

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Joe Enook
(Tununiq)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

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Clerk

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Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickee, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut)(interpretation): Mr. Paul Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) and Premier, (interpretation) welcome as well as the visitors.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 267 – 4(3): Correction: French Language Instruction

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a correction in relation to a statement that I made on Monday February 27, I recently shared information about French language instruction in Nunavut and I would like to clarify that French first language instruction is offered in Nunavut by *L'Association des francophones du Nunavut* or CSFN.

Rather than the Department of Education, the department provides support to the CSFN but is not responsible for that programming. I apologize for any confusion my previous statement may have caused. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Minister's Statement 268 – 4(3): Nunavut Food Security Coalition Community Project Funding

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good day people of Nunavut and the residents of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated my department co-chairs the Nunavut Food Security Coalition which brings partners together to look at how policies and programs can make food more accessible and affordable to vulnerable to Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the collation also works to support community efforts that improve access to food for those who are the most vulnerable to hunger. I am pleased to share with you that the Nunavut Food Security Coalition has supported 16 community-based food security projects in 14 communities in 2016-17 for a total \$256,000. The communities include Arctic Bay, Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Funded projects have included community kitchens, youth and adult cooking classes, greenhouse initiatives and hunter mentorship initiatives. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and dedication of the community volunteers that make these initiatives possible.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as recognized in *Sivumut Abluqta*, adequate food is fundamental to the health, education and wellbeing of Nunavummiut.

As such, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition will continue to coordinate funding with other Government of Nunavut departments who are funding country food, community freezers and cooking classes.

They will share these practices learned from the funded projects with all the communities, will also continue to work with all communities in Nunavut to expand their efforts to improve access to food for those who are the most vulnerable to hunger and to develop applications for the upcoming 2017-18 call for proposals. (interpretation ends) My department looks forward to continuing work with our partners in supporting a network of community-based programs and addressing the complex issue of food insecurity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Sorry.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Honourable Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Minister's Statement 269 – 4(3): Update on the Film Industry

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide an update on the status on the film industry in our territory. As I indicated in my statement last October, the film industry is flourishing in Nunavut. At that time, I mentioned the praise that the three made-in-Nunavut feature films had been receiving.

I would now like to add another film to that made-in-Nunavut list. As you all know, *Angry Inuk* by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril has been receiving many awards since its release.

Mr. Speaker, the boom in the film industry has resulted in an unprecedented number of applications to the Nunavut Spend Incentive program, which is funded by the Government of Nunavut and is administered by Nunavut Film.

To address the evolution of the sector and to explore how best to support its growth, Nunavut Film is organizing a Film, Television and Digital Media Industry Forum in the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, Nunavut Film's Chief Executive Officer, Derek Mazur, has announced that he will be retiring in May. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Mazur for over six years of passionate work serving Nunavut's film industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Minister's Statement 270 – 4(3): Burial Coverage

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to share with Nunavummiut that the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services have clarified information regarding burial coverage in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, in certain specific circumstances, the Government of Nunavut is responsible for the cost of burials. Complete details are available in a facts sheet that can be found on both of our departmental websites.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief overview of the coverage available. If a current resident of Nunavut passes away while out of territory on medical travel, the deceased is repatriated to Nunavut at no cost to the family, whether an individual passes away while under the guardianship of Family Services or under the care of Health, the Nunavut resident who passes away out of territory will be repatriated to Nunavut by the Government of Nunavut at no cost to the family or the individual's estate.

Mr. Speaker, the new facts sheet clarifies the responsibilities and financial assistance that is available. The facts sheet provides specific details on; who is eligible for burial costs; coverage provided by the Department of Health through medical travel; coverage provided by the Department of Health and Family Services and coverage provided by the Coroner's Office.

Mr. Speaker, the facts sheet entitled burial coverage can be viewed in the medical travel section on the Department of Health's website or under the frequently asked questions section on the Department of Family Services website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will proceed to Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 504 – 4(3): Lack of Addiction Treatment in Nunavut

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut, the people in my community and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, there is no treatment facility in Nunavut. I am concerned about it and it is very concerning that we don't have any facilities for addicted people, where they can get help. Mr. Speaker, a treatment facility has to be a priority because we have our own Nunavut government now.

Mr. Speaker, they're thinking of selling weaker alcohol like beer and wine and they've been considered a priority when there is no treatment centre. I am very concerned about that when there is no treatment facility available.

Mr. Speaker, many people will require help once the beer and wine store is opened in Nunavut. Many people will have nowhere to turn to. There is a treatment centre in Ottawa but it is very expensive, and once that is full, then the people who need help don't have anywhere to go to. It's set-up the wrong way. The treatment centre should have been a priority before they bring that store in.

I will have questions for the appropriate minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Member's Statement 505 – 4(3): Acknowledgement of Kugaaruk Firefighters

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good day to the people of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk, my colleagues and all the visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of Kugaaruk's firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, Kugaaruk's firefighters made great efforts under challenging circumstances last week to contain the school fire and prevent it from spreading to other buildings in the community. They helped to prevent a bad situation from becoming even worse. I want to acknowledge the firefighters by name. They are:

Fire Chief Vincent Ninngak;
Firefighter Franky Immingaq Sr;
Firefighter Colin Quinjunaq;
Firefighter Gayton Aksataung;
Firefighter Itian Kakiarniut;
Firefighter Adam Qiunaq;
Firefighter Philip Alakannuaq;
Firefighter Norman Qavvik;
Firefighter Jonathan Ninngak;
Firefighter Kyle Amautinnuaq;
Firefighter Adrian Qauruaq;
Firefighter Pauloosie Nunngaq;
Firefighter Fabian Petolut; and
Firefighter Franky Imingaq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in acknowledging their dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Member's Statement 506 – 4(3): Minor Hockey Development in Kugluktuk

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Speaker, many folks across Canada are hockey fans. In Nunavut, there's no exception. Large or small, in our communities hockey is our passion. Growing up and watching exciting hockey the Original Six then seeing the expansion of the NHL one team comes to mind. For people in my generation, the Philadelphia Flyers were the toughest, meanest, scariest and (skilled) team to play in 1970s. They had players such as Bobby Clarke, Ed Van Impe, Rick MacLeish, Bernie Parent, and many others. For many of us that Riverton Rifle was one of the purest goal scores to have laced up a pair of skates and of course he is our idol.

Mr. Reggie Leach, the Riverton Rifle is an aboriginal kid from Manitoba who lit up the lamp and in one season scored an unbelievable 61 goals. Mr. Speaker, recently Reggie was in Kugluktuk and was assisting and helping train our minor hockey players. He visited with our youth and was welcomed by our community. Many ex-NHLers have come to Nunavut and the North to assist our kids and our coaches and it is very, very much appreciated. Mr. Speaker, join me in thanking Mr. Reggie Leach, the Riverton Rifle, for sharing his knowledge and skills with our young people in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

Member's Statement 507 – 4(3): Up-and-coming Kinngait Artist

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and to the visitors and also to the people watching the proceedings. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a person from Cape Dorset who just recently started doing the artwork, Shaimayuk Akasuk. Mr. Speaker, Shaimayuk Akasuk when he was 28 years old, started his artwork. Even though there are many artists in Cape Dorset such as Kenojuaq Ashevak and well-known artist Pitseolak Ashoona, but the young people, too, have been doing their artwork and showcasing their art. They're pretty well known now.

Mr. Speaker, Shaimayuk along with Dorset fine arts with the Coop from Cape Dorset have travelled to Portland, Oregon, USA to the Froelick Gallery to showcase their artwork.

The artwork of Ms. Shaimayuk, I would like to congratulate her. I wanted to speak about her and she has had the opportunity to talk about her artwork to the international world. How artwork is important to the people of Cape Dorset residents and to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, last month, in the month of February, Ms. Shaimayuk artwork had been shown in the gallery. I would like to thank the Froelick Gallery and also Joseph Finard and William Huffman, especially. Also I thank Ms. Shaimayuk for having the opportunity to represent Cape Dorset and that she's working hard with her artwork. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We'll move on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Members, please join me in welcoming participants from the Institute on Governance who have joined us today in the visitors' gallery. The participants are senior members of the federal public service who are on a study tour of Iqaluit this week. Accompanying them is Ms. Katherine Waters from the institute. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you. Again, I'm going to welcome all the members in the gallery, but I would like to specifically welcome to the House some special visitors from New Brunswick who are here visiting Kathy Perrin, our Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, along with her daughter Lauren who is hosting them here in Iqaluit. I would like everyone to welcome Kathy's family Clint Perrin and Luke Perrin to the gallery today. Like I said, they are visiting from their home in New Brunswick. I had the pleasure of speaking briefly with them a little bit this afternoon and they've been partaking in a lot of, taking advantage of the nice weather we've been having.

I would like to also take this opportunity to publicly thank Kathy who's been a very valuable member with the Health team since joining us in 2015. I just want to thank her for all her hard work and I hope you enjoy your visit with your family. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. We'll move on to Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Paul Okalik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 658 – 4(3): Preference for Non-smoking Athletes

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It feels like Christmas almost. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sport and Recreation.

I would like to ask the minister, usually the young people go play tournaments everywhere and we could tell the sport that they're playing and I know the government provides funding for sports and I know that the government is working on smoking cessation through the programs with the help of the minister. If the minister can start reviewing if anyone who do not smoke cigarettes if they want to provide a higher level of support through the office? If the minister can commit to working with the young people to lower the smoking rate. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that there's no place for smoking in Nunavut but unfortunately it's a sad fact that we have one of the highest smoking rates in Canada. As the sports minister I encourage athletes not to smoke.

Sport is under CGS and sport does not have any programs to assist people to stop smoking, that'd be with the Department of Health. If I understood the member correctly we are in full support to discourage anyone who smokes with an athlete but I also believe

that the athletes that are very high in performance most likely probably don't smoke but I agree with the member that we should discourage smoking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding that's provided through application forms through the Sport Division should include the participants of the sports should be non-smokers perhaps your department can assist by providing funds for the participants not to smoke while they are playing in sports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tobacco cessation stopness, I can't remember what it's called. To encourage people not to smoke is the responsibility of the Department of Health it's not the responsibility of Department of CGS under sports.

I fully agree with the member that we should help people to quit smoking or not start at all would be even better, but that mandate is under the Department of Health, it's not under our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know for sure that the Department of Finance Minister can respond the same because there's going to be an increase on tobacco tax perhaps if the government departments work with each other like with the department responsible for sports for young people I was trying to ask if you can work together that if we can change the practice to make sure that their smoking cessation program for the sports activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member talks about the Department of Finance's not under Health but they're raising the price of cigarettes to try to curtail the usage that's a fact issue and I won't speak to that but we don't have any programs or funds available to assist people to stop smoking or not start at all.

Ideally if people, not just athletes but if people didn't start at all that's an ideal situation. Funds that we have are to help the people of Nunavut go to sports, encourage them to stay in shape. I commend the member for wanting to curtail smoking or not start it at all with young people especially young athletes.

I agree with him except for that fact that it is not under our mandate and we encourage people not to start smoking or to stop smoking but that is not a part of our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Question 659 – 4(3): Government of Nunavut’s Contract for Medical and Duty Travel

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, welcome.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

I want to revisit the issue of the government’s contracts for medical travel and duty travel on scheduled airlines. As the minister is aware, Section 2.2.3 of the government’s 2011 request for proposal that led to the current contract stated that the government wished to improve scheduled airline service throughout Nunavut and that airlines submitting proposals should clearly indicate how the proposals would contribute to improving scheduled airline services throughout Nunavut.

In the 2015-16 fiscal year the government spent almost a \$110 million on medical and duty travel. That’s a lot of money.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked in this House before about leveraging our purchasing power to encourage airlines to improve service for Nunavummiut. Will similar provisions be included in the government’s next request for proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Hon. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this issue. As we’re working with Community and Government Services to highlight the parameters of the RFP that we’ll be putting out down the road for medical travel and potentially for duty travel as it’s combined right now.

We are in the process with Community and Government Services to look at the hiring of an avionics expert so that we can for one, make sure that we’re covering all our bases as far as determining the needs that need to be met by Nunavummiut.

Specifically for medical travel, Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure that we have airline cooperation with all of our communities as it is a point of departure to many access points for healthcare service delivery. We want to make sure that going forward that we get at least the service that we’re getting now. There are continuous dialogue with our airline partners that we utilize medical travel with to make sure that they’re adhering to the

contract parameters but in addition to we continuously working with them to explore different scheduling options to expedite medical travel patients to the access point for their medical care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister for his response. I think the government has a really good opportunity here to really think about the smaller communities and the high cost of airline tickets.

The government's 2011 request for proposals clearly indicated that the maximum length of the contract would be for six years; one three-year term and up to three one-year extensions. Last month, the minister informed the House that the government has negotiated another two-year extension.

