

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

Hansard is not a verbatim transcript of the debates of the House. It is a transcript *in extenso*. In the case of repetition or for a number of other reasons, such as more specific identification, it is acceptable to make changes so that anyone reading Hansard will get the meaning of what was said. Those who edit Hansard have an obligation to make a sentence more readable since there is a difference between the spoken and the written word. *Debates*, September 20, 1983, p. 27299.

Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

Corrections:

PLEASE RETURN ANY CORRECTIONS TO THE CLERK OR DEPUTY CLERK

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)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

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

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements	1
Members' Statements	7
Returns to Oral Questions	14
Oral Questions.....	15
Written Questions.....	36
Tabling of Documents.....	40
First Reading of Bills	43
Second Reading of Bills.....	43
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	44
Report of the Committee of the Whole	76
Point of Privilege.....	76
Third Reading of Bills.....	78
Assent to Bills	80
Orders of the Day	81

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

285 – 4(3): New Power Plant for Qikiqtarjuaq (Mike) 1

286 – 4(3): CBC's "Keeping Canada Safe" Documentary (Peterson) 2

287 – 4(3): Response after Second Reading of Bill 37 (Quassa) 3

288 – 4(3): Fire Prevention Activities (Savikataaq) 4

289 – 4(3): Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit's Inuktut Language Conference (Kuksuk) 5

290 – 4(3): Community Economic Development Meetings (Ell-Kanayuk) 5

291 – 4(3): Partnership with Aurora College for Underground Mine Training (Quassa) 6

C.

Members' Statements

535 – 4(3): Update on the Activities at Piqqusilirivvik (Keyootak) 7

536 – 4(3): Recognizing Jenna Kilabuk of Pangnirtung (Okalik) 7

537 – 4(3): Government's Strategic Framework for Nunavut Seniors (Angnakak) 8

538 – 4(3): Sesquicentennial Reflections (Sammurtok, T) 9

539 – 4(3): Meeting of the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce (Mikkungwak) 10

540 – 4(3): Nunavut Quest 2017 – Pangaggujjiniq (Shooyook) 11

541 – 4(3): Update on School Activities in Cape Dorset (Joanasie) 11

542 – 4(3): Update on the Pangnirtung Fishery (Mike) 12

543 – 4(3): Country Food Bank in Igloolik (Quassa) 13

544 – 4(3): Thank You to Family Members (Hickes) 14

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

673 – 4(3): Environmental Assessment by Nunavut Impact Review Board (Ell-Kanayuk) 14

E.

Oral Questions

699 – 4(3): Senate Reform (Okalik) 15

700 – 4(3): Fur Auction House (Keyootak) 17

701 – 4(3): Pre-dissolution Priorities (Angnakak) 19

702 – 4(3): Status of Portable Classrooms for Kugaaruk (Qirngnuq) 21

703 – 4(3): Inuit Language Protection and Revitalization (Joanasie) 22

704 – 4(3): Support for More Daycare Spaces in Baker Lake (Mikkungwak) 24

705 – 4(3): Departmental Positions (Enook) 26

706 – 4(3): Update on the Activities Schedule of MV Nuliajuk (Rumbolt) 27

707 – 4(3): Recommendations of Nunavut’s Coroner (Okalik) 29

708 – 4(3): Negotiating Non-Insured Health Benefits (Angnakak) 30

709 – 4(3): Need for More Elders Facilities in Nunavut (Qirngnuq) 33

710 – 4(3): Dust Control Initiatives (Mikkungwak) 34

F.

Written Questions

022 – 4(3): Annual Fuel Purchases by the Government of Nunavut and Fuel Distribution Service
Contracts (Mikkungwak) 36

023 – 4(3): Promotion Decisions under Section 15 of the Education Act (Enook) 37

024 – 4(3): Administration of Human Resources Manual Directive 206: Preferential Treatment
(Okalik) 38

025 – 4(3): Strategic Investments Program (Akoak) 39

026 – 4(3): Status of Decentralization (Enook).....	39
---	----

G.

