had said that they're dealing with the pent up demand by talking to different levels of government and using different gas tax and Building Canada funds. Is there anything being done within the Government of Nunavut in terms of CGS, which is one of the huge departments for having project officers monitor these projects and sometimes getting behind? There is also, I think, some of the explanations that I have been given is the short construction season.

Are there other things within the government or the department that you're doing differently to make sure that this capital carryover and the pent up demand or the buildup of projects being left on the books year after year to actually push them through? Is there anything new being done other than what has been done in the past? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. While I'm not the Minister of

Community and Government Services, the minister and I work quite closely together. We do note that there is a high capital carryover every year. I think it was partially answered in Committee of the Whole the other day. A lot of the projects are tied to the Building Canada Fund and the Gas Tax Fund, but internally, our departments are working very closely together to address the issue.

There is a new capital planning process, a refined capital planning process that will be introduced for the next fiscal year, not the fiscal year we're dealing with now but for 2014-15. That will be more refined. We're talking about bringing forward projects that will have more detailed cost estimates before they're actually introduced into the capital plan.

There are internal discussions going on and I know that the Minister of Community and Government Services is quite concerned, as I am, with the carryovers. If you carry over too many projects, there's a risk of additional costs due to construction inflation, and so on. So we're very cognizant of the concern and we're working to address it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just talked about the \$6 billion in infrastructure deficit. He mentioned about the \$250 million that has come forward this year that departments were asking for. He has talked about pushing forward some projects and I think there's \$17.1 million allocated for new capital. I'm just

curious: what process was used to determine which new capital projects or capital initiatives would come forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like I'm the Minister of Community and Government Services answering these questions.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the departments did come forward with many requests. The number \$250 million is out there. I said that there were interdepartmental deliberations. We had to bring back some projects that were deferred because of the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative from a couple of years ago. So those projects were brought back. In the interdepartmental deliberations, some of the projects were high priority that had to be addressed and they couldn't be put off another year. Some projects that could be put off a year were put off a year. It's all the function of cash flow.

It is a challenge to deliver a capital planning project in Nunavut. I can't tell you how challenging it is, Mr. Speaker. I was a mayor for many years in Cambridge Bay and dealt with the government. As an MLA, as my colleagues are for many years, when you're a minister, we know the challenges all the communities face. I have talked to mayors. I have talked to some of the SAOs last week who were here for the NAMA conference.

It is a challenge. The Government of Nunavut does the best they can. With the limited resources we have, we try to allocate resources for all the important priority projects in Nunavut. It's not to say that everybody is going to get what they want in a given year, but we work very hard to meet the challenges that the communities face and also our own challenges as a government. We do need schools, we do need health centres, and we recognize that.

We continue our conversations with our Member of Parliament and with the Prime Minister of Canada. We have hope that our discussions will bear some fruit at some point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Members will note that the allotted time for question period is expired. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There being none. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Ugyuk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. I would like to recognize this individual who just walked in, Paul Puqiqnak from Gjoa Haven. He's a member for the

DEA in our community and he's attending the meeting here in Iqaluit. I want to state that he is working on Gjoa Haven at the extended care and helps the people. I am very proud of him because he helps his elders out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will move on then. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 239 – 3(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation's 11th Annual Report for 2011-2012

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Qulliq Energy Corporation's 11th Annual Report for 2011-12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak.

Tabled Document 240 – 3(3): Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut Annual Report 2011-2012

Tabled Document 241 – 3(3): 2011-2012 Financial Statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund

Tabled Document 242 – 3(3): 2011-2012 Financial Statements of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund

Tabled Document 243 – 3(3): 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Thank you, Members. I have four documents that I'll be tabling today. The first one is the 2011-12 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. The second one is the 2011-12 Financial Statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund; the 2011-12 Financial Statements of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund; and the 2011-12 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. I wish to advise members that I will provide the Inuinnaqtun translation... . No? I'll save that one for later.