My question for the minister is this: What is the point of prescribing maximum contract lengths in RFPs if the government can simply negotiate extensions as it deems fit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we establish timelines and sunset of any contract that we enter into it is not anticipated and it's not a regular occurrence to go into a negotiated extension. In the circumstances that led to the medical travel and duty travel contract being extended, there was a lot of uncertainty with the code share, there was some uncertainty of other players in the marketplace. At the end of the day Mr. Speaker, the objective of the Department of Health, Community and Government Services and the government as a whole is to make sure we're getting the best value available for our residents and at the time it was felt that was the best the recourse.

Like I'd mentioned, we are working with Community and Government Services to make sure we have experts in place so that when we go out for tender for the next contract, we have expertise that we want to make sure that we are getting not only the best value, but also the best service for our residents. This allows us the opportunity to bring in that expertise and to make sure that we put out an RFP that will meet the needs of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for his response. Can the minister clarify then what specific aspects of the current contract have been changed as part of the latest extension. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hikes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any major changes. The only change that comes to my mind is an escalator clause that was put into the original contract. That was the whole purpose of it, maintaining the parameters of the existing contract that we had and I just want to further elaborate on an earlier response. Not only are working with Community and Government Services, but we are also working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation on identifying transportation routes and different parameters that will enhance the service for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Question 660 – 4(3): Beer and Wine Store

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

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about an individual that was found frozen. I would like to ask the minister; if alcohol is going to be available, could we have them in lower alcohol content? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure that I understood the question but the beer and wine that we are proposing to sell through the beer and wine store would be of low alcohol content. Beer is 5 percent; wine is 13 to 17 percent. The hard alcohol that Mr. Shooyook would be referring to, we are trying to deter people from smoking, or uh

>>*Laughter*

I got all these things in my head. Deter people from drinking in huge quantities of high content of alcohol, the forty-proof and higher. That's where people would typically binge drink. They'll get a 60 oz. bottle, possibly from a bootlegger, which there is many bootleggers in Nunavut and they are all across in most of our communities, I've heard of and we've all heard of. It's been in the media.

They would get a 60 oz. bottle of hard stuff and they would binge drink it and then what would happen if they go out on a cold night, I know this from my own experience in Cambridge Bay, people pass out and it's minus 40 degrees Celsius and they could be seriously injured, Mr. Speaker. They could freeze to death or lose a leg or an arm if they are not rescued very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister about the wine and beer store with lower alcohol content. When that wine and beer store opens sometime in the future, would the Nunavut communities be able to make orders from that beer and wine store or would they need a permit or would there be a limit of wine or beer that one individual can order? Would there be a limit set or could they order as much as they want? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Minister Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. When the beer and wine store opens locally, we have regulations that passed a couple years ago. You would be able to go down daily and get one case of beer and two bottles of wine and that would be every day. It's not like they can go down and get six cases of beer or two cases of wine.

If you're from another community, depending on where you are in Nunavut, from Cambridge Bay, people would have to get a permit from the Nunavut Liquor Commission to order their beer, wine, or other alcohol products from Yellowknife or Edmonton. If you're in Rankin Inlet, you could order from the south or order from the warehouse here in Iqaluit. You have to get permits. If you're from Iqaluit, you could order from the warehouse in Rankin Inlet or from an alcohol store in the south.

If you're from other communities, depending on whether you've had a plebiscite, people could be prohibited totally, so you can't bring any alcohol in and you can't get a permit, or you could get an alcohol permit from the alcohol education committee and they would also place restrictions how much alcohol you could bring into your community. There are restrictions in place, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the minister for his response. I would like to ask the minister, you indicated that each of the 25 communities in Nunavut can also open a beer and wine store, either through an established company already or a new company, and that they would be able to order those shipments and have them shipped up here by boat, by ship.

Is it also true that any individual can make a request to open a bar or a beer and wine store in any of the communities? Could the minister clarify the laws on the subject of bars, beer and wine stores, and alcohol permits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his interest in alcoholic products.

Mr. Speaker, part of this whole initiative, and I have to commend the member, as one of his constituents is on the taskforce. When we set up in 2010 and went to all of the communities in well over two years, they made a recommendation to set up, look at a beer and wine pilot store, to disrupt bootleggers, and to reduce binge drinking. They talked about a social responsibility program which this House has approved. To do a little public relations; we're educating people in social responsibility. They looked at this in Greenland. Greenland had open beer and wine stores and the results were tremendous over there. The hard drinking went down and people learned to co-exist with beer and wine. Did it fully eliminate drinking? No.

With respect to Mr. Shooyook's direct question, there are no beer and wine stores currently in Nunavut we have two liquor warehouses. In Iqaluit there are many outlets for alcohol. Those outlets, if they sell alcohol, have to get licenses from the Nunavut Liquor License Board specific to whatever event they have or type of service they are providing. If there's a special occasion permit or if you're having a fund raiser you might have to get a special occasion license for that. If it's a wedding, then a special occasion license for that. If you're running a bar you have to get permits. If you're running a lounge you have to get permits to sell your products.

If people are interested in opening a beer and wine store, it's the same as what Iqaluit did. Ninety-nine people signed a petition a few years ago saying we would like the Government Nunavut to open a beer and wine store. They asked for that so we asked the city who supported us with a motion, and then eventually we had the plebiscite, where 78 percent, well over a thousand people in Iqaluit showed up in a relatively cold day on April 20 2015, and said we support opening a beer and wine store. That's the process we go through whether it's Iqaluit or some other community. We don't just open beer and wine stores or liquor stores. The people have to ask us and we have a nonbinding plebiscite.

In fact there are a couple of communities right now that have asked for a plebiscite to ask the question to open a beer and wine store in their communities, so we're considering that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Joanasié.

Question 661 – 4(3): Mould Infestation in Public Housing Units

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. As the Member for South Baffin, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked him questions during our recent fall sitting concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's request for proposals to undertake mould remediation and assessment of 241 public housing units, including 13 units in Cape Dorset and 5 units in Kimmirut. Can the minister confirm today if these

assessments were all completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize to you. That wasn't intentional. The Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. The assessment is still ongoing and there were quite a number of communities in the Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot that have had to undertake mould remediation and assessment.

This assessment was funded by the federal government and the Nunavut Housing Corporation started the mould remediation with the help of the local housing organizations and if the local housing organizations weren't able to help us, we would put out the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. David Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm whether or not the mould has actually been removed from any or all of the 241 units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have to find out which need mould remediation. Looking at all the housing units in Nunavut, approximately 5 percent of the units needed mould remediation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recent report on housing from the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, highlighted the issue of mould infestation in public housing units across the territory. Has the Nunavut Housing Corporation been able to determine the approximate cost to remove mould from all affected units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the mould remediation would be undertaken by the housing associations or organizations and if they can't do it, then we would hire a contractor to do the mould remediation. We're just going to proceed with the mould remediation.

In phase 2, after the completion of the remediation, we will be putting out an RFP to start the process. That's where we are at right now. Once the RFP is awarded, we will complete the remediation and write a report on the assessment. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Question 662 – 4(3): Update on Kugaaruk Situation

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Education.

I want to begin by acknowledging the speed with which the government sent its team to the community of Kugaaruk last week following the school fire.

For the record, can the minister update the House today on progress made to identify temporary classroom space in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking for an update and keeping the House informed of what's going on. It's good to see that going well with the school in Kugaaruk. To date they already identified six buildings that can be used by the school. I can even say that the elementary school is already using one of the buildings. We thank the community for being readily available. That's where we are to date. They have identified six buildings that can be used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A significant number of my constituents worked at Kugaaruk's school. Some constituents work as teachers. Others work as administrators, clerical and custodial positions. Can the minister clarify what will happen to all of the positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are perhaps 35 staff members working in the school. There are about 300 students. Of the close to 35 staffs members, none of them will lose their jobs. It's obvious that they'll have work to do during this school year. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am happy about his reply that they won't lose their jobs this year. (interpretation ends) I was raising concerns regarding the uniquely challenging nature of Kugaaruk's annual sealift.

Can the minister indicate if a decision has been made regarding the method by which portable classrooms will be shipped into the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in Kugaaruk, we hear about it sometimes that when there's too much ice, a ship cannot make it to the community and I've also heard that if a normal cargo ship cannot go there, a Coast Guard ship goes there from Resolute Bay.

Right now, we have plans to ship those portable classrooms by ship and if that can't be done we're trying to look at other ways.

We know near Kugaaruk, there's an old DEW line site near the community and we look at the airport at the old DEW line site. But today, we'll be requesting 6 portable classrooms and we'll be trying to ship them by sea. We're open to suggestions on how we have to ship them. We're planning to ship them next fall, those 6 portable classrooms that will be used by our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Question 663 – 4(3): Review of Social Assistance Food Rates

Mr. Rumbolt: Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, changes in Nunavut social assistance food rates are done through regulations. I was very pleased back in 2009, when my request to have Sanikiluaq reclassified to region 1 was granted. Can the minister provide and update on how long the amount for social assistance food rates are reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, if I understood him correctly, I'm not sure whether he's asking about the cost of food or through income support programs. If I understood him correctly, I'll have to look into this. For that reason, I can say the Social Assistance Program under Family Services and the income support assistance budgets are under review. That's all I can respond to right now, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm referring to the amount that clients take home at the end of each month.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, Nunavut's social assistance food rates were last to request in 2011, that was six years ago and it was six years before that in 2005 when they were increased. We're now in 2017, six years since the last increase in social assistance food rates. Will the minister agree that it's time to increase the Nunavut's social assistance food rates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now understand his question and I'm happy to provide a response.

The Minister of Finance's Budget Address for 2017-18 identified that the level of income support assistance has been increased over a six year period of 60 percent. This is how much this support funding has increased. Nonetheless, in 2016 last year, another program was introduced.

The child bonus payments, in the past affected clients of the Department of Family Services who accessed the income support program or welfare payments and this bonus was clawed back whenever they received funding assistance payments.

This claw back of funds for this payment of clients accessing the income support funds resulted in the loss of funds to the department of over \$7 million. The Department of Family Services clients who accessed these assistance funds through income support, welfare or other support funds received this money of approximately \$7 million annually as a result. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since 2001 the cost of living across Canada, including Nunavut, has increased. Inflation continues to grow with steady rising costs for food and other goods. Since 2011, the Government of Nunavut employees have not seen one but two new collective agreements with increases in their salaries to help address the rising cost of living. Other collective agreements have included similar raises.

Will the minister commit to helping Nunavut's most vulnerable residents to meet the rising costs of feeding their families and raise Nunavut's social assistance food rate before the end of 2017? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for pushing for this for the increase. The review done by Family Services and Economic

Development and Transportation and the changes that were proposed and we look for other ways of benefiting for those who need assistance by Family Services and in that review, we have clearly stated in our review and the changes that'll be made especially in all of the programs Family Services provides and the Income Support Program on how we can do more through those programs and what kind of changes we can make not only in that program but in the Poverty Reduction Review and that will have to be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Question 664 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I continue to receive concerns from a number of my constituents regarding the public housing rent scale. One of the specific concerns that have been raised by a number of my constituents is the method by which the income of public housing tenants is assessed and verified.

A number of my constituents have indicated that there appear to be discrepancies between how income is calculated and presented by employers and how it is calculated and presented by the Canada Revenue Agency.

Can the minister confirm if the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* will review this aspect of the public housing rent scale? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we keep referring to (interpretation ends) the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. (interpretation) A lot of work was put into it from the government and stakeholders outside the government. My short answer to his question is yes, there are many details and there are 60 recommendations that we have to consider inside the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, which include the cost of maintaining a house, their income levels, and the rent scale.

I can answer his question that all of these issues will be looked at through the blueprint for action, such as the rent scale and other things that call for action in that blueprint. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I continue to receive concerns from a number of my constituents regarding what are perceived to be inequities between policies for staff housing and policies for public housing. For example, constituents have asked whether or not people with full-time jobs who live in staff housing units or public housing units are treated equitably when it comes to such things as paying a fair share for furniture. I do recognize that the cost of furniture is included in staff housing rent calculations. Can the minister confirm if the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* will review the issue of equitable treatment for staff housing tenants and public housing tenants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, all the people who live in staff housing units or public housing units are addressed in the blueprint for action and they will be worked on. I can't give him a definitive answer right now to his question. However, government staff who live in staff houses, people who live in public housing, and the rent scale will all be looked at in the blueprint for action. They're all addressed there. That's all I can tell my colleague. To answer his question, all those details will be handled in the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There are 60 separate action items in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. Can the minister clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is prioritizing which specific action items to address first? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can tell my colleague that our department cannot handle that on its own and we have to rely on other government departments to do this work and they will be indicating to us what their priorities are and homelessness issue is a very big issue in Nunavut, lack of housing and the fact that we live in the arctic, all of those were going to be looked at and as the work is being done, we will be producing a report as to what we have been doing on it and I would like him to know that. All the things are being worked on and will be put into a report that will be tabled into the House as the Minister's Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Question 665 – 4(3): Clyde River Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plan

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

As the minister is aware, the only project for Clyde River that is currently on the government's five-year capital plan is a new mechanical garage and funding in the amount \$1.5 million is projected to be spent by the Department of Community and Government Services in the 2018-19 fiscal year. Can the minister confirm that this project is on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the member repeat the question? I didn't understand it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Uqqummiut, can you please rephrase your question.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm that this project for a mechanical garage in Clyde River and the money set aside, \$1.5 million for it by the Department of Community and Government Services for 2018-19, can the minister confirm that this project is on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the question correctly, I will try and answer it.