Tabling of Documents

295 – 4(3): Letter to David Joanasié, Chair of Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations Regarding Revision to 2017-2020 Business Plan Content (Taptuna)	40
296 – 4(3): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefit Policies for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016 (Taptuna).....	40
297 – 4(3): Letter to Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Regarding the Carbon Tax (Taptuna)	40
298 – 4(3): Fuel Tax Rebate Program Summary Report for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 (Peterson)	41
299 – 4(3): Department of Justice 2016 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report (Peterson).....	41
300 – 4(3): Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report 2015-2016 Community Justice Division (Peterson).....	41
301 – 4(3): Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal 2015-2016 Annual Report (Peterson)	41
302 – 4(3): Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy March 2017 (Peterson)	41
303 – 4(3): Minister of Languages Annual Report 2012-2013 (Kuksuk)	41
304 – 4(3): Minister of Languages Annual Report 2013-2014 (Kuksuk)	41
305 – 4(3): NHC Contracting Procurement Activity Report March 31, 2016 (Kuksuk)	42
306 – 4(3): Department of Education 2014-2015 Annual Report (Quassa).....	42
307 – 4(3): Inuit Language Loss in Nunavut: Analysis, Forecast, and Recommendations (Joanasié)	42
308 – 4(3): Photographs of the Qajaq Program in Chesterfield Inlet (Sammurtok, T)	43
309 – 4(3): Speaker’s List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements (Speaker)	43

H.

Motions

046 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period (Mikkungwak) 32

I.

Committee Motions

Committee Motion 016 – 4(3): Bill 38, Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act, Clause 1 Amendment (Eli-Kanayuk) 67

J.

Bills

Bill 39 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading 43

Bill 39 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Second Reading 44

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act – Consideration in Committee 45

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards – Consideration in Committee 52

Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act – Consideration in Committee 59

Bill 38 – Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act – Consideration in Committee 64

Bill 41 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Annual Reports Provided to the Speaker – Consideration in Committee 71

Bill 43 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – Consideration in Committee 74

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act – Third Reading 78

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards – Third Reading 79

Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act – Third Reading 79

Bill 38 – Nunavummi Nangminiqqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act – Third Reading.....	79
Bill 41 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Annual Reports Provided to the Speaker – Third Reading	80
Bill 43 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – Third Reading	80

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, 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. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut)(interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Shooyook.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) welcome to the House.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 285 – 4(3): New Power Plant for Qikiqtarjuaq

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and residents of my community.

Mr. Speaker, this past September the Qulliq Energy Corporation completed the construction and testing of a new power plant in the community of Taloyoak.

I am pleased to rise today to announce that energy corporation is continuing to take strides toward their long-term plan to rebuild and modernize Nunavut's aging infrastructure with the completion of the corporation's newest power plant in Qikiqtarjuaq. The new power plant has been in full operation since December 2016 and replaced one of the oldest power plants in the territory.

(interpretation ends) A reliable supply of electricity is critical to all Nunavummiut. Qikiqtarjuaq's new plant will ensure that the community will have a source of power they can rely on for decades to come.

(interpretation) The new plant's environmental benefits include a reduction in carbon emissions and less sound pollution due to the installation of four new fuel-efficient generator sets as well as a hospital grade silencer.

In addition, the plant's new design can accommodate community expansion and already allows for the integration of renewable energy systems, such as solar and wind energy systems.

Mr. Speaker, the energy corporation is committed to supplying Nunavummiut with dependable and affordable energy while actively seeking opportunities to move our territory towards a clean and sustainable energy future. Our priority is to rebuild our infrastructure to provide more reliable power while also opening new doors that allow for renewable energy systems to be developed in Nunavut today.

On behalf of the energy corporation, I would like to extend my gratitude to the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq for their support throughout the construction of the community's new power plant. I look forward to celebrating the new power plant with residents and officials of Qikiqtarjuaq with a grand opening and community feast in late March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 286 – 4(3): CBC's "Keeping Canada Safe" Documentary

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, with Canada turning 150 this year, CBC will be launching a "Keeping Canada Safe" documentary series where Canadians are introduced to a day in the life of those who help keep our country safe and secure. The aim of this series is to inspire conversation about what it means to be safe in a world that is rapidly evolving.

In September of 2016 the Department of Justice took part in the filming of an episode for this eight-part CBC series. In the Nunavut episode, the film crew went on an overnight trip with the Corrections Division Cultural Skills Program team and three low-risk incarcerated Nunavummiut.