>> *Laughter*

It's Friday. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act – Second Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member from Kugluktuk, that Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes a committee to make recommendations on appointments and remuneration for justices of the peace and also amends the complaints process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is passed and Bill 44 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 41, 42, and 43 with Mr. Tapardjuk in the Chair.

Before we proceed into Committee of the Whole, we will take a short five-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 10:57 and Committee resumed at 11:14*

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

Chairman (Mr. Tapardjuk) (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 41, 42, and 43. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 41, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014*, and the

Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Health and Social Services, if time permits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to deal with those items?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 41 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna, I would like to ask you to return to the witness table.

Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Good morning. Thank you. Minister Taptuna, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the President of Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Alain Barriault. On my left is Lori

Kimball, the Chief Financial Officer.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault and Ms. Kimball, welcome to the House. During the committee meeting yesterday, we finished the opening comments from the minister and the chair of the standing committee, Mr. Rumbolt. I will now open the floor for general comments. I am seeking general comments, not questions. At this time, are there any general comments from the members? There are no general comments. We will move on to page G-3. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple questions and I would like to get a response to this concern in regard to the new rental rate review. It has been reviewed for a very long time now and it seems like it's been reviewed endlessly. We expected it to be completed and it needs to be completed. When do you expect to see the completion of the rental review? What is causing the delay on the completion of the review? Is it because there is no employee there or because it's not your priority in your department? Can you elaborate further why they're not completing that?

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. The rental review, we had indicated in the earlier days of the government that the review is going to be ongoing and it's near completion. It has been a big challenge. As you know, all the

departments of the government have been involved, especially Health and Social Services and Education. As the member knows, there are over 5,000 public units and a lot of people who have to be considered. As I indicated to one of the members earlier during question period, we're hoping to complete that review and have it tabled by the spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, that's the timeline. My question was: exactly what's involved, details? Why isn't it a priority to get it done? That was part of my question and I need these two answered before making a further comment on it. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that excellent question. It is a priority for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and for the government. It's one of those things that prove very difficult and complicated. As you know, we do have to abide by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation legislation, even our legislation in Canada that we do have to abide by. It has brought us some difficulties. We want one that fits Nunavummiut and that has proven to be very difficult, but we're making headway. As I indicated, that has been one of the problems. Hopefully, by the spring sitting, we will have that review complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Do you have any more questions? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that timeline is way too far for the following reason: the current rental system discourages potential workers from getting a job. With the current rate right now, the rent scale is either going to double or triple. So it has been a disincentive for way too long for young people who wish to work.

I know it's not going to be immediate, but the following year, when the new rent is assessed on the individuals, it will have a huge impact on these assessments with respect to the rental stuff. So in that regard, I think the minister should take into consideration that getting young people to work in seasonal jobs is critical and the government is in support of it. Right now, the government doesn't even know what the unemployment rate is. So closing that gap indicates that hiring Nunavutmiut for seasonal jobs is not a priority.

So I think the minister has options to move that completion date to an earlier date and thereby would prove to convince Nunavutmiut that the government is giving individuals an opportunity to work in the fields that they would like to. Could the minister consider moving the date a little closer? After all, it has been ongoing, I believe, for the last five years. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's absolutely critical that we try and get this done for the benefit of

Nunavummiut. I agree that it has been a disincentive in the past for young people who are entering the workforce. The scale that we're looking at is a sliding scale that's going to be based on income of the individuals in the household.

Mr. Chairman, the member probably recalls in his time being the minister of the housing corporation that there's a very low number, about 138 households, that do actually pay maximum rent and we're trying to find ways to encourage more folks to enter the wage economy to actually get the process started where I think it's more like an attitude change. In Nunavut, we do have the lowest rent assessed for public housing compared to other jurisdictions in the world and I would like to try and move the process forward. We will do all we can to move the process forward.

I do know what the unemployment is in Nunavut; it's 12.7 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that and I noted too that the ministers are finally starting to realize that they have to consider the unemployment rate after a few statements have been made about it. Prior to that, it was never an issue most of the time.