There are three garages that need to be worked on and the money for that; they're looking to see whether the money will be used to renovate or build new ones but right now it's under a study. The decision hasn't been made either way yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I tabled a copy of Clyde River's updated intergraded community infrastructure sustainability plan earlier in our current winter sitting. Can the minister confirm which department of the government has the primary responsibility for working with municipalities on their intergraded community infrastructure sustainability plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would work with the hamlet council on that and that money \$1.5 million for that project was approved by the House, so the project will proceed. As to what actual work will be done, I cannot outline that yet, but the funding has been approved so the project will proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clyde River's updated Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plan identifies a number of specific projects that the community needs. Can the minister clearly explain how the government decides which capital projects it will fund and which ones it will not fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money for mechanical garages is for mechanical garages and the project will proceed. The details will be put together. They will either renovate the present buildings or build a new one. We're still looking to see which way that we will proceed. I just want to assure the member that the funding has been approved for the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Simeon Mikkungwak.

Question 666 – 4(3): Muskox Management

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is well aware, caribou population trends in Nunavut have begun to show declines in recent years. In its most recent statutory report on wildlife, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 19, 2013, the government states that there are some communities where caribou numbers are very low and where the HTOs are encouraging more harvesting of muskox to reduce the pressure on caribou populations and allow the caribou numbers to increase again.

Can the minister clarify if his department supports an increased harvest of muskox to reduce pressure on caribou populations in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We encourage the wise use of wildlife in Nunavut. As for the harvest of the muskox, the current TAH that is allocated for the muskox in the Kivalliq, there's two muskox zones there, both TAH are not fully utilized at the end of the season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us when his department last conducted a population study on the muskox population in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Kivalliq the muskox zones are divided into two zones and the divider is Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet. Whatever is on the south of that is considered the central Kivalliq. That population survey was done in 2010 and at that time the population estimate was for 4,736 animals.

Mr. Speaker, the other zone is north of Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet and that is considered to be called the north Kivalliq. That survey was done in 2012, an estimated population of the muskox at that time was 2,431. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Kitikmeot Foods Ltd. is a Nunavut Development Corporation subsidiary, which holds an annual muskox harvest and processes the products of harvest locally to be distributed nationally and internationally, creating jobs and income for the community.

Will the minister commit his department to completing a study to determine the feasibility of holding a commercial muskox harvest in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the member talked about in the Kitikmeot there on Victoria Island commercial harvest, I don't think that commercial harvest is on anymore. As for the Kivalliq here, we do have the Rankin Inlet Meat Plant that they do on occasion buy muskox meat from the hunters. I know that they did last year. The current quota that is allotted for the Kivalliq, if the HTO decides they would like to sell their muskox to the meat plant, they're in full control of their allocated tags for each community. They can use that to sell to the meat plant if they wish. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Question 667 – 4(3): Legal Services Board

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues, the people of Gjoa Haven, and my family watching.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister will recall I have asked a number of questions concerning the operations of the Legal Services Board, an organization which is headquartered in my community of Gjoa Haven. I have previously raised questions as to why the board's chief executive officer has been located in Rankin Inlet and the board's comptroller has been located in Manitoba.

As of today, can the minister indicate where these two positions are currently located? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Akoak's information is correct. The chief executive officer or executive director is located in Rankin Inlet and the comptroller is located in Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In April of 2016 a contract was awarded to a consulting company to undertake a review of the Legal Services Board's organization and compensation structure. I will ask the minister the same question that I asked him last fall: will he make available a copy of this report to the Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the Legal Services Board is connected to the Department of Justice or funded through the Department of Justice, they do have an independent board and a chairperson of the board. I can't make that commitment on behalf of an independent organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 8, 2016 the minister tabled the most recent annual report of the Legal Services Board. The report indicated that one of the

action items in the board's strategic work plan, it's on page 10, it says, "review, update and consolidate GN positions in Gjoa Haven."

Mr. Speaker, in small communities we do want to keep jobs and we want more jobs in our communities. My question is to the minister: can the minister clearly explain whether or not this means that positions may be removed from Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know three positions that currently exist in Gjoa Haven will remain in Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok

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

Committee Report 020 – 4(3): Bill 27, Waste Reduction and Diversion Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 27, *Waste Reduction and Diversion Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Bill 27 will appear on Thursday, March 9.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Committee Report 021 – 4(3): Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Bill 30 will appear on the order paper on Thursday, March 9.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 270 – 4(3): 2017 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Health Care Services in Nunavut**

Thank you, members. I have one document to table today. I wish to table the 2017 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Health Care Services in Nunavut. Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Sorry. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Tabled Document 271 – 4(3): Nunavut Motor Vehicles Act Consultation Report

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Nunavut *Motor Vehicles Act* Consultation Report August 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Minister for the Status of Women, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Tabled Document 272 – 4(3): Nunavut Status of Women Council Annual Report 2015-2016

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the 2015-16 annual report for the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister for Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Tabled Document 273 – 4(3): Nunavut Food Security Coalition 2016 Meeting Report

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Food Security Coalition 2016 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Tabled Document 274 – 4(3): First Ministers' Meeting on Climate Change, December 9, 2016**Tabled Document 275 – 4(3): Annual Report on the Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy 2015-2016**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table.

I am pleased to table the First Ministers' Meeting on Climate Change, December 9, 2016.

Also, I am tabling today the Annual Report on the Administration of *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have no more names. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Moving on to Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Education, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 37 – An Act to Amend the Education Act and Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 that Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 40 – Corrections Act – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, that Bill 40, *Corrections Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 41 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:04 and Committee resumed at 15:34*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following Items to deal with: Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 34 and the review of the main estimates for the Department of Justice and, if time permits, followed by the Department of Finance and Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Justice –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to now ask the Minister of Justice if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have two witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the Minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Bill Mackay, Deputy Minister, Department of Justice and to my left is Ji Liu, Director of Corporate Services, Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Mackay and Mr. Liu. I now ask the minister to proceed with your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear today to present the Department of Justice's main estimates for operations and maintenance for the 2017-18 fiscal year. A total of \$114,274,000 is being requested for the operations of the Department of Justice in the coming fiscal year this marks a \$2,239,000 increase in base funding.

For law enforcement, the RCMP will get an increase of \$1,754,000 to add nine regular members to communities across all three regions of Nunavut.

In the area of community justice, the department requests \$115,000 to make five community justice outreach workers into Government of Nunavut employees.

Currently the community justice outreach workers are working as hamlet employees, but taking direction from community justice.

To provide better support and supervision from the Government of Nunavut and better service to clients, community justice would like to begin transferring the community justice outreach workers from hamlets to the Government of Nunavut. The community justice outreach workers will still be located in the communities. The \$115,000 is to cover the difference in Government of Nunavut and hamlets salaries and benefits.

The department had agreed to takeover prison transfers in Iqaluit from the RCMP to allow the police to focus on more pressing issues. The department requests \$120,000 for salaries for three deputy sheriffs in the court services division who will be primarily responsible for Iqaluit prisoner transfers. The RCMP will return the funding of \$160,000 which was approved for Provo services.

Lastly, the coroner's office requested a \$250,000 increase in contract services for legal support services to address the rising number of inquests.

Mr. Chairman this concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have opening comments, Mr. Joanasie?

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Peterson as well as your staff.

Mr. Chairman I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations on its review of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-20 business plan of the Department of Justice.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2017-18 operations and maintenance budget of \$114,274,000 has increased by approximately point four percent since the introduction of the department's 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 378. This is an increase of 8 positions from the 2016-17 main estimates.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's Legal Services Board is responsible for ensuring that all eligible persons in Nunavut receive legal aid and related services. The department's proposed 2017-18 main estimates indicate that \$11,818,000 in contribution funding has been allocated to the Legal Services Board for the 2017-18 fiscal year. This amount remains unchanged from the 2016-17 fiscal year.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members raised concerns that the organizational structure of the Legal Services Board includes positions that are currently staffed outside of the territory. The standing committee recognizes that the Nunavut Legal Services Board is an arm's-length public agency and is independently governed by a territorial board of directors. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that this board is supported and represented by staff within the territory whenever possible.

On November 8, 2016 the minister tabled the 2016-18 Government of Nunavut and Royal Canadian Mounted Police shared directional statement. In their shared directional statement the GN and RCMP indicate that their partnership will focus on public safety through communication, crime reduction, crime prevention, community engagement and enforcement. The standing committee looks forward to receiving detailed and ongoing updates on specific community initiatives that will be undertaken through this partnership.

During his recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister indicated that the RCMP "V" Division will include nine new RCMP member positions in a number of communities in the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year. The standing committee recognizes the need for increased community programming and support that new RCMP member positions can provide communities. However during the minister's recent appearance, members raised a number of concerns regarding the challenges that Nunavut's communities are currently facing in relation to filling vacant government positions due to the lack of available housing units. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on how these challenges will be overcome to fill the new RCMP member positions.

Mr. Chairman, the department's Corrections Division is responsible for providing safe custody and detention, probation and parole supervision, counselling and aftercare services and rehabilitation treatment for inmates throughout Nunavut. On November 8, 2016, the minister tabled his department's first annual report on the activities and initiatives of the Nunavut Corrections Division. The standing committee applauds the minister and his department for providing detailed information concerning statistics and programming with Nunavut corrections in this report.

On May 1, 2015 the Department of Justice issued a request for proposal titled "Staffing Overtime: an Organizational Review of the Nunavut Corrections Division." In its October 29, 2015 response the department indicated that the results of this review are scheduled to be tabled in the House during the spring 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly and that the department hopes to have the necessary positions created to allow for an assessment of programs and services within Nunavut's correctional facilities. However, the results of this review have yet to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee encourages the minister to table these results in the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, community justice outreach workers are currently municipal employees that work with community justice committees and justice specialists to carry out programs, activities, and services in the areas of crime prevention, diversions, victim supports, and the facilitation of remedies under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. During his recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister indicated that a number of community justice outreach work positions would be transferred from municipal positions to new government positions under his department. The minister indicated that this transfer would allow current community justice outreach workers to focus on their duties, as they relate to community justice initiatives.

The standing committee emphasizes that these changes should be made in such a way so as to minimize any negative effects that these transfers may have on the employees who currently fill these positions. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the outcomes of these transfers.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and the 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. General comments? I would like to remind the members that the minister's comments are in the page-by-page review. I have no names on my list. (interpretation ends) I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page E-4. Justice. Directorate. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To those at the table, I would like to first of all ask a question, and it is one that was brought up by the member for Gjoa Haven, pertaining to the Legal Services Board. It seems that this organization is in need of some slight adjustments to be made. Perhaps the minister can be open to reviewing this law so that it would be more Nunavut friendly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Mr. Okalik is referring to the *Legal Services Act*. Yes, we are open to review. It's always good to review our legislation to make sure it's current and updated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it stands, there is approximately \$11,000,000 that will have to be approved. I think it would better if we make changes to the law. When would the minister be able to show us the proposed amendments to the Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that we have only got eight more months in the life of this government and the legislative agenda is very heavy, it's unlikely that this government could look at a review, a legislative proposal for the *Legal Services Act*. It would be certain something that could be considered part of the transition to the next government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is the scenario, I wonder if the report will be better prepared for this later review, especially related to the proposed amendments or changes to the organization so it can immediately be dealt with in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't initiated a review but it's something that all of our legislation could use; a review from time to time. Again, this would be something that we did talk about during standing committee and we would be open to initiating it again, given the legislative agenda in a short timeframe. We only have 2 sittings left.

It's very unlikely we can get through all the steps and hurdles to make any changes in this government. Again, it's going to be part of a transition for the next government to consider it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they have no idea what to do, maybe they can make preparations so that the next government can start the review right away, and that's my next question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's more or less what I've been saying we could do. We could begin the process to review the *Legal Services Act*. It's going to take some time but we'll make sure that it's transitioned from this Department of Justice minister to the next Minister of Justice. That will be in the transition planned or in the plan transition book so that they know it is something that should be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Following my list of names, Mr. Enook

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon minister and your officials. I would like to raise this question using as my foundation the contents

listed in page E4. There were some changes from September 30, 2015 to September 30, 2016 on the status of the position or category.

Now, I am unsure of the equivalent Inuktitut terminology for (interpretation ends) paraprofessionals, (interpretation) but the positions in that category were decreased by 73 percent from 258 to 68 categorized positions.