The film highlights Nunavut's unique program that is provided to incarcerated individuals, who are given the opportunity to learn traditional skills and share knowledge on the land, which will assist them with their successful reintegration back into our communities.

The Nunavut segment is scheduled to air on April 6, 2017 on CBC at 9:00 p.m. eastern. I encourage my colleagues here in the House and all Nunavummiut to tune in to see some

of the good work being done by the Corrections Division and our inmates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Minister's Statement 287 – 4(3): Response after Second Reading of Bill 37

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to respond to a statement that Nunavut Tunngavik released shortly after the introduction of Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this government is taking concrete action on language revitalization and student outcomes. The amendments in Bill 37 ensures the consistent delivery of Inuktitut as the language of instruction, even where there are a limited number of bilingual teachers. Consistency will improve program delivery, resource development, assessments, and teacher training.

Mr. Speaker, I have ordered a review of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program that will focus on increasing the number of Inuktitut teachers and content teachers. Further, my department and Nunavut Arctic College are designing new programs to increase Inuit employment and to expand the use of Inuktitut in our schools. We are collaborating with NTI on an updated Inuit employment plan for educators.

Mr. Speaker, we have launched the first ever Inuktitut guided reading system. We have already produced over 300 books and teaching guides and we will be providing more books as planned. Some of these books were on display in the foyer on March 2.

Mr. Speaker, we have made great progress in developing new curriculum and resources to support language development.

Mr. Speaker, taking action to prevent language loss is the responsibility we all share. Efforts must be made at home with parents and the difficult work to standardize Inuktitut must begin now. We must establish a standardized writing system and a standardized vocabulary as building blocks to making Inuktitut the first language of schools, government, and businesses in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, fellow members, and citizens of Nunavut, let us all work together to make Inuktitut a vehicle for social, cultural and economic revitalization in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 288 – 4(3): Fire Prevention Activities

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to discuss fire prevention activities in Nunavut. The 2016 annual report from the Office of the Fire Marshal shows that the number of fires in Nunavut has dropped, the dollar loss from fires decreased, and there were no fatalities resulting from fires last year.

Since 2004 the Office of the Fire Marshal has provided fire prevention education activities in schools across the territory through the annual Fire Prevention Calendar and the Fire Prevention Colouring Contest.

We distributed 4,000 calendars in 2016 which featured photos of our firefighter training courses and students' drawings. I am very pleased to report that there were 780 pictures submitted from 11 schools in the territory. Each student received a certificate from me and a congratulation letter from the Office of the Fire Marshal.

There was a total of \$7,000 in prize money distributed to the winning schools. These funds will be used for a student activity programs. Individual gifts were also awarded to students with winning submissions.

Today I have the privilege of announcing the winners of the annual colouring contest and they are:

From Rankin Inlet, Gianna-Adrielle Hernandez;

From Iqaluit, Max Borden;

From Arviat, Alexia Gibbons and Terrance Arnalak;

From Naujaat, Kera Tegumiar;

From Pangnirtung, Drew Lucas;

From Gjoa Haven, Brittney Takkiruuq;

From Igloolik, Hailey Qamaniq and Randy Angilirq;

From Coral Harbour, Jarr Jar;

From Arctic Bay, Vincen Oyukuluk;

From Kugluktuk, Shaunray Bolt.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 289 – 4(3): Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit's Inuktut Language Conference

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut (interpretation) and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit will be hosting a conference on Inuktut grammar in Cambridge Bay from March 14 to 17, 2017. About 50 language experts and elders from various communities are expected to attend, especially from the Kitikmeot communities.

During this conference Taiguusiliuqtiit will consult with participants on the progress towards achieving a unified writing system and future plans for further consultations. Mr. Speaker, my cabinet colleagues and I are looking forward to this important work and future recommendations on a unified writing system for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 290 – 4(3): Community Economic Development Meetings

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, starting in November of 2016 and beginning in the Kitikmeot, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has been holding economic development meetings with communities.

The purpose of these meetings is to learn the type of economic development activities that communities desire and believe are possible, and the kind of investments they hope to attract. The information will contribute to the renewal of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, or NEDS.