What I'm getting at is the plans may be quite good and there might be quite a few that pay the maximum rent, but when you don't work, that maximum rent is really quite high. That maximum rent should not be assessed to seasonal workers because the majority of clients, as far as the housing corporation is

concerned, are mostly unemployed citizens. Occasionally, in the past, they had an opportunity to work, but I have been approached by unemployed guys who said, "I could have [worked], but my rent is going to increase." So it's a fear of being assessed and penalized. As a result of that, it discourages individuals to try to find work and that is not an Inuit way.

When I was a kid, the only employment that we had was outdoors. If it was a little windy, we would get discouraged, but it was never an impediment for going after what we needed to do for economic survival because the fur trade was the only employment. Nowadays, the work ethic that we have is based on government policy. If you work, your rent is going to go high, sky high for the people who can't afford it because they know they can only work for three months out of the whole season. For that reason, many are sitting and not doing anything.

With all the resources the government has in getting the review done, why is it not being done next month, for instance? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good assessment. As I indicated, I do want to make efforts to move the process forward, faster. In our jurisdiction of Nunavut, the maximum rent assessed per household is 28 percent of their income, so it's one of the lowest in Canada.

Once a seasonal worker is unemployed, they make that notification to the LHO

and their rent is reduced immediately. On the other hand, when they do find employment, their rent doesn't go up automatically; it's usually within 10 months up to a year. They do have that grace period of where they're paying the minimum rent, even though they're collecting employment wages.

The assessment is considered fair compared to other jurisdictions and 28 percent is one of the lowest in our nation, and I do want to try and make efforts to move the process forward quicker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Do you still have questions? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I appreciate that. It may be the lowest in Canada, but the cost of living is the highest in Canada. So perhaps to try and [make] that comparison to Canada is really another excuse of saying, "Suffer a bit. If you can't, we will finally have the lowest in Canada." Almost every stat that I have heard is the highest in Canada, but it's almost impossible these days. People have lost hope in finding a job, unless it's a public service job.

My point, Mr. Chairman, is: in order to get this done, what are the remaining unfinished evaluations of work that have to be completed in order to table this or change the rental policy? Can the minister indicate to the House exactly what needs to be done at this time? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Barriault, respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The final process that the housing corporation is going through right now is just really refining and finalizing the financial assessments of the impacts of the different options that are being put together for cabinet consideration. So once those are finalized, then they will be able to move forward. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Anything else? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think it's important to understand exactly what these financial assessments, the impacts... Impacts on what? On the families or the revenue or the particular formula that...? Can the minister clarify that for us? My second question, really, has to do with the review as to exactly who is responsible for doing that review. Is it a number of individuals within the housing corporation? Which particular manager is responsible for completing this work? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, the financial impact has implications on both the government and

our people out there. So we've got to consider this very carefully. All the resources within the housing corporation have been looking at this, including the other government departments that have an interest in reviewing this. When I say "interest," it's practically all the government departments have input into the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So is the minister saying to us that all the departments will have to have input into this exercise? Have they not been consulted enough? It really doesn't appear to have gone beyond the departmental consultations. What about the Nunavut public? I believe these consultations have already been done. I think it's just a matter of deciding when to submit it for consideration. Could the minister be a little more specific when he said that he needs to consult with all the departments? Is that not at your discretion? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultations have taken place. As the president has indicated, we're refining the impact and the numbers for submission. It has been very difficult. As you know, it involves Income Support, Education, and various other departments and it does have a major impact on the government and our people out there. So we're making sure that whatever comes out of this is going to be beneficial for all involved, including our clients at public housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We're on page J-3. \$28,841,000. Details are on pages J-4 and J-5. Capital Expenditures. J-3. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions that are kind of directed to my opening comments from yesterday.

On page 2 of my opening comments, I mentioned that "there are approximately \$18.5 million in rental arrears" throughout the territory. I think it's important to point out that LHOs' accounts receivables are not much different than other businesses throughout Canada or the territory, and that they assume some bad debt. In reality, not all rental arrears are collectable.