Furthermore, with that in mind, the assistant positions in your department for operations or (interpretation ends) administrative support (interpretation) positions increased over 500 percent. It went from 33 positions in that category, up to 200 positions. Can you elaborate on what exactly that means and what were the reasons for making those changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. That was a reclassification of corrections officers from paraprofessionals to administration and that was a request for the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the fact that you made these changes for reclassified; did it impact the salary and benefits under your employment and if there were impacts, how much of an impact did it have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were no impacts on salaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. My question, the reclassifications the duties that you changed on paper, how many positions were filled and how many positions were vacant? Can you answer me that today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you give us a moment, my Director of Corporate Services is looking that information up.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While he's looking for the information, I'll ask if you are able to respond; the job descriptions being reclassified,

were there any appeals or was anybody dissatisfied for being classified? Was there anything like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're unaware of any appeals on the jobs or reclassified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He's still looking for the information I'll ask more questions while they're looking for it.

>>*Laughter*

Also in the plan, September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016, the number of positions in your department that were located in Iqaluit decreased by 22.4 percent. There were 98 positions to 120 positions. During the same period, the number of positions in your department that were located in other communities if these were distributed to other communities; the positions that went the communities, how many were vacant and how many were filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I'm unaware of any positions being moved from Iqaluit to other communities unless I misunderstood your question. Typically if we're moving positions around, they have to go through a process through the Department of Justice would have to bring that information to the Department of Finance and they would have to look at the decentralized numbers across, in any particular community and if you move positions out of a decentralized community, you have to move similar number of positions in. I'm unaware that any Justice positions were transferred to another community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I'm just waiting for the information that you were looking for. Can you respond to my question now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Corporate Services director says 80 percent of positions are filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you done? Thank you. (interpretation ends) We are on Justice. Directorate. Following the list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Peterson. With Mr. Enook's question on the reclassification of positions and they were changed and the minister had indicated that the salary and benefits did not change but he did not mention anything about the benefits. Did the benefits change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Salary and benefits remain the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. Also on August 25, 2016 your officials made an announcement that the government consulted the public on a new made-in-Nunavut *Corrections Act* during the fall of 2016. In which communities did your department hold its public consultations and can you describe the outcomes of these consultations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultations that were held in Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Cape Dorset, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit, the initial consultations, there was issues with conflicting dates and this information but we did get them rescheduled and they were quite successful. We got a lot of good input from people who were consulted with and they recommended an Inuit-specific group to work with the inmates and also to provide counselling and also there should be more elder involvement. Then after it should be process of aftercare to help inmates to reintegrate into their communities after they leave the corrections system. So there's a positive input. We were able to amend our legislative proposal and then in the orders of the day I gave notice of First Reading of the *Corrections Act* for tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The things that you heard from the communities; will that be put in a report as well, like we heard the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation presented her report on concentrations for that department so will you be doing the same thing for corrections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to discuss that with my cabinet colleagues, if I can table it. If it does contain sensitive information; sometimes

reports have names and other information that is not for public consumption. We would have to look at that but we'll take that under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. We will anticipate that information as not all members were able to attend the consultations in the communities; nonetheless, if the information is contained in a report, it would allow us to reference the information as members usually want to gauge the progress on proposed legislative amendments.

This is just a comment. Let me move to another matter, on October 29, 2015, within a response to the report of the Standing Committee reviewing the government operations and main estimates, and it was pertaining to the Auditor General's report in 2015 to this House on Justice, no, Corrections.

Further, the government responded at that time that a new legislative proposal would be presented sometime in the spring, and I am wondering if that legislative proposal is on schedule for this upcoming spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand Mr. Joanasié correctly he may be referring to staffing overtime and organizational review of the corrections division, is that what you are referring to? Maybe he can clarify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. The response from the committee to you, (interpretation ends) the Standing Committee on Oversight, Government Operations and Public Accounts. They did a review on the Auditor General's 2015 report to the Legislative Assembly on corrections in Nunavut and it talks about your planned introduction of Nunavut corrections legislation this spring. Is this on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasié for the clarification. Yes, it's on schedule. I gave notice of motions first reading of Bills today, and that will be something I'll introduce tomorrow. Then the process officially kicks in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. Moving along, I'm going to refer to your department; there are 378 positions if I am not mistaken.

Looking at the business plan; the Inuit employment plan is on page 64 and 65. I note that in October 2015 you had an employee successfully complete a senior Sivuliqtiksat Program and then they assumed the role of Manager of Inuktitut Translation Services for the Legislation Division. It might have been on page 64 as of September 30, 2016, there's 92 positions that are sitting vacant in your department. Can the minister say out of those 92 if any of those positions have a requirement for Inuktitut-speaking skill set? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I don't have that information available with me right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister commit to providing some follow-up information perhaps after once we're done here or sometime before the end of the sitting or before the spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. We can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I appreciate that. I know Inuit employment chart here on page 64 it looks like there's eight positions that you're planning on filling for Inuit in the paraprofessional position and seven positions in the administrative. If you can include any positions that require Inuktitut proficiency but I'm hoping that the minister can come forward with any positions that are specific for beneficiary competitions. Can he provide that information as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Certainly we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Justice. Directorate. Following the list of names, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and staff. On November 8, 2016, you tabled the Legal Services Board's annual report for the 2015-16 fiscal year. In its annual report the board states "with an annual budget of \$11,818,000, the Legal Services Board recorded a surplus of only \$73,000 which is less than one percent of the total budget. This also indicates that the current funding levels for Legal

Services Board are tightly matched to core operational needs and any increases in demand or operational costs will require additional financial resources without compromising quality and consistency of services.”

How is your office working to ensure that the Legal Services Board will have the necessary funding to meet the future legal services needs of Nunavut residents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. If I go back years and years, the federal government and the Government of Nunavut are supposed to be 50-50 in providing access to justice, and over the years, the ratio of funding to legal services in Nunavut has become a ratio of 81 percent, Government of Nunavut and 19 percent, federal government. We raised that concern with federal government, the Minister of Justice. It's not just Nunavut but also the other provinces and territories.

In Nunavut, we have, I think, since 2009-10 roughly; the Government of Nunavut has increased the funding. It has almost doubled, so we do work very closely with the Legal Services Board and we do work very closely with the Government of Canada. Every once in a while they give us a little bit of additional money for legal services in Nunavut but it is certainly not enough.

We believe that the Government of Canada should provide a more equitable share of funding for access to justice and we've made the case about how large our territory is, and how difficult it is for court circuits, lawyers, and judges to get around in order to provide criminal and civil legal services in all communities, in poverty areas as well. There is an increase in the demand so we are working very closely with our folks at the LSB to ensure that, where possible, we can provide it with additional funds.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dealing with that, can you tell the House how many lawyers are from outside Nunavut? Where do they come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: I heard lawyers, Mr. Chairman, or is it Legal Services Board members? Mr. Chairman, I don't have the breakdown of lawyers but I would venture a guess at most of the lawyers that they have are from outside of Nunavut. Some have lived in Nunavut for quite a long time, five to ten years, and have made Nunavut their home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hearing that, do you know what the procedure is where the Legal Services Board pays for all the travel from where the lawyer is coming from to where the court is happening? Would you have that level of information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't offer a definitive answer but typically, the Legal Services Board would pay most, if not all the cost. We'll have to get clarification on that and report back to Mr. Akoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We look forward to that information. I think that it is very important in times where we are supposed to be trying to save money. Maybe we could look at how we can do that.

My next question is: can you indicate if your office anticipates any increases in the funding for the Legal Services Board within the next five years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't anticipate Legal Services asking for additional funds whether those funds are approved from the government or whether the Government of Canada provides additional funds. I can't say today. That would be up to the future government to determine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Tony Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this draft, 2017-2020 business plan, your department indicates that one of it's priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year, is to "develop a new 3- to 5-year work plan for legal aid services in Nunavut." Will you commit to make this work plan available to the public once it has been completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Akoak seems intent on getting me to commit. I can't commit. We haven't even started on that yet, so I would presume that a document of that nature would probably be something we'd want to make public at some point in the future, but it's too early for us to even say whether we can table it or not, making it public. We haven't even started it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Justice. Directorate. Page E-4. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$17,433,000. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On to page E-5. Justice. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With relation to the documents in front of us, let me firstly ask the officials about the review of the coroner's report that was tabled November 10 of last year on the results of the Igloodik Felix Shappa Taqqaugaq coroner's inquest.

I would like to ask if this inquest report has been reviewed by the department, and particularly the recommendations included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was open for the question. Yes, The Department of Justice and RCMP did receive the coroner's recommendations and are reviewing them. We still haven't completed that review but they are under review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask when the timeline for the completion of this review is, and whether the minister can identify the target date for the implementation of the recommendation submitted as part of the report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Peterson.

Hon Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a target. I know we passed the December 2016 date, but we don't have a target date. All I can do is assure Mr. Okalik and the other MLAs that the RCMP and Justice are continuing a review.

Some of them are quite complex to review and conclude, but I will commit that we'll get this review done at some point. Hopefully this spring, possibly, we'll have it complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plans as presented will be my focus, as I feel they can be added to the list of recommendations.

Within the business plan, in the English version, on page 43, the top paragraph includes a middle sentence that states that the RCMP, both the officers and administrative personnel and commanding officers were provided orientation training on Inuit culture and historical intergenerational trauma, including the erosion of the Inuit culture today.

I would like to ask if the training was provided only to the commanding officers, or will it include all RCMP officers who are scheduled to travel to Nunavut? Will this become a training session for all new RCMP officers in our future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That training was only for the detachment commanders but I understand that training materials will be used for other employees as well in the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was another review where the officials stated that all RCMP officers recently transferred to Nunavut will receive this orientation training of Inuit history and culture. Will this be implemented for new RCMP officers recently transferred to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that's part of the new shared directional statement under communications that the RCMP will provide that kind of orientation and look to share that their officers receive courses, workshops and Inuit societal values and the Inuktitut language where possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the business plan on the same page 43 the final bullet, that division will be giving training course for mental health work and Inuit mental health, will this program be implemented and be used for all the RCMP officers training? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Also states in the business plan in the recommendations that they provide and include Inuit so that they involve Inuit so that they can work with Inuit at the local level and looking at

the business plan that the RCMP would like to hire more Inuit into the workforce. When will the department be able to respond to this recommendation so that they'll be Inuit representation in the police force? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an ongoing initiative. The RCMP, they know that the wishes of the Government of Nunavut recruit more Inuit into the RCMP and hire more Inuit in the RCMP.

Again that's part of the shared directional plans and we'll keep stressing that. It's been that way for use but now, this new shared directional statement, we are setting indicators so that we report back every year to find out what kind of progress we're making.

We officials meet with the RCMP on a regular basis so we can get updates on the progress that we're making in those areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the RCMP reports that they do trauma training. Will this be part of the suicide prevention? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RCMP are part of the Embrace Life Council so that will be part of their work, it would include that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank the father for agreeing for me to ask questions in regard to the dog slaughter and the individual believes that this is not completed. I know I'll be asking questions in regard to the dog slaughtering. I'll be asking more questions in the spring session and I'll leave it at that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): That was just a comment. According to the list of names I have, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are on page E-5. In regard to policing, I want to get a full understanding that on March 2016, during the Committee of the Whole session duration of the departments 2016-17 main estimates. You stated that you are committed to exploring community-based programs and made-in-Nunavut alternatives to our current policing arrangement. Can you describe what specific

alternative programs to policing are currently exploring in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Enook for your question. I had the opportunity at the October F/P/T Justice Minister and Public Safety Ministers meeting in Halifax. We did talk about the First Nations Policing Program. The Minister of Public Safety, Minister Goodale, said they're reviewing that and hopeful that by 2018-19 they'll be able to retool that program and possibly we could be able to access that. That program does sunset in 2018. It ends. It will coincide with that. Sorry, Mr. Chairman, that's the end of my answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I raised that matter in my question relates to what I believe the minister is well aware of, since he has visited many communities.

Let me return to a historical tidbit. Back when we were new in communities, and very young, non-Inuit or Qallunaat in particular, the authority figures of the RCMP were especially daunting, even just to look at them. They were like the bogeymen, because if any child disobeyed, the parents would immediately say "the white man will come and get you".

These are historical facts, and I am completely truthful in that statement. That is how we were scolded, ensuring our obedience. Today, I know for a fact that the majority of RCMP officers are very dedicated and committed to their work; nonetheless, a bad apple can spoil the barrel.

As an example, when certain individuals put on the uniform, especially the Serge uniform, they automatically assume an air of superiority and disdain for others. They become surlier, at least in our communities. Some goes as far as trying to lord it over the communities. I am absolutely truthful in this assessment.

This applies to anyone in a uniform, as some people can't handle authority. I am not painting all RCMP officers with this brush, but certain individuals certainly assume that air as we witness this firsthand.

The reason why I am asking about this matter is how to provide more training that is tangible, such as our communities and the historical RCMP attitude should never be like the police actions in Toronto or Montreal. Every community has its' own method of dealing with issues, and I also know that one cannot casually infringe laws, and I am not encouraging anyone to break any of our laws.

How can we improve this orientation, that isn't as painful and more culturally appropriate

where the RCMP doesn't have these cowboys in uniform? Do you include these types of cultural taboos when introducing programs so that members who put on the uniforms don't also assume these airs of being superior to all Inuit in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I don't believe the RCMP... Is their intention to intimidate people. I know a lot of RCMP officers get engaged in community activities, they still go to minor hockey or other sporting activities, they attend the hamlet council meetings on a monthly basis and most communities update the city here in Iqaluit, they'll update the community on their activities and answer all of the questions, we do encourage them to participate in community events, get out and mingle with people. We do encourage them to work with elders' groups in the communities, youth groups in the communities.