I am pleased to provide my colleagues with an update on the progress of these meetings for the rest of the territory. The North Qikiqtaaluk meetings began on Monday, February 20 and concluded on February 28. The South Qikiqtaaluk region meetings will begin next week, followed by the meetings in the Kivalliq in mid-April. The Kivalliq dates will be confirmed closer to the start of the meetings.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the community meetings, there is also an online economic development survey, which can be submitted anonymously. I look forward to hearing how Nunavut communities wish to move forward in developing our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Minister's Statement 291 – 4(3): Partnership with Aurora College for Underground Mine Training

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to inform my fellow members of the progress of Sanatuliqsarvik, the Nunavut Mining and Trades Training Centre located in Rankin Inlet.

Nunavut Arctic College has consulted with industry and identified a need to deliver an Introduction to Underground Mining Program and an Underground Mining Program. This will benefit Nunavummiut greatly as current careers in underground mining require the training and more careers will develop in the coming years.

The college's first Introduction to Underground Mining Program was successfully delivered in October 2016. This program was sponsored by the Kivalliq Mine Training Society, yet delivered by Nunavut Arctic College at the Sanatuliqsarvik Mining and Trades Training Centre in Rankin Inlet. There were seven successful students.

Our second delivery of the Introduction to Underground Mining Program is currently being delivered in Rankin Inlet, also sponsored by the Kivalliq Mine Training Society. In September of 2016 Nunavut Arctic College did not possess curriculum for the underground mining training program. However, the college has now partnered with Aurora College in the Northwest Territories to obtain the course materials and to offer these courses.

Moving forward, the college plans to further adapt our underground mining programs to Nunavut industry standards. I am pleased to announce that our college has consulted with representatives from the mining industry, such as Agnico Eagle. As employers, they have offered to provide Nunavut Arctic College with subject matter experts who will review and adapt our curriculum as necessary and to ensure that we meet the employability requirements of their industry and Nunavut's specific *Mining Regulations*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 535 – 4(3): Update on the Activities at Piqqusilirivvik

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask you to join me in congratulating.

We know that in Clyde River the Iliisaqsivik Society is operating very well. The Iliisaqsivik people go to other communities to provide support and it's all Inuit who work there at Iliisaqsivik. There is no English spoken at that workplace and they do very good work. The managers and counsellors are all Inuit. They help when they are asked for help, not only from their community.

They also own a brand-new hotel. The hotel they own employs all Inuit; all the staff are Inuit. This is a good hotel and there is no place like it compared to all the other hotels that I have stayed at. When you want to visit, we ask you to visit the hotel there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Member's Statement 536 – 4(3): Recognizing Jenna Kilabuk of Pangnirtung

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe most of my colleagues are aware that I take extreme gratification in being an Inuk. I recall my ancestral links to my skilled ancestor who survived many challenges that they overcame, which is why we can stand here today expressing our collective cultural history, which is definitely a strength of our culture that we have to re-acknowledge in this day.

I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of my cousin, Geela Sowdluapik, and her grandchild, who is Jenna Kilabuk. Now, she is reaching adulthood in my old stomping grounds of Pangnirtung where she resides today. Nonetheless, all of our relatives take pride in her accomplishments irrespective of our age, adult or youth. Furthermore, she is a daughter of Rosie and Peter Kilabuk, so she is no stranger to our Legislative Assembly.

Jenna herself has promoted a healthy lifestyle that one wishes to emulate and that inspires others, as she is very dedicated in her lifelong desire to attain lifelong learning. She took it upon herself to attend courses in Belleville as well as Ottawa, as she wanted to be a recreational specialist or a physical education teacher.

Today she has accomplished her goal of being a teacher. When she has the time, she also sets asides nights to residents who wish to partake in (interpretation ends) volleyball or badminton (interpretation) activities.

Even prior to her assuming an employment position, she was active in our local community youth representation to ensure more support was derived to her fellow citizens, and she was instrumental in organizing local Christmas games.

She was acknowledged in 2008 with an aboriginal role model award where she exhibited many of the skills the judges were searching for, to portray successful role models. She is not solely responsible for her accomplishments, but she still exemplifies the many qualities of a role model, albeit she is very young.