Each year, auditors visit communities to do audits on the housing associations and part of its audit is to work with the managers and TROs to review the accounts receivables to determine how much of the arrears are actually collectable. My question is: of the \$18.5 million in rental arrears, how much of this money is actually deemed collectable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question. Mr. Chairman, the collection of arrears has proven very difficult for the LHOs. That's why, within the housing corporation, we're trying to at least put some training courses on for the local LHOs to find ways to collect arrears. The percentage of collection has been

going up. It has gone up to 84 percent compared to last year, so there is improvement. In some communities, there have been collections of over 100 percent. That means there are arrears being collected into the LHOs, so there is improvement showing and we hope to continue that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his update, but I don't think he answered my direct question, which was: how much of that \$18.5 million is actually not collectable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have the chief financial officer respond to that question Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're in the process of assessing that. We have hired a collections officer within NHC. Our first step was to tackle the options for payments and set up online banking, both things we haven't had in the past, looking into credit bureaus and other ways of doing the collections. We're also taking the largest arrears that are owing to each of the LHOs and starting to look at that. So we don't yet know. I mean for the audit, the \$18.5 million is the bad debt reserve that's on the books. So that is what we are speaking to when we say "arrears." So from an auditor

perspective, it's deemed unlikely to be collected, but we are working to see what we can collect. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Anything else? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, Ms. Kimball mentioned that the \$18.5 million is the reserve that was set up by auditors. So is this reserve the actual arrears or is it a different figure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Kimball respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the audit perspective, anything over 90 days of aging is deemed to be arrears and is deemed to be a reserve for bad debt as required. So when we're talking about the \$18.5 million, we're talking about what's over 90 days. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Anything else? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a different line of questioning now from what I was just doing. I would like to ask some questions to the minister and his officials concerning the issue of Nunavut

Housing Corporation's management of construction contracts.

Under section 12 of the government's NNI Policy, construction contracts will provide for bonuses and penalties in relation to Inuit labour content. Can the minister confirm that the Nunavut Housing Corporation applies these bonuses and penalties to companies that have contracts to construct new housing units for the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister or his officials explain how the Nunavut Housing Corporation monitors compliance with labour content provisions in construction contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation follows the procedures and guidelines of the NNI Policy as well as

the general conditions of the standard Government of Nunavut contracts. Those are the ones that were developed by Community and Government Services.

Contractors submit, as part of their bids, commitments for labour and non-payroll items. As well, as part of their submission, they identify which of those components they would like to be considered for bid adjustments in terms of Inuit content, local content, and Nunavut content. At the end of the contract, based on the information submitted by the contractors, we look at their actual performance against the commitments that they had made in order to get preferential treatment.

There are a number of different mechanisms involved and one is a minimum Inuit payroll content, which is set for every contract based on activity that is taking place in the community and workforce availability. If that number is exceeded by the contractor, there is a bonus provided of 1 percent for every percent above the minimum that they achieve. If they fail to meet those minimum targets, then there's a penalty of 2 percent for every percent that they fall short.

There's as well an assessment of the payroll and non-payroll component, which is more or less a business incentive policy of the government. In some cases, a contractor would earn a bonus for exceeding the minimum Inuit content, for example, but still have penalties for not meeting the financial commitment to Nunavut business and local business.

So we look at the entire picture and, from there, bonuses and penalties are determined. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Barriault for that clarification. When contractors submit bids to the Nunavut Housing Corporation that includes commitments for certain Inuit labour content levels, does the Nunavut Housing Corporation work with the contractors to determine if the commitments are realistic prior to the award of contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have any more questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In circumstances where contractors, including Inuit owned companies, cannot meet their labour content requirements, does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have the ability to exercise discretion and reduce or waiver penalties if it determines that the contractor was actually in good faith? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not get involved in

procurement processes. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per the provisions of the NNI Policy and in accordance with the GN Contracting Manual, there is a mechanism whereby adjustments can be made to the minimum Inuit content. That is based on new information being brought forward and contractors demonstrating, at the beginning of the contract, that they have made all reasonable efforts to acquire the workforce that they originally committed to providing.