I have talked to the Chief Superintendent and he has told me that's what they would like to continue doing. I do read their activity reports when they send them to me. Every detachment sends in regular reports to what they're doing. They're quite busy, they put on the D.A.R.E program, drugs resistant education and other types of initiatives in the communities. I don't believe they're trying to be intimidating but it may come across like that. At the same time, they're in a very difficult and challenging job and if something dangerous occurs then they're the first ones on the front lines to protect our citizens in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is precisely why I mentioned the fact that we take pride in the work of the RCMP, and further, most are very personable, and we notice the majority are very dedicated.

Whenever an emergency or dangerous situation arises, we know that they are indeed the frontline workers, and we are grateful for their service. What I was asking about was perhaps related to what Mr. Okalik stated that in the smaller communities, the RCMP operations are quite different in some ways from the larger centres. This has to be noted and acknowledged, and the report states this has been noted. That is what I am trying to get at, what exactly has been noted and which changes have been made? However, I know that this may be impossible to answer now.

I believe that the RCMP can be included further, and in light of your department's statement in the 2017-18 business plan that it will work towards enabling the RCMP officers to converse in the Inuktitut language.

That may be, but what I am asking is related to this. The Nunavut government has an existing program geared towards Inuit language training programming for public servants, who are non-aboriginal.

They are provided that opportunity, so I wonder if our RCMP officers currently stationed in Nunavut, who may express interest in taking the course, if they can be accommodated within this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, under the shared directional statement that is a commitment that the RCMP have made, to improve communications. Certainly, in our meetings with the RCMP, we can have those discussions about how we can help their officers to participate in those kinds of language courses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To that. Minister Peterson, do the RCMP staff members have access to the language training programs that are offered by the Government of Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I don't believe they do at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, we have those Inuktitut language training programs offered to Nunavut government staff. What types of Inuktitut language training programs can they participate in or could we also include that into the agreement between the GN and the RCMP, that they be offered Inuktitut language training courses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what specific training they have but again, as I said, that's something we can discuss with them because they did make that in the agreement. The shared directional agreement is a two-year agreement. Communications is one of the priority areas and they understand that their offices have to have some language skills so they can communicate some of the people that may approach them for help. It is part but I can't say definitively today what kind of language programs that they would be able to access or participate in. Again, it's something we can talk to the GN on their behalf if it's something that they would like us to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would urge the minister to revisit this subject, because situations may have escalated from a simple interaction due to language miscommunication and sometimes what wouldn't have escalated because of the misunderstanding becomes a different situation.

I would strongly urge Minister Peterson to revisit that. Let me ask this supplementary question. In your business plan in the 2017-18 fiscal year it speaks to the efforts of the RCMP to engage the youth in the community on the basis of community-based policing initiatives. Can you elaborate on the exact meaning of these initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. The type of training the RCMP did was they would send summer students for three weeks of training at the RCMP depot in Regina. It's part of the Aboriginal Pre-Cadet Training Program. Then they would come back to Nunavut, to whatever community they are to be deployed to work with the RCMP in a detachment somewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page E-5. Justice. Law Enforcement. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. I just have a few questions on this topic. Yes, it's really true. I want to ask my questions really based upon concerns I've heard out there.

One of them was about not being able to have a policeman in the community, like you have to phone Iqaluit instead when there's a situation that arises. How many communities are facing that kind of situation where they can't get somebody from the RCMP to actually come to a situation? They have to phone Iqaluit first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Mr. Peterson.

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

From how I understand the system works that they have in place; all the calls have to come through the call centre here in Iqaluit, and they contact the officers in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there always somebody there to come to a situation once that call has been placed? How long do they have to wait? Are there circumstances where there's no RCMP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the questions. That was four questions. You said only a few.

It's very difficult to say, Mr. Chairman. That's why it has to go through call centres, so that the people in the call centre who are taking calls have a record they can track and make sure that an officer is contacted. But you know, depending on the community involved, there may be an officer engaged in another call, so if they're not engaged they can respond very quickly, or they're taking other calls, depending on their priority sequence ranking.

It could be under a few minutes and it might take a bit longer, but certainly while they're busy responding to calls, the call centre would be available to make sure the call was taken and logged in. It will be responded to at some point and then they would follow up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really understand the priority and how that's determined. I had somebody, a constituent tell me once that she made a phone call because there was somebody breaking into her house and she was alone. She was a female. She called the RCMP and they said, "We're sorry, we can't come, we've got other things".

You know, even in a situations like that, you'd think that would be pretty high up but in the end her brother came racing down with a baseball bat so she was safe, but that really scared her. She really felt that there wasn't anybody there for her. Like she was told go and figure it out yourself.

That's why you know it's good to have these kinds of conversations where we need to figure out how things work. I wonder, how do they I guess involving guns and that would perhaps be one of the top priorities, but when somebody feels really threatened like that and she didn't feel that she was listened to, what would somebody do in that situation if they wanted to make a complaint? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for that question. I had the opportunity one night to go on an RCMP ride-along here in this city. I have to say that it was pretty busy that night. We were getting calls all the time and responding as quickly as we could.

There are different officers and different trucks but they are very busy. They had a way, and not been a trained RCMP officer, I had the trust that they knew. There are different

codes when they call in. There are different codes for the different incidents that they have to respond to.

We were responding fairly quickly, I thought, to all the incidences that occurred that night. It's quite an eye opener, I have to say.

Mr. Chairman, if a person has a complaint about the RCMP, there is a civilian complaint process that you can call them up, write them, or email them with the details of the complaint and they will follow up, investigate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another area I would like to get a better understanding on is the issue of elder abuse. It's something that we talked about quite frequently in the House. It's something that we hear about.

I'm wondering how the police respond or how do they deal with situations where perhaps a community knows the elder abuse is going on, but perhaps it hasn't actually come forward, you know, in a formal way, that this is going to.... How do the police, what kind of interaction do they have with families when there's elder abuse going on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a good question. What I would recommend in those types of situations is rather than call RCMP, is contact, or have your family members or other community members, contact the community justice outreach worker or community justice specialist and file an emergency protection order or community intervention order under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Then that would kick start a process where the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, via JP, would be the signing of some paper orders where the RCMP could get involved and help the elder or other family members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. That leads me into my next question. On that shared directional statement it talks about a domestic violence coordinator that would be hired. Can you give us the status on the hiring for that position as of today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I don't have that information with me today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Apologies? We are on page E-5 in the English (interpretation ends) Law enforcement. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your staff. My first question is; quite a while ago I asked this to the Minister of Education but I would like clarification. Baker Lake being one of the larger communities so my question is, bullying, how does the RCMP deal with that? Minister stated earlier that they do drug education, D.A.R.E. program but bullying, how would the RCMP deal with that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. If the RCMP received a complaint from an individual who is being bullied or awareness if somebody is bullied I believe the RCMP would respond. I don't know if they necessarily arrest the person but they may talk to the person. I say that because I know that's what they do in Cambridge Bay, it's not as part of their daily policing they would look into the incident, they talk to people and see what happens and usually it's with younger people so they can talk about them and say that they shouldn't be doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When we're talking about the RCMP on bullying, how old do they have to be in order to be charged if bullying becomes too much? Can they be charged and how old do they have to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. If they're between 12 and 17, they could be charged and if it's a criminal offence, they could be charged under the *Young Offenders Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that were the case, it's also included in the *Young Offenders Act* if they were too young and charged, would the parents be notified right away? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. The parents would have to be present at the interview between the RCMP and the child, the child being 12 up to 17. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's clear now. I'll move on. The other day, I asked this to the Minister of Family Services but his response in part it's become difficult in Baker Lake as Minister of Justice and with the RCMP, there was violence against somebody and with no women's shelter in Baker Lake. How would you deal with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. A couple of weeks ago I was on a conference call with community justice outreach workers and justice specialists, they had a conference in Cambridge Bay and a lady from Baker Lake asked that exact question because there is no shelter in Baker Lake. I believe under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, we could for a short period of time, put people up at the local hotel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Yes, the response is clear. However, when there is violence, and some times after they fall asleep, after hotel staff go to bed, if they don't have access to a telephone, how would we take better care of the victim. My colleague stated that some RCMP officers know the powers of how after employees have gone home from the hotel, how would they deal with it then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, an emergency protection order would be issued, and that would make the RCMP aware and they might be involved. Depending on where their placed in the community, the RCMP would obviously be keeping an eye on a volatile situation. The protection order is issued up to 72 hours to, hopefully, try to help the people involved to actually avoid any type of violence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that being the case, as there is no shelter in Baker Lake, can the minister explain if there is an emergency in Baker Lake, is one of the larger communities, and I think that should be rectified. Anywhere in Nunavut there are many communities with women's shelters. With the lack of shelters, for example, with his colleague, the Minister of Family Services, or Community and Government Services, he should start planning to put such a facility in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the suggestion. In Cambridge Bay we've had a crisis shelter for 35 years, maybe longer. It's unfortunate that we require shelters, but we do have the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* that can assist individuals who are in those situations. If there is no facility locally, I say we can help people in a hotel. If it's really an extreme situation, I believe under the Act, we can relocate people to another community for a period of time to diffuse the situation. Obviously if there is no facility, your options are limited but hopefully in most communities there would be shelters or safe homes of some sort. Barring that, hotels and then relocation to another community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to base most, if not all, of my question on the Department of Justice's Business Plan. I am looking at page 43. It talks about the "V" Division in the middle paragraph, it talks about suicide prevention training and education, and there is the "V" Division working with the Department of Health. It says here, due to the support of GN's Department of Health, trigger locks for firearms are available to the public and that members in communities deliver trigger locks and firearm safety information to residents. How well has that program been running at the community level? Is there a set number of trigger locks or information that gets delivered or picked up at the local detachments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I don't have the details, the firm details, but I understand that it's been fairly successful. I think I read in another brief note, that ten communities have been involved. There's a raising of awareness of this. Firearm safety is very important to Health and to the RCMP. I do know they have said they will even work with the Rangers and other organizations if they want to store their rifles at their detachment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on and under the same bullet, further on down below, towards the end, it says that the "V" Division participated in the development of the Inuit Mental Health First Aid Canada course, where RCMP members were asked to complete these and provide feedback to help shape this program. It's in the final phase of curriculum development. My question here is this: this Mental Health First Aid Canada course, who is developing it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any specific details on it but I believe the GN Department of Health is involved, and the RCMP is involved through them on the development of this curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am particularly interested in this because right at the bottom it says that this mental health program for Inuit is the only program to focus on the needs of modern Inuit using Inuit history and Inuit culture as the path to understanding and healing. I am really looking forward to what this program will have to offer and how it will be delivered in partnership with the Department of Health. I'll look forward to that information.

I was also going to ask, priorities for 2017-18 on the next page, 44, the last bullet under this, for the next fiscal year is to support and endorse restorative justice initiatives throughout Nunavut. Can the minister maybe give us a description of what sort of restorative justice initiatives that are currently undertaken by the department and also maybe if there are new approaches to restorative justice that we will be seeing in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a meeting yesterday with an attendant of the Baffin CGLs and Community Justice Specialists. Again, we work through the local justice committees, support their initiatives, and provide training and other materials to them.

Yesterday, I personally got some feedback from justice committees and CGLs as to how we can better communicate and respect the restorative justice in Nunavut. Again, at the FTP meeting in Halifax in October, I was surprised to learn that most, if not all jurisdictions in Canada; all provinces and territories are heavily into restorative justice and are keenly interested in how we work in Nunavut through our justice committees or restorative justice involving elders and other local community members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I look forward to hearing more about some of the restorative justice initiatives going on in Nunavut. (interpretation) I made a mistake earlier (interpretation ends) on the shared directional statement. Under page 2, it talks about communities at risk and first of all, it says on youth. In an effort support young people at risk, the GN and RCMP will collaborate to prevent youth crime and address the challenges of young offenders.

With that, and further on page 3, it goes on to say the GN and RCMP agreed that they must work with partners and stakeholders, hamlets, community justice committees, the

courts, public prosecution services, health services, defence representatives, and others to develop proactive solutions to the root cause of youth criminal activity. I think when we were talking about Inuit mental health first aid training, going back on the traumas and the history of our territory, I think we can start piecing together what and how all this came about.

So, how will these stakeholders; is it like an annual meeting that they'll have: how are they trying to address the root cause of youth criminal activity? Can the minister elaborate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're working on the indicators. I and my officials are not experts in this area but I do understand intergenerational trauma to some degree. We have passed it down through to pass down four, five or six generations or more. It manifests itself in the young people today. The RCMP would have to obviously work very closely with local youth, committees, elders, and others within the community to understand the issues. Of course I'm sure we'll have your experts from the Department of Health to the mental health experts who can also participate and there are other community members.