She now owns her own private home, and additionally she was elected to the local hamlet council. Mr. Speaker, I wish to especially single her out as an example of successful young Inuit who have accomplished much, but in terms of her success as an example of encouragement leading to an Inuk's perseverance that leads to personal success in their lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Member's Statement 537 – 4(3): Government's Strategic Framework for Nunavut Seniors

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon everyone. Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, exactly one year ago today I moved Motion 23 – 4(3), seconded by my colleague from Quttiktuq, calling on the government to address the needs of elders.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier tabled the government's *Strategic Framework: Addressing the Needs of Nunavut Seniors*. This is a step in the right direction towards fulfilling the intent of that motion.

Mr. Speaker, this document is a review of the various programs and services that are available for seniors and identifies some important restructuring of service delivery that will take place in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, consolidating residential care for elders under the Department of Health will allow the Department of Family Services the opportunity to more effectively address the troubling issue of elder abuse. This move will also allow the Department of Health to realistically assess and plan for the growing need for residential services for elders across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the government's 2015 *Continuing Care in Nunavut* document recommended that the government increase the capacity of residential long-term care in Nunavut. While I do appreciate that seven more beds are being opened at the Cambridge Bay Health Facility for long-term care and respite and palliative care, much more needs to be done to keep more of our elders at home in Nunavut, receiving care near their families and communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the government continue to address the need for consistent and ongoing support for seniors. Yesterday's tabled documents are small steps forward and I look forward to seeing more in future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 538 – 4(3): Sesquicentennial Reflections

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to offer some reflections on the occasion of the 150th year of Confederation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in this sitting I made a statement about the wonderful Qajaq Program in Chesterfield Inlet. As members will recall, I noted how this program combines modern technology and traditional skills in a way that fosters intergenerational and intercultural learning.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that our country is a work in progress. Here in Nunavut we continue our journey towards healing and reconciliation. The dog slaughters, High Arctic relocations, and residential schools abuses have left a painful legacy, and we must acknowledge that there are still unresolved issues today that manifest themselves in such tragic ways as suicide and abuse. However, I do believe that these can be overcome.

Mr. Speaker, it has also been said that the "world needs more Canada." I say that this is true, and I also say that Canada needs more Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, during this sitting I have also raised such issues as the importance of finally connecting Nunavut to the rest of the nation by way of road. After a century and a half of existence, our country's single largest jurisdiction should not remain so isolated and I look forward to real progress being made on the nation-building Manitoba-Kivalliq road project.

Mr. Speaker, an anniversary such as the one we are marking this year calls for both reflection and anticipation. It is essential that we reflect honestly on both the positive and negative aspects of our history. By doing so, we make reconciliation possible.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Tom Sammurtok, please proceed.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

It is also essential that we look forward to the future in a way that puts the interests of our children and our children's children first.

Mr. Speaker, the Qajaq Program at Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet symbolizes what is best about our nation and I ask all members to join me today in reflecting on this important anniversary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Member's Statement 539 – 4(3): Meeting of the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Before I start my statement, one of my daughters is having a birthday tomorrow. Tina Mikkungwak and my older brother-in-law Robert Seeteenak are both having birthdays. I wish them a happy birthday tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that I and my colleague representing Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alex Sammurtok, attended a meeting of the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce. It was very enlightening, as we heard about interesting developments and from our private sector.

I also wish to thank our Premier, Premier Taptuna, as he was also able to partake in that meeting. He heard the same things as to what the priorities are in the Kivalliq region, as well as for all of Nunavut.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Agnico Eagle Mine mining at (interpretation ends) Meadowbank (interpretation) as well as the chairman, Jim Nashull and Agnico Eagle senior executives.

I also wish to thank the many Inuit who work at the mine for being warm and welcoming during our meeting at the site. It was very good to see fellow Inuit who were working at the mine. Further, we heard more concerns from the people of Kivalliq as well as issues pertaining to all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Member's Statement 540 – 4(3): Nunavut Quest 2017 – Pangaggujiniq

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise on a calmer issue, albeit very happily to announce an event that is not so concerning.

The Nunavut Quest will be commencing their annual husky dog races in Arctic Bay on April 15. They will leave from Arctic Bay to their destination.

Mr. Speaker, back in the days when the dog slaughter occurred, many communities lost their entire dog genetic pool and had no more dog teams. The Nunavut Quest was started to commemorate the Eskimo husky dog. With many dog team owners today, that is a cause for cultural pride.