When tenders are put out, we first assess what work is taking place in the community and the manpower availability, as well as historical Inuit content that has been achieved in that community. That's how those numbers are set. In some cases, we do negotiated contracts and that number is agreed upon between the contractor and the housing corporation.

It should be noted that we only negotiated contracts where a relatively high level of Inuit content is committed to. Otherwise, we would go through a public tendering process. We do have provisions whereby those adjustments can be made. It's worthy to note as well that in those cases where minimum Inuit content is lowered, bonuses are only payable if the original minimum content is exceeded, not the new lowered one. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Government of Nunavut's contract and activity report that was tabled, I think it's for the 2010-11 fiscal year, it states that in all contracts that exceed \$100,000, there is an average of about 30 percent Inuit content on contracts. The construction company in my own community has a history of exceeding that as upwards to 60 percent Inuit content.

After the contracts were awarded for the building of public housing and staff housing in the community a couple of years ago, the contractor found out that they were not going to be able to meet those obligations and they have written letters to the housing corporation and sent emails with their concerns, with various reasons why they wouldn't be able to meet the content. In reading some of their reasons, some reasons aren't probably legitimate when it comes to reasoning, but others are.

For example, while the contract was going on with the construction of new houses, there was a new school being built in the community, there was a new Co-op store being built in the community, and there was a new hamlet parking garage being built in the community. It became obvious that they could not meet their obligation and they have made this known to the housing corporation in Cape Dorset and I think maybe even cc'd some letters to the president. In one email, it was stated that it is our requirement that you employ additional qualified staff to assist with your negotiated contract obligations and the only way to get qualified staff was to

go outside the community and bring people in.

With this history of it being known that they weren't going to meet their contracts, when the contract was finally said and done, the Nunavut Housing Corporation did impose the penalties because they did not meet the obligations of their original contract. Can the minister explain why this was done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The line of questioning is regarding an individual who had some contract issues with the housing corporation. I'm going to have my president respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the contract which the member is referring to, we are actually preparing some communication to that contractor reviewing his concerns that he has expressed to us.

In terms of general performance of contracts, and I'm not saying that this is necessarily the case in which Mr. Rumbolt is referring to, but some contractors wind up in situations where they do have to bring in outside workers because they have fallen behind on the schedule for their construction. It will impact their Inuit content when those situations do occur.

So there are a number of different issues that have to be looked at in addressing individual concerns and we do treat every one of these concerns on a case-by-case basis, but there mitigating circumstances that need to be looked at. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Anything else? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one final comment. The president did mention that they're reviewing the case in the community, so I will just leave it at that and I look forward to his update. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We are on J-3. \$28,841,000. The breakdown is on pages J-4 and J-5. Capital Expenditures. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me, I would like to go back to the minister's opening comments. I have questions on those, if you will allow me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Yes, I will allow you to ask questions on the opening comments, but if I could remind the members that if you have any questions in other pages rather than the capital estimates, we have the opportunity to ask questions. I will agree with you at this time, Mr. Enook, that we have work to do and we have to continue with the work that we have before us, but just to remind you that we are in capital estimates. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to remember that. I would like to ask a question and thank you for allowing me ask questions.

In the minister's opening comments under the corporation's 2013-14 capital estimates, Mr. Chairman, the only question that I have is in regard to modernization and improvement of public housing, for the homeownership programs, and Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program.

Mr. Chairman, I have a question, but perhaps I'll ask that later on. At this time, I would like to ask a question. For the people who have homeownership, does that have to do with...? For instance, there were HAP houses. I'm not exactly sure what they're called in Inuktitut and there are also access houses and there is also homeownership. If a person can still own a home, does that include people with their own homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Your question is under J-5. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the question is whether the M&I are public units or homeownership, but they pertain to public units only. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Did the response suit you, Mr. Enook?

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, my question wasn't answered. If I can, I want to ask this question. Within the written minister's

opening comments, it states that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's funds for modernization and improvement public housing renovations, which is under the acronym "M&I" in English, this is for modernizing and renovating public housing units. I am not asking about this particular aspect, but rather the other parts of this statement.