I don't believe it'll be something that will just happen once a year depending on the community they could meet... I notice from my own experience in Cambridge Bay I participated in these committees where we meet as often because we have to monthly or every few months to exchange information and help people and understand their issues. The group could be as group 15 or 20 people involved in this process at a community level. That's where it all starts and we have to work at the community level that's why we want RCMP to be more involved through this shared directional statement. Instead of just being police officers responding to calls, they can be involved in understanding, sharing information, understanding the root causes like what's really causing the pain and suffering in some of people today that right now, it might not have happened last week but it might be something from 20, 30 or 40 years earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel like it's the right path that the RCMP and the Department of Justice is going to in finding a solution. I'm just going to make reference to this what we learned and the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Training Program, that's called the NS curve and it talks about Inuit control over time and it's a curve that shows how Inuit way back in our forefathers, they were independent, self-reliant and strong people and then over time, things happen. Whalers, missionaries, RCMP, government, there's been so many effects and that has had on our communities as a society on not only just individuals so this NS curve really and how much of an impact in that Nunavut Sivuniksavut has on the students. When we learn about this stuff, it kind of starts clicking about what's really happening in our communities, why our communities where the

people the way they are and I think we should really I think when we're trying to address issues, there's so many things behind it too.

The minister talked about intergenerational things that play and that's definitely true but also at the same time there's things that are good from our past that we need to bring forward. Mr. Shooyook talks about a lot about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* so trying to incorporate that into our modern lifestyle and how we're trying to address these issues and they're still relevant and we can employ some of these teachings in our principles in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, so I just wanted to point that out.

Hopefully the Department of Justice and working with their partners, the RCMP and on the local level can really start addressing youth crime, not just youth crime but crime as a whole. There's stuff that really has a grasp on today's indicators that were talked about, but I think I'm rambling on. Maybe if the minister can commit that the department and the government can take a look at some of this course in more depth, and also with the prospect of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as to what Inuit have to offer. That can hopefully lead to restorative and crime prevention and justice for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Joanasie has made a lot of good points and I believe we understand where he's coming from but I can direct my officials to contact the Nunavut Sivuniksavut, I don't know what that is, the Dean? I know the guy down there. One guy is retired and one might still be there.

We sent a few of our kids over the years to take that program from Kitikmeot and it is very well received. If they can share some of their best practices with us... I do know we're working on community crime prevention plans at the community level. We can share and use some of that information. I did extend, again, to see jobs and justice specialists when I was in a meeting yesterday and talking to the ones in the conference at Cambridge Bay a few weeks ago.

I encouraged them to also put forward ideas to us, that we'd consider it. I did reassure those folks that headquarters is here to serve them, so if we get information in the community level up that we can use that people think would be helpful to the RCMP and other agency members, then we should look at that. I'll have my officials follow up with the Nunavut Sivuniksavut folks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are on Justice. Law Enforcement. (interpretation) E-5. Following my list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we on the English page E-5? While we're here I would like to make a brief comment on the business plan. It states according to the draft 2017-20 business plan, in regard to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, to make sure that they provide Inuktitut language programs for unilingual English

speaking people.

Perhaps if you deal with that seriously, the English speaking unilingual people will be able to speak the Inuit language. This draft, what exactly is this initiative? What is the status of it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Shooyook could clarify what page he's on I think that would help us I think he's in the business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): It says on page ten in Inuktitut on page 44 in English.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) In the Inuktitut it's page 10. In the English it's page 44. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for clarifying. Under that priority the 'V' Division has recently promoted an Inuktitut-speaking regular member to the rank of corporal into a position called a Detachment Watch Commander here in Iqaluit. And then the RCMP would commit to mentoring Inuit officers that want to broaden their skill sets and progress through the ranks. Again, it's a shared directional statement to improve communications.

They have promoted another Inuktitut-speaking Inuit regular member to the rank of sergeant in the Community Policing and Media Relations position, again here in Iqaluit. They have hired a full-time Inuit public service employee to provide assistance to the 'V' Division relief unit with clerical and cultural language support.

They're also an active participant in the Inuit learning development project, whereby two candidates would perform a four month secondment with the Iqaluit detachment. Those candidates are of Inuit descent and they speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize as my voice is becoming hoarse. Indeed, to return to this issue within the Inuktitut version, it states that which I am just following.

"To increase capacity in the Inuit language" and I now understand, that the bilingual officers can be promoted to higher ranks, and I wonder if that indeed will be the case where only some officers can speak bilingually although the majority of the lower ranks need only to speak in English.

Is that the goal of this particular wording? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. The RCMP are trying to increase the ranks of, and moving up to corporal or sergeant or higher in the ranks, Inuktitut-speaking officers. They'll obviously be English-speaking and Inuktitut-speaking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you and I thank the minister for providing that information. I want to move to an entirely different topic if I have the opportunity, where you alluded to domestic violence and I want to speak to that if you will allow me.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Related to family violence and bullying, where you responded that the RCMP officers, when they find out about the instigators, that they talk to them. With that being the case, I imagine that today, since it is contained in legislation and in the past, this was never a practice so I wonder if you mentioned that it would be formulated into the new legislation.

As an example, bullying in schools where parents would become involved and the student is included in the discussions with the parents. Is this the goal of this plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. I was talking about two things: one was the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, which came into force in March 2008. That's where individuals who feel threatened can contact this community justice outreach worker or justice specialist or someone on their behalf can apply for a merge of protection order to help them get protection right away.

There are also community intervention orders which are a bit more complex, but than there's the other part where I was talking about RCMP officers. They could charge a young offender between 12 and 17 under the *Young Offenders Act*, but the parent would have to be present. Then, there's the other aspect where with community policing, the RCMP can go into the schools and talk to students about bullying, talk to them about drugs, and other things like that.

This is just part of their work; bringing awareness of bullying; it's dangerous and unacceptable; drugs are illegal and dangerous for youth to use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister as well for the clarification.

I wish to ask you another question, for example, if a student within the school swears at their teacher, or argues with their teacher and the teacher reports the incident to the RCMP about the perceived transgression. The student would be approached by the RCMP.

What happens to the student in this situation? Would it start with counselling or would the RCMP immediately charge the student or detain them? Can you clarify that for me please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. If the RCMP were to receive such a call, obviously they would respond and talk to the individuals involved in the alleged incident and the victim, and the accused; I guess they would call it.

They would have to determine whether or not to press charges. If that was the case then they would have to involve the parents. If there's not enough evidence or enough justification to press charges, I believe they would probably just want to talk to them and warning them that bullying and fighting in the school and all that is not to be condoned.

I would take it that school policy will also state that bullying is unacceptable in school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Shooyook,

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I also thank the minister for clarifying that for my information. Due to this reason, I will know ask my last question. When an incident occurs, for example, when a teacher feels the teenaged student is being argumentative or disrespectful, are the parents first notified or do they just proceed without notifying the parents or include any counselling services where they charge the student with a misdemeanour offence in preparation for a court trial? Is this how the schools deal with these cases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. If the RCMP is called and they respond, I believe the parents will have to be part of the end due process. The child will be present and the parents will be there as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister as I am ardently querying the minister because the process as laid out isn't being practised.

Part of the process isn't even used, perhaps parts of it can be utilized, but in my constituency an actual incident occurred. In that case, the parents were not even notified, and the student was charged with a summary conviction.

This is particularly troublesome, this subject we are discussing and a reason why we need to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and values into this process. This has resulted in tragic consequences in that case, as the student committed suicide after they were charged. He had foreboding about the court case and with his parents in the dark about his situation, which is quite troubling and exemplifies the need for improvement.

I wonder if the minister and his officials can resolve the problems in this area, and include the RCMP to try to improve the current legal malaise. When a student is causing trouble, the parents ought to be notified first and involved in the resolution of the matter. They need to be properly consulted to ensure that the trouble or incident can be resolved to their satisfaction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his comment there and I'll have my deputy minister follow-up the RCMP and the Arctic Bay detachment to see what the details are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are on Page E-5. Justice. Law Enforcement. Total. Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$40,710,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will take a 10-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 17:37 and resumed at 17:49

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We are now on page E-6. Justice. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,401,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On to page E-7. Justice. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted, \$13,116,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On to page E-8 in English. Justice. Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you would allow me, I would like to go back to.... In the smaller communities, we have a problem with the call centres where we make a call and it automatically goes down to the Iqaluit call centre. Not everybody speaks in English and sometimes it's quite an emergency and usually the unilingual Inuit do not have too many family members living in their house. Is there a bilingual person who answers the phone at the call centre? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Keyootak for the question. It's my understanding that they have bilingual call operators at the call centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are those bilingual people available on a 24 hour basis? Are the bilingual individuals at the call centre always available? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Keyootak for the question. Again it's my understanding that it's 24-7 and they're available all hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you for the response. I will then move on to another subject. Can the minister indicate to us about what follow-up services are available for people who go back to their communities from correctional facilities?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Depending on whether or not they have served their sentence, but if they may be on probation, they would have to report to a probation officer. I don't know what the conditions would be for being on probation but they would have to report into the RCMP, to a probation officer. They may have to report to a community justice outreach worker or a specialist. If they've served their sentence, I don't know if they have to.

They wouldn't require any support services if they served their sentence but if they're at the community level, if they're diverted to the community justice committee, the committee may require them to fulfill certain acts to make restoration for the incident or

the crime they have committed. Yes, hit a victim. It would all depend on the community where the individual is. As we all know, in most communities, there aren't a lot of support services for people returning to their communities. That's why it's really though the crime prevention strategy that we are working on, will probably involve communities to help persons reintegrate into their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate how many staff members in your department's Corrections Division are currently certified to perform case management duties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Keyootak for the question. I don't have a specific number but most of our community corrections officers receive training in various areas to work with individuals who are released on probation. They would have that kind of case management training. It would be various things. A client risk need assessment; youth risk need assessment; discharge and release planning and case management and the work the parole officers or corrections officers be involved in all that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on page E-8 in English. Justice. Corrections. Following the list of names, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a question that I brought up on numerous occasions and I think there are still some outpost camps that are being utilized by the Corrections Division, where they take inmates to the outpost camps. Has there been an increase or are there any outpost camps that are being utilized by the Justice Division. Are they still the same numbers of outpost camps being utilized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mapsalak for the question. We currently have three outpost camps in Nunavut. There are two in Kimmirut and one in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for further clarity, are you still looking for additional outpost camps that your department can utilize? Is it possible to set up those types of outpost camps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mapsalak for the question. I don't believe we are looking for any additional outpost camps at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): The minister indicated that they are not currently looking for additional outpost camps. Is it because you are not utilizing the outpost camps anymore? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we have three outpost camps and they're lots usually depend on the category of the person, that would, who would, classification person who be eligible to use the outpost camp. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anybody would like to set up an outpost camp, is it still possibly to establish one that can take in inmates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak for the question. I've been asked this question before, and I wouldn't say we wouldn't consider it.

If there's an individual or a group of individuals that wanted to express an interest in setting up an outpost camp, we try to be interested but, again it's a business type and it requires... . You have to meet certain criteria you just can't just open up your camp and take people for various facilities. They're will be certain criteria to be met, but sure our Director of Corrections if he was contacted could provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my last question, and I understand your response and that you're not looking for any more outpost camps to take in inmates and there are standards that you have to follow for the outpost camps to be utilized by your department and that you're not looking for additional ones.

Just for further clarity, if there is an individual who can set up an outpost camp to your standards, would you utilize that outpost camp, or would that be out of the question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, if there is an individual or individuals, they can contact us and offer their service but I can't guarantee if we would use it or not. Again, there are standards of service for outpost camps and they have to meet those. Only certain offenders could be eligible to go to an outpost camp.

For example; remanded offenders, sex offenders and violent sexual assault convictions would be ineligible. If there's someone is interested they should contact us with a proposal or write a letter and we can send information. Here's the minimum standard; here's the type of offender that will be able to use an outpost camp, then they can decide for themselves if they want to operate an outpost camp and we could consider one and use their service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Justice. Corrections. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you very much. I want to start off by asking the minister if he can tell us how many Inuit are employed now at corrections. That has been an area of concern that's been raised in the past. I'm wondering how you are doing in that area now, one year later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You'll have to bear with us. Every time he asks a question we get the information and it could be a few minutes, a few seconds hopefully.

Thank you. We have 142 filled positions. These are corrections facilities, 142 filled positions with 36.6 percent filled by beneficiaries and 140 casuals in corrections facilities and 53 are beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand it's quite difficult to try and get beneficiaries to apply on some of the corrections jobs.

As a department what are you doing to try and, I guess, create that interest that you know you can get people from the communities especially, perhaps, to come out to some of the larger regions that have correctional services? How are you addressing that problem? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Well we have our corrections officials who attend careers days. They have to run competitions and they do get the information out through community postings, that sort of stuff, but we have lowered the, I want to say qualifications, but we've reviewed the job descriptions to make it easier for Inuit beneficiaries to apply.

We have a very intensive training program. I guess ten modules, ten or eleven modules, 400 and something hours training to receive. We do encourage that people that working in corrections is a career.