Today I am informing my colleagues and inviting them, starting today, if you wish to observe the starting of the race, start saving your money towards an airplane ticket to travel to Arctic Bay, provided any of the members wanted to do so.

The start of this dog racing event is particularly spectacular when you see a whole bunch of dog teams, with dogs yelping and antsy to get going, and this is also the case when they start to arrive into the destination community.

The community welcoming the dog teams is always very ecstatic to receive them. The older generation becomes quite nostalgic and many elders become very emotional seeing the huskies, so similar to the dogs they grew up with being the cause of this celebration.

This is absolutely critical both to Nunavut and Inuit culturally. This Nunavut Quest will be commencing their race in Arctic Bay. This race has been running for a number of years, so we will again celebrate as residents of Arctic Bay this unique racing event.

If anyone wishes to observe the race, I again invite all members and as the MLA for Quttiktuq, I warmly welcome all other residents of our communities to travel to observe the start of this race. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 541 – 4(3): Update on School Activities in Cape Dorset

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, people of Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation. As we are all aware, Cape Dorset lost its school almost two years ago now and after this tragic event, nonetheless, I stated that our education at the community would erode, but that it would not stop. Education will continue and I want to state this for the benefit of people in Kugaaruk

However, at the time the students were able to continue their education. Last year in 2016 some students were scheduled for graduation after that school year, but this celebration will finally commence next week. I would like to congratulate:

Amanda Padluq;
Quppapik Samayualie;
Natasha Reid;
Cee Taqiasuk;
Kairili Qiatsuk;
Mayann Samayualie; and
Naiomi Ottokie.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud of the success of these students who continued their studies in the face of difficulties in their school year and for their dedication to continue their education. I want to single out in particular the parents of the students, the school staff, their teachers as well as the school principal, including our local DEA.

Mr. Speaker, next week on March 22 they will be hold their high school graduation ceremony, where we will meet and celebrate their graduation. I want to share this happy occasion with my colleagues. I also have expectations of other graduation ceremonies with more numerous graduates from grade 12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Member's Statement 542 – 4(3): Update on the Pangnirtung Fishery

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak to the local efforts of Pangnirtung to derive income from our marine environment and in particular their turbot fishery, as this fishery has been running for over 25 years with the commercial fishing industry. The turbot fishery in particular is where Pangnirtung residents are heavily involved in, both offshore and inshore fisheries, to derive income from the commercial quota in place.

I also want to mention the Pangnirtung fishermen who provide freshly caught turbot to people who want to buy turbot. The turbot fishermen comprise the majority of the winter fishery and they provide freshly caught turbot to the markets. Last year they harvested over 700,000 lbs. of turbot, shipped all over the world from our community of Pangnirtung.

Further, this fishery is in the only jurisdiction currently in Canada that provides fresh turbot during the wintertime, at least as far as we know, at least during the frigid winter.

In the fish plant there are over 30 employees currently and there are 45 licensed fishermen for turbot. To date, after the winter fishery commenced last month, they have harvested close to 300,000 lbs. processed at the plant. As well, the fishermen have generated over \$340,000 and this is very beneficial to the community and in particular to residents who are not employed but who derive employment from the fishermen, as it allows the continuation of our traditional winter activities.

The fishery started in Pangnirtung, obviously using our traditional knowledge about whaling, beluga blubber and skin processing, fur trapping, as well as ring and harp sealskin sales. This comprises a large part of our present marine resource extraction.

I was quite pleased to hear about the pilot project in Pond Inlet, which was very successful with plentiful turbot. This is very pleasing to hear and I encourage communities to undertake initiatives like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Member's Statement 543 – 4(3): Country Food Bank in Igloolik

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Igloolik.

We see many people who don't have enough to eat in our communities and there are food banks now that are opening up in our communities. I want my colleagues to help me express my gratitude to those people who create these things to help other people. There is one in Igloolik and I'm very proud of it because the people who run it think more along the lines of traditional Inuit food and to have Inuit food available. They have tried that.

The people who run the food bank do fundraising so that some of the money can be used to help hunters and the hunters will bring back the food that can be distributed through the food bank to the needy people. I'm very proud of this fact in Igloolik that they are trying to go after traditional Inuit food for these people who generally don't have enough food in their homes, trying to see how they can get food for them. I am very proud of them.