I am asking about the old access and HAP homeownership programs, which were used for private homeownership by residents, and furthermore, the acquisition of homes for private homeownership outside of these programs. Is this referring to these programs that offer assistance to replace fuel tanks and other utilities? Which houses are we talking about? This would not include social housing, if I understand this correctly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Enook has clarified the question. The M&I projects, improvements, renovations are for public units and other programs are for homeowners' fuel tank replacements and renovations that pertain to homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. Say, for instance, people who own their own home anywhere in Nunavut, do I understand it correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under J-5, if you allow me to ask a question. The question that I had earlier, I just wanted to find out. It states here in J-5, Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventive Maintenance Program, which is listed as \$116,000, and additionally, my previous question to the minister highlighted that the fuel tank replacement program has existed for a long time. If I am mistaken, please correct me. I seem to understand that I can only be eligible for these types of assistance programs if I have up to date coverage on my home insurance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have Ms. Kimball respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The homeownership programs are really three-fold in terms of the budget. So we have the \$4 million spread across the three districts; \$500,000 for the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program and \$116,000 for the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventive Maintenance Program.

In regard to people's applications, most of the programs have an income threshold because we are trying to service people who are lower income in their own homeownership. In regard to the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program, there's a whole point rating system that determines who gets helped each year because we don't have enough funding to satisfy all the applications that we receive.

This year alone, new applications that have come in so far as of September 30, which is the halfway point, we have received 87 applications and we only have funding to satisfy a hundred people. So through the years, we do have a point rating system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. I doubt that she touched upon the subject Mr. Enook raised in his question. Please elaborate, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just seems like it was an easy question, but I'll ask it again. For those of us who have their own home, for instance, if I want to replace my oil tank and I put in an application for assistance, I know that I could either get refused or approved. If a person who owns their own home does not have home insurance, can they still apply for that assistance? A lot of people have the understanding that if they don't have home insurance, they cannot apply. Is that clear? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I got that question

clear this time, Mr. Chairman. Whether a homeowner has insurance or not is not a requirement to get assistance for this type of program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Any further questions? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister immensely as you have brought a smile to my face and I imagine many homeowners are now smiling. Many of us misunderstood the details, at least some of us and I don't know why that is.

Let me continue. There is also another figure written down for staff housing which is listed as \$5 million, if I understand the written figures correctly. Mr. Chairman, with your forbearance, if I can ask this other question, at this current time, it states that the corporation wants to construct \$5 million worth of housing units. Is it possible to be informed at this time about the communities where they want to construct these housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing corporation hasn't determined where the units are going to be built. We're still assessing the situation. We're working closely with the Department of Human Resources to determine and get the best value for the new construction that's going to be for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Do you have any more questions? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's already identified that the corporation wants to expend the \$5 million for staff housing units. How does the corporation already know that they require \$5 million to construct these units, yet they state that they don't know the other details? Where did this \$5 million amount come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please ensure that you write your question down so that when we recommence our Committee of the Whole review next week, you can restate your question.

However, as the chairperson, I wish to recognize the time as it is past our allotted time. Pursuant to Rule 6(1), it's now twelve o'clock and I will now report progress. Thank you, Minister Taptuna and your officials for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. While the Sergeant-at-Arms is escorting the witnesses out, I will now rise to report progress, according to the clock. Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been

considering Bill 41 and the capital estimates, and I would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for all members, there's a meeting of the Full Caucus at two o'clock in the Nanuq Room for a special presentation, and if members can also refer to the sessional work plan for meetings on Monday.

Orders of the Day for October 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions

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

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 41
- Bill 42
- Bill 43

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

>>*Laughter*

A new record.

>>*Laughter*

It's Friday. Before we adjourn, members, I would like to ask you to join me in thanking the pages who were here this week: Joe Audlakiak, Amanda Percel, Anita Steeves, and Pakak Picco.

>>*Applause*

I would also like to recognize and thank our Sergeant-at-Arms, Sammy Josephie, for his first week as Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

This House stands adjourned until Monday, October 29, at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:05*