One of the difficulties that we have, and if you look at the different facilities, Rankin Inlet folks are more receptive to working there and even at that this Makigiarvik. The Baffin Correctional Centre of course has a negative public perception.

If there's anyone that has ever been in that facility will realize that or understand that's a very dangerous facility for work, for the corrections officers and, of course, for any inmate.

We're hopeful over the next four years in 2021 when the new upgraded facility is open, that it will be a facility that could do more conducive to a career in corrections. I think we're also talking to the Nunavut Arctic Collage about possibly having a corrections training program based on our Nunavut practices. We do know that the numbers are low but hopefully that'll change in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree I think it's quite a complex thing to try and figure out.

In 2015, the government issued a request for proposals and it was titled, "Organizational Review, Nunavut Corrections Staffing, Overtime and Other. According to the terms of reference, the successful proponent would conduct an assessment to determine if the division's current staffing overtime and organizational models meet the current demand for services.

According to the government's website, the contract for this review was awarded to Aarluk Consulting, and that was awarded on August 6 2015. Can you indicate if this review has been completed to date, and if so, what were the results? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. That report was only part of the review. They completed a report but there is still an ongoing review of the whole corrections and the corrections staffing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate what the minister said but what did the report say in regard to staffing and overtime? That was a big issue that was brought forward to this House. It was something that was a concern to the regular MLAs, especially we saw that the overtime amounts for Justice and I think a lot of that was because of corrections. It was a little over \$3,000,000. What did the report say about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. The report made 49 recommendations; three for organization staff review; corrections organization structure; workforce training program; human resources; a whole bunch of recommendations. What it came down to, ultimately in the end, was the corrections division needs to hire a lot more corrections officers. We had to continue our review to find some efficiency before we come back in the House here and say we need all these new corrections officers to fulfill the recommendations as part of this report and the review. You can anticipate that there will be more. In future years we'll be approaching through our business plan and our main estimates, looking for additional PYs in corrections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us in regard to corrections across Nunavut, how many vacant positions do you have in terms of corrections alone? Where you have correctional officers, how many people are having to do double shifts because you don't have the staff to cover the shifts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for bearing with me. If you go to the Baffin Correctional Centre...I just want to make sure that I give you the correct information. There are 11 vacancies in the Baffin Correctional centre, 6 in the Makigiarvik, 4 in Young Offenders, one at the Igluvut Centre that is in Kugluktuk, 11 at the Kivalliq Center, 2 at the Women's Centre, and one at the Kakivik Facility, here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those vacant positions, and I am going to assume are equalling to more and more overtime, and more and more costs to the department. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of course, there is more overtime. What we're trying to do now, for the last several months, is address the overtime and rather than call whoever is first on the list, it's taken on seniority. We go by relief workers to come in and provide short-term employment to them for two or three days. Hopefully, it will reduce overtime.

We just signed a new collective agreement with the NEU, so the work week has gone from 37.5 hours to 42, and that should help. It's too early to say it'll make the work week longer and hopefully, reduce the overtime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess it's too early to ask you about the 2016-17 overtime numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I don't think we have the actual detailed numbers for overtime right now, so yes, it's probably too early. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go to something else, just to ask a few questions. I read with interest, your report in 2015-16, the annual report of the Division of Corrections, Department of Justice. It goes in there about reducing the rate of re-offending. It says in here that Nunavut Corrections does not have a definition for recidivism, which is a hard work to say. I am wondering if you can talk about that a little bit, about why there is no definition and why it's so complicated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. One of the problems of recidivism we're finding in our own jurisdiction, but it's similar in other jurisdictions, is that an individual may be back in jail, but it might not be the same offence. If they're in there for a break and enter and they serve their time, and then they're back in jail and this time it's for sexual offence, that's two different offences but it's the same individual. Different jurisdictions had to work around that and figure out how they are going to calculate the recidivism, or re-offending or re-contact. That's what we're struggling with right now.

One of our problems right now; our issue is that we haven't been doing a good job over the years of tracking a lot of this, so we're going to be doing that and build up a database so we could track year-over-year and over time Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we were going to look at, instead of tracking what type of crime somebody has committed, but maybe track the individual themselves. They may have different crimes. Do you have that kind of information where you're tracking people, and how many of those are re-offending? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. We can track individuals returning to the facility. For example, at the Baffin Correctional Centre, the rate of offenders returning has been calculated at roughly 70 percent. Again it could be for a variety of reasons. It may not be for the same offence, but it could be for a number of different offences over a period of five years or longer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very high number for us. How is that in relation to other jurisdictions across Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. There is talking to other jurisdictions or comparing; there is high recidivism across Canada but we just don't know what the reasons are right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So am I to assume then that this has never been looked into it's 70 percent that's really high to me that would be a red flag would go up. I would have assumed I guess that you would have some idea on why we can't reach those that are re-offending at such a high rate, what is it that they need? What is it that we're not giving them or their family? How far back does it go? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I think part of it is the program where it could offer and the facilities and then what kind

of aftercare we're going to offer after people are released from jail again those kind of issues will be considered in the new *Corrections Act*. That's the kind of stuff we're going to be looking at, *Corrections Act* we're currently operating on is using from the Northwest Territories it's from 1973 and with our new *Corrections Act* we can consider all these issues that we can use to provide better support in jail like programming, Inuit societal values, using the elders in the corrections system and then support back in the communities when they're released. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if anybody's ever gone back to the real offender and asked him or her why they keep re-offending all the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak, it's a good question. I don't actually know if that's something that's been done but for sure through counselling people would open up. A lot of information is protected by access to information. You know someone tells you something, you can't just throw it in a report and then use it. We are considering how we can utilize people who have been in jail or correctional facilities and our community crime prevention plans so they can, when they return of the communities we can use what they learn or similar ideas on how we can help people who are being returned to the community after they're released in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I would like to ask one more question on this topic before I go on to something else. Has there been a case where a re-offender has turned around and has changed his or her way and that they actually work at corrections, have you ever, you hear about some stories, I don't know about in Nunavut but you hear of stories where people have really turned around their lives and were able to offer some real support to others going through a similar lifestyle, do you have anything like that that's happened, is that something that made the department would be open to looking into? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I have met this individual personally, I did a year or two ago, maybe longer, fellow named Tony. He had interviewed, show Back from The Brink, where he used his knowledge and experience and he went back and talked to groups and other individuals and schools and elsewhere, like this is what I learned and here's what you need to do now so you don't have to follow in my tracks.

It was well received from what I understand. There's this success in that story, a very public success story. There may be other success stories but it may not be so public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be worth while to go and seek him out and see if he knows of some other people to have some kind of round table discussion you know, because these are high numbers.

Maybe that's something you can do that is different than what's being or what's been done. In my mind, to me it would seem worth while to ask him.

I want to just address segregation practices at BCC. Your department had indicated in 2015 that pending results of a legal analysis that was anticipated that enhanced supervision placement would be piloted at BCC, and that was in the fall of 2016. Can you confirm if this enhanced supervision placement has been piloted, and can you indicate if this pilot was successful? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to Ms. Angnakak; we don't have that information here. I'd love to be able to respond with an answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got a little over a minute, I could take my time. On November, let's try another question. On November 8, 2016, you tabled the 20-15-16 annual report for the Division of Corrections, which we have in front of us here.

This report indicated that there is noticeable decline in the use of correctional facilities outside of Nunavut as a result of the completion the mould remediation at BCC and the opening of Makigiarvik, which is good news to hear. How many Nunavut inmates are currently housed in facilities outside of the territory? That should be an easy answer for you, Mr. Peterson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to say it is an easy answer, 19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Following the list of names. Justice. Corrections. Following my list of names, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask, first of all about Corrections. Is there a manager or director; is there an Inuk manager in any of the correctional facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an intern in the Rankin Inlet facility. I met the individual last summer. When his training is complete and he would take over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What of the other facilities, as there are quite a number of correction facilities and what types of plans are you contemplating? In perusing your business plans, it doesn't mention any promotion of Inuit into the higher officer ranks. This aspect seems lacking, especially in the commanding structure although Inuit comprise the majority of the incarcerated prisoners? Will this be part of your plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question. It's not a new issue; it's been an issue for many, many years. Again, we want to promote Corrections as a career, and we would support and encourage any Inuit corrections officers who want to move up through the ranks. Again, it's part and parcel of our overall GN Human Resource Strategy to identify individuals who want to receive management training or career training. Corrections would be no different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Corrections Act* is going to be more slanted more toward Inuit culture. If that's the case, you will need people knowledgeable about *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. People like that should be in management so that the new *Corrections Act* can run properly and be applied properly. Can you push for this, to have more Inuit trained in management? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question. Yes, certainly. It only makes sense that we do that. The new *Corrections Act* and then have persons from Nunavut, who understand the communities, who've lived up here, and grew up here. It makes good sense.

Again, we have to encourage individuals to enter that profession, because it's a very challenging profession. It's not an easy job and there is a lot of stress in those positions.

In just looking at the numbers for stress leave and sick leave, it can be very stressful. You have to get people to be interested in that career and provide them with proper training.

As I mentioned to Ms. Angnakak, our officials are considering working with the Nunavut Arctic College to actually develop corrections training program, so you can actually go and attend the course for two or three years, and they come out with all the training needed to understand that job. It's not just being an individual who is hired without any background, without any training, go into the job and don't know how to be able to interact with difficult situations. Every day is very challenging situations. I read reports, I'm sure some of my colleagues have read the reports. It's a very challenging position.

Certainly, that's what we want to do is have persons from Nunavut, Nunavummiut, to be in the corrections, running the facilities, and offering the programs and counselling in the facility so that when people are released into the communities, they're released with possibly skills, better understanding what got them into trouble, and hopefully, they don't re-offend and become of those re-contact recidivism individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we are all aware that Inuit I know that we're not paid while there are less Inuit beneficiaries working in corrections. Perhaps provide more training to the correctional guards also the RCMP did training for the officers or gave them Inuit cultural orientation and how the intergenerational trauma perhaps you can do the same training with the correctional guards so that they can have a better idea on Inuit inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that it does occur in how we do provide training to our corrections has 10 modules I believe it's 10 modules and 400 hours plus all the training and that includes the training in cultural, traditional IQ values. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was very happy in Rankin Inlet when I went to tour the facility there that unilingual English speaking people were taking Inuktitut language training of course perhaps do more training on the correctional guards so that they can communicate with the inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had an opportunity last summer to tour that facility it's like night and day touring the facility in Rankin Inlet and what we see out in BCC but hopefully when that facility is upgraded it would be more conducive

to attracting individuals to work in corrections. Of course we do it as I indicated earlier we do include Inuit cultural awareness component in our training and we could encourage corrections through our corrections officials to offer it as part of the additional training that some language training so that they can communicate with the inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it at that for now, so I would like to see all these things occur in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was just a comment. According to the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. No just though of one thing because Mr. Okalik made me, you know when you're talking about the Rankin Inlet healing facility, Mr. Friezen I think is doing a very good job here. Maybe he is somebody that you can bring here to make it the same over here so that we have the opportunities where we can have the same type of services happen over here he would probably be a very good person help make that happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Justice. Corrections. Following the list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions but I'll start on I think it might have been touched upon but can the minister describe some specific supports that can be provided to individuals and their reintegration into the community once they have been released from a correctional facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're located in the Northwest Territories, Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Is there a breakdown between the provinces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to correct the earlier number now but we actually have 20 incarcerated in other jurisdictions not 19. 8 are in the

Northwest Territories and in the past, we used to have upwards of 30 to 40 so it's significantly lower. In Ontario there's 11 and in the past we'd have upwards of 30 and then currently it says British Columbia and Alberta, there's only one in the two provinces. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask what the department gets charged for, I guess it's a daily rate, or is it a daily rate? Or how is that cost agreed to between Nunavut and the other jurisdiction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to the Alberta and BC, Alberta and BC between the two provinces, there was only one but we have agreements with both provinces so we have to send people but currently there's only one between the two provinces. In the Northwest Territories, the daily rate is \$300.76 per day. I was just reading a brief note here and it says with an average of nine offenders in the Northwest Territories, the Government of Nunavut spends close to \$1 million per year for an average of nine.

In Ontario, it is \$230.00 per day for an offender, so there's an average of 14 offenders that are housed in Ontario that's about \$1.2 million per year and at the current cost for housing offenders in BC, Manitoba and Alberta is \$250.00 per day for an offender with an average of one offender housed in these jurisdictions the GN spends over \$91,000 a year. I'm just not sure why we have one person in either one of those provinces but there must be a reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We're on Justice. Corrections. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to ask further questions. As other colleagues generically state, this is a commentary only. So, if you allow me this opportunity, I would like to speak to the matter of corrections while I have this chance.

What I want clearly understood about these correctional institutions, especially in light of my passionate fight on IQ, is that all departments have to experiment with the subject of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* as I want these cultural beliefs to be incorporated.

Now, in an earlier period, I spoke to this issue of prisoners who have completed their penal penalties, and even if they had been incarcerated or an alcoholic or who committed different crimes. We have people who have completed their incarceration, and they can provide a lot of assistance.