These food banks where people go and get food really help the communities, so let's support them and be thankful for them because they are trying to help fellow people. That's why I rose here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Member's Statement 544 – 4(3): Thank You to Family Members

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to take the opportunity today for one to thank all of my colleagues around this room.

When we meet at this time of the year, it tends to be a very long session and there are very long hours that have been put in and a lot of hard work. I would like to acknowledge the work of the staff. People that watch us on TV hopefully realize how hard of an effort we're putting in, but they also don't see all the staff behind us that are working around in the long hours that we put in.

I would like to take this opportunity to especially acknowledge all of our families. I know there were a number of comments made during International Women's Day, but I would like to again just make special note. When we're here working these long hours, it's our families, communities, and constituents that are helping keep our communities and keeping our activities relevant to what we're trying to accomplish here.

I just want to take the time to acknowledge not just my colleagues but all the families that are at home, that are allowing us to be able to put in this hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 673 – 4(3): Environmental Assessment by Nunavut Impact Review Board

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Pauloosie Keyootak, MLA for Uqqummiut, on March 8, 2017, No. 673 – 4(3), on the environmental assessment by the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

Question:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Impact Review Board's announcement indicated that "public engagement sessions" will be held in a number of communities, including Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. It also indicated that "a final public meeting and

community roundtable will be facilitated by NIRB in Iqaluit. For the record, can the minister confirm which organization is responsible for providing support to communities during the consultation process?

Answer:

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is a partner in the strategic environmental assessments administered by the Nunavut Impact Review Board. This assessment concerns the future development of oil and gas related activities in the Baffin Bay and Davis Strait area.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is an active participant in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Working Group. Its role is to support the study process, with a focus on the public education component of SEA and ensuring that Nunavummiut are well informed on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 699 – 4(3): Senate Reform

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The current occupant of Nunavut's Senate seat is on record as having stated that he would resign his position after having sat in the Senate for eight years. That deadline is fast approaching.

My question for the minister is simple: does the Nunavut government support the holding of an election to fill Nunavut's Senate seat, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I went through that tabled document and from 2009 that's what the newly appointed Senator had indicated. He was there for eight years on the expectation that the Prime Minister may change legislation and have the Senator stay for eight years, then go on to elections.

As far as I understand I have no correspondence, no indication, no phone call from the Prime Minister at this point, so I can't speak on something I have no authority over; it's a federal appointee. Once I get a good understanding of what may happen... . As far as I know, there is no legislation change for an election. Mr. Speaker, I do know that there has

to be consensus from all jurisdictions, at least seven jurisdictions, to change the Senate legislation. In the past it was called Senate reform. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though that's the case, outside of the territory there was one election and there was one individual that was appointed to a Senate seat. In Nunavut we do want to get a Nunavut Senator and we would like to elect a Senator for Nunavut. Can the minister commit to trying to urge to get an elected Senator? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, this is a federal jurisdiction and if the member is willing to find out if there are going to be any changes in the legislation, anybody in Nunavut, including people from the south, has the authority to write to the Prime Minister or to our MP to see what the next steps are going to be.

At this point I haven't had any indication, any correspondence, or any phone calls about what the status of Senators seats may be. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are nine new Senators that were appointed at that time and I believe most of them had indicated that they are willing to step aside if legislation is approved by all jurisdictions for eight-year terms moving on to elections.

If there are any indications from this House that there's a wish for an election process for Senators for Nunavut seats, we will certainly investigate that possibility. At this time anybody here is free to write to the MP to find out what the processes are and what the Prime Minister is thinking. In my next conversation with the Prime Minister, I will certainly bring that conversation out on where his party stands on Senate reform. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we need to improve the process we use nowadays because the Senator who represents Nunavut... . Sometimes there is no agreement between the Inuit entities.

Besides that there was another Senator that stated that the old residential school system was "well intentioned." Even though the Senator of Nunavut heard about that, he didn't rebut that statement. It seems like he is not representing us in Nunavut.

I urge the Premier to get a Senator through elections. Can the Premier urge to get an elected member for the Senate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. Mr. Speaker, as a young territory we try to engage our federal partners in making sure that our concerns are heard and this is no exception. This is an appointed position by the Prime Minister by the previous government and I had no say in selecting or even appointing the senators.