One of my colleagues' stated that they were fearful of prisoners at the BCC, that they didn't wish them to be involved in a particular program. This is contrary to our beliefs, as they have completed their incarceration or jail time.

The person has completed their sentence, and we have people like that, and as was mentioned, that person is no longer a prisoner. We have many people like that. Any Inuk, based on traditional laws, who has surpassed their sentence, can provide assistance to others.

When a person only lives as a productive person, they have no inkling of how to assist people who had been incarcerated and what I want to mention here, is the saying. Whenever a person applies for a position particularly in the schools and other offices, they have to complete a criminal record check prior to qualifying fully for that position.

However, some people who may have a criminal record, who have successfully finished their sentence can provide personal experiences and loads of advice. I am not just guessing in this case, as this is absolutely truthful, as we have many people in Nunavut who are very capable, even with a criminal record which I want your officials to understand.

This is also part of the protection efforts of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, where if this is incorporated into the departments, they have to start with a clean sheet especially when incorporating IQ, as to whether the thousands of years of knowledge has a modicum of truth or not. I don't every wish to state deceitful things, as experience of many generations has a grain of truthfulness.

With the new government coming in, I don't think I'm going to be here with the next government, but I would like to urge the government to implement *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. That's just a note, just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've always appreciated Mr. Shooyook's advice and suggestions. He's visited me a couple times at my office to talk about IQ and the correctional facilities and he's also visited the Baffin Correctional Centre to see for himself what needs to be done out there, so I appreciate advice.

I am sure MLAs who return to this Assembly and some new ones, will have an opportunity to consider advice he's given. There's always the *Hansard*. We'll have officials around in the next government who have heard his comments.

I'll be giving first reading of the *Corrections Act* tomorrow at some point and that's based on consultations we've had with communities. There are a lot of good recommendations in there and then it will eventually go to the Standing Committee where Mr. Shooyook and other MLAs can have a chance to review it, ask myself as a minister, my officials, questions or make suggestions, and amendments if need be.

Hopefully, in the life of this government, we can pass the new *Corrections Act* and Mr. Shooyook would have a hand in that so that when he has retired back up in Arctic Bay, he knows he's done his job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook. (interpretation ends) Thank you. We are on Justice, Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$35,401,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On page E-9. Justice. Community Justice. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few quick questions on this section.

In the minister's opening comments on page 1, you state; in the area of community justice, the department requests \$115,000 to make five community justice outreach workers GN employees. Currently the community justice outreach workers are working as hamlet employees but take direction from community justice. Can you tell us which five communities will be affected by this? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. First I just want to verify. I don't want to say the wrong community, but they have assured me that the first five communities are Baker Lake, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, and Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are these the only communities that are under such arrangements with municipalities, or are there other communities with similar arrangements, and if so, why are you only doing five and not all communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. No, there are more communities under similar arrangements but with the hamlets, we just felt that it would be better for transition and orientation if we did it 5 at a time and that should bring them all over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You request \$115,000 for five employees and that only works out to about \$23,000 for each employee. Will they be brought over as

casual employees or will they become indeterminate employees for the department?
Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think anybody would work for that kind of money, but we have contribution agreements with hamlets and those would be terminated, so the funding that flows through the hamlets through the contribution agreements will have come back to, in to the Government of Nunavut and then top it up with 115,000 to make it, sorry that's \$449,000 that we have contribution agreements for, so that plus the money with the \$115,000 will top it up and then we could offer them the same salary and benefits that they might expect as a government employee Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one final question because he didn't answer it in my previous question: will these employees become full-time employees or will they be listed as casual or part-time employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, Mr. Rumbolt, those employees would be indeterminate employees with the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. On page E-9. Justice. Community Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,852,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Back to page E-3. Department Summary. Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$114,274,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank yourself and the committee for the excellent questions today; very good and insightful questions that make us think

about where we are now and where we want to be in a few years. It is all very helpful to myself, and my officials, and our government.

I would like to thank my officials, who are here today. I neglected to mention our back-up fellow in the gallery, Mr. Stephen Chaddick. I didn't have to ask him to come in.

I would like to especially thank all my staff out in our various offices and facilities across Nunavut and in all our communities. They do a tremendous job every day under some very trying circumstances. I want them to know that they have the support of myself and my officials in the Legislative Assembly as they go about their job serving our communities, and making our communities a better place to live, and helping their fellow citizens. I'd just like to throw that shout out to them. With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

(interpretation ends) We will take a five-minute break to set up for our next department.

>>*Committee recessed at 19:13 and resumed at 19:23*

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Finance – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order; I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance to proceed with opening comments. Mr. Peterson

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to discuss The Department of Finance's 2017-18 main estimates business plan.

Before we discuss any details, I would like to first describe some high level changes we made to our department's organizational structure last summer.

The main change was to create a Human Resource branch within the department. Because of this, the core HR functions in our department oversees: compensation and benefits, recruiting and staffing, employee relations and job evaluations are now part of a focused branch of HR personnel led by dedicated associate deputy minister.

Before last summer, the department had delivered these HR services from within a larger comptrollership branch, which also managed matters like the GN's public accounts and our back-end financial systems.

By splitting this larger branch in two, we have created a streamlined structure that better supports our delivery of both HR and comptrollership functions. Mr. Chairman, the department is well positioned to continue its good work in 2017-18 and beyond.

I would like to highlight a few achievements from this past year. We've worked with the Nunavut Employees Union to develop and sign a new collective agreement for GN employees. We tabled the 2015-16 public service annual report in this fall sitting of the Assembly, three months earlier than 2014-15 report and nearly seven months earlier than earlier governments had delivered it. Two hundred and forty-nine students in 24 communities took part in their most successful summer student program ever.

We maintained their AA1 credit rating of Moody's Investor Services and an important mark on how others think of the government's finances.

We once again tabled our audited public accounts in the fall sitting with no qualifications of any kind.

Looking ahead to next year, the Department of Finance is seeking total O&M funding of \$94.831 million through the main estimates. This suggests \$537,000 more than what we received through last year's main estimates, an increase of about 0.6 percent. All of the new funding requested is dedicated to centrally administered funds and are not core departmental operations.

Centrally administered funds are payments our department manages on behalf of the entire government and includes costs related to GN employee medical travel, the Nunavut Electrical Subsidy Program, lease payments on certain office buildings, or to Safety Compensation Commission Premiums and other insurance premiums. In total, the department is seeking \$52.7 million for the centrally administered funds branch in 2017-18. All other changes you see reflected in this year's Department of Finance budget has resulted in internal reallocations of existing funding.

We're planning to increase this for corporate management, fiscal management and comptrollership branches seeking \$505,000 in total reallocations across all three.

The largest driver of funding changes across these three branches and across these branches is compensation and benefits, adjustments to reflect current and expected staffing levels.

Mr. Chairman, as part of our work to deliver quality human resources services and in line with the structural changes I discussed earlier, we're proposing to redirect an additional \$1.6 million in our new dedicated Human Resources Branch. This funding will support 10 new human resources positions; 4 new positions for recruitment and staffing as a way to help all Government of Nunavut departments better address the vacancies they face; 4 new positions for Employee Relations as we continue our work to build a productive, healthy and supportive workplace and 2 new positions in Rankin Inlet to support our payroll operations in the Kivalliq region.

These 10 new positions which we're proposing the funds through internal reallocations will bring the department's total number of personnel to 281. These new positions will

help us advance our work to implement the Government of Nunavut's Human Resources strategy.

As I noted in my budget address, we have made several improvements to date including introducing a policy on workplace harassment, providing anti-harassment training to nearly 500 employees across the territory to promote a respectful workplace, better supporting individuals who returned to work and training our managers about the responsibilities to accommodate employee needs and supporting breastfeeding mothers in the workplace.

The department will continue our work to increase Inuit employment, recruit skilled people, develop our employees and improve our service to the public.

We look forward to the second annual report of the Government of Nunavut's ethics officer which is another important contribution we made to them for our public service.

Last June, Members of the Assembly passed a motion recommending a creation of public service commission. We have explored that option. We've also undertaken a review of possible approaches to shared services so that our new government will be informed when it takes office.

I noted with interest that the Government of Northwest Territories recently announced plans to join its own Department of Human Resources and Finance as a way to improve its own public service.

Mr. Chairman, at my last appearance I presented an overview of Government of Nunavut's fiscal situation and noted there was not much room within our fiscal framework for departments to increase spending substantially. This will now be exasperated by the tragic loss of the Kugaaruk School last week.

Overall, the Department of Finance is practising what we preach by proposing a budget for 2017-18, that addresses core department and government priorities, while making the most of existing funding by minimizing annual spending growth. As an example, we were able to fund the cost of the new human resource personnel from within existing resources.

Whether promoting fiscal responsibility across departments, ensuring the integrity of our financial operations, and are working towards excellence in human resource management. Our finance officials contribute positively to the overall operations of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and

Operations on its review of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Finance.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2017-20 operations and maintenance budget of \$94,831,000 has increased by approximately 0.6 percent since the introduction of the department's 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 281. This is an increase of 10 positions from the 2016-17 main estimates. The department's proposed main estimates and business plan reflect a number of changes to the department's organizational structure, including the establishment of a new Human Resources Branch.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Finance provides support to the Financial Management Board. A government-wide issue for which the Financial Management Board has responsibility is the size of the public service.

The total number of positions in the government continues to increase. The government's proposed 2017-18 main estimates indicate that there are approximately 4,676 positions in the government's departments and major Crown agencies and territorial corporations. This represents an increase of approximately 97 positions, or 2.1 percent, over the number of positions accounted for in the government's 2016-17 main estimates.

However, the government's December 2016 quarterly employment report indicates that there were 1,236 vacant positions across the government as of December 31, 2016, which represented a vacancy rate of approximately 25 percent.

It is important that the Financial Management Board be mindful of the need to control growth in the number of government positions at a time when departments and Crown agencies face significant challenges in filling their existing vacancies and roughly one-quarter of the government's jobs stand empty.

It is also important for the government to be mindful of the Minister of Finance's own comments to the Committee of the Whole of March 19, 2014, when he publicly informed Members of the Legislative Assembly that the government would, from a budgeting perspective, be "... in a very difficult situation if [it] were 100 percent staffed."

It is also important to note that approximately one-third of the government's total spending is on compensation and benefits for its own workforce. For the 2017-18 fiscal year, this amounts to over a \$500 million.

The 2015-16 Ministerial Letters of Expectation to the government's five major Crown agencies and territorial corporations were not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until October 30, 2015, almost seven months into the fiscal year. The 2016-17 Letters of Expectation were tabled on June 7, 2016. The standing committee recognizes the

significant improvement in the timeliness of the tabling of these items, as well as recent improvements in the timeliness of the tabling of the Public Service Annual Report.

The standing committee continues to emphasize the importance of continuing to expand the range of information contained in future editions of the Public Service Annual Report, including absenteeism rates and information concerning the employment of disabled persons in the public service.

On November 3, 2016, the Minister of Finance tabled the government's 2015-16 annual report on grants and contributions made by all departments during that fiscal year. Between the 2004-05 and 2015-16 fiscal years, the government's grants and contributions expenditures amounted to approximately \$3.44 billion.

As members will recall, the Commissioner's Opening Address that was delivered at the beginning of the 2nd Session of the current Legislative Assembly announced that one of the government's priorities would be to "ensure funds provided to organizations, communities and individuals adhere to better accountability practices that achieve the outcome this government expects from its investment."

Although members recognize the need for the government to safeguard proprietary information of private entities, the purpose and goals for which public money is being provided to private entities must be disclosed. This, in turn, should assist the government and all Members of the Legislative Assembly in evaluating the extent to which grants and contributions expenditures are actually achieving their objectives and providing value for money. Although the annual reports identify the programs under which funding was provided, the actual purpose of the funding is often not clearly explained, much less the actual results and outcomes of the spending.

The department's proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that the "phase two audit of grants and contributions of Government of Nunavut departments is underway." It is important that the government's work in this area clearly distinguish between ensuring that grants and contributions payments are being made in compliance with existing authorities, and evaluating the extent to which grants and contributions expenditures are actually achieving their stated objectives and providing value for money.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee strongly supports the government's Summer Student Employment Equity Program, which provides valuable work experience for Nunavut youth. Approximately 2,610 students, over 77 percent of whom were beneficiaries, have participated in this program since 2001.

In recognition of the fact that many of our territory's smaller communities do not have a significant Government of Nunavut presence, the standing committee has urged the government to consider such ideas as providing wage subsidies to municipalities and other employers to hire summer students in smaller communities that do not have a large Government of Nunavut presence. The standing committee notes that the 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Family Services indicates that it has recently piloted a

new Summer Employment for Nunavut Students Program that provides wage subsidies to private sector employers, municipalities and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of hiring students.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing the clock, I move a motion to report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 34 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) 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 that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets again at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 8:

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
 - Motion 44 – 4(3)
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 37
 - Bill 40
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 19
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33
 - Bill 34
 - Bill 35
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 8 at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:44*