Mr. Speaker, if I do have a conversation with the Prime Minister, I will certainly bring that out because for the most part we do have to change our legislation, our Nunavut *Elections Act*, to fall into place with whatever legislation that the federal government may put in place for its Senate reform. I haven't had any indications or correspondence, but at the very next opportunity, I'll certainly bring that concern out.

Again I have to state that every Nunavummiuq has that opportunity, has got the right to write to their MPs on such concerns to bring forth how the process may be done to make Nunavut better, not only Nunavut the people of Nunavut. Then you've got to understand that there's effort being made from all sides. There may be some disagreements here and there, but at the end of the day we will certainly do our part to make sure that whatever happens within the federal government, we are consulted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 700 – 4(3): Fur Auction House

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

Mr. Speaker, last fall during the fall session I was asking questions in regard to fur auction house. For many years hunters are waiting and I have been asking questions in regard to when the next auction would be. Have you heard when the next auction date is or did they not have one this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The polar bear hides that are old were bought overpriced and have not been sold. The newer hides have been priced at a lower rate and the ones at a lower rate have been bought. The polar bear hides that are collected down at the auction house are actually depleting. That is how it is right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me when the next auction will be? Although I know that this is not the minister's jurisdiction, I would like to ask the minister if he has heard when the next auction will take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information as to when the next auction will take place, but it is supposed to be in the spring. However, the polar bear hides at the auction house can be bought at any time of the year. Any person can go there and purchase a polar bear hide if the price is good for them.

The polar bear hides that are not being purchased are because they are too expensive. At the time that the polar bear hides were purchased, the price was high and the department purchased them from the hunters. We gave half the price to the harvesters in advance and when the prices of polar bear hides went down, the money that was given to the harvesters became too expensive. That is why the polar bears are not being purchased at this time. It is because they are too expensive, but there will be a fur auction this coming spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hunters who have sent their hides, I am not too sure, but the majority had been given an advance for the polar bear hides given to the department. If the polar bear hide is sold, then they get that part of the money given to them. In the days when the price of the fur was high, what would happen if the polar bear hides cannot be purchased? Would they have to be returned to the hunters themselves and they would end up owing money because of the advance they received? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the individuals who have polar bear hides wanted to get their polar bear hide back, then they would have to pay the advance back to the government, but if the individual does not want the hide, then they would leave the polar bear hide in the auction house without the individual owing money as the government had purchased it.

If the harvester agrees that the government can purchase the polar bear hide at a full price and if the polar bear hide remains at the auction house, then they wouldn't owe money for their advance, but if they want to get their polar bear hide back, they have to pay back the advance that they had received in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 701 – 4(3): Pre-dissolution Priorities

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, the current Legislative Assembly will be dissolved in a little over six months from now and Nunavummiut will soon be rendering their judgment on all of us.

Can the Premier indicate what the government's top priorities are for its last six months in the office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. Mr. Speaker, we have many priorities, but of course together we formed our number one priority with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated with their board and we met with the board members on a couple of occasions. We met together to come up with a mandate, *Sivumut Abluqta*. That's still our priority.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, there were a lot of setbacks within our term here. We had three major fires. We had two schools and the power plant. That slowed things down, but our priority for the next six months is to try to complete the mandate that we have agreed together as one to try to complete the status for the benefit of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier indicate what he believes to have been the government's three most important achievements over the past four years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, there have been many achievements we have done through this government.

As you know, in the early days through legislation we were required to review the *Education Act*. That's one of them. That's where we initially formed the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act*. That was one of the biggest priorities. As you know, Mr. Speaker, that came about from legislation. The five years were up, so that was one of our tasks to complete. I feel that through the special committee, many community consultations, many back and forth and letters on the *Education Act* we did bring forth to the committee for them to look at. That's quite an accomplishment.

As you know, there are a lot of things that still need a lot of work. Again I've got to say that a lot of departments, when we lost the power plant in Pangnirtung, our people got together, our ministers and our officials, to try to rectify the situation that was dire. It's one of those things that we fear the most, where you lose a power plant in the middle of winter, but with good cooperation and assistance from the Northwest Territories, we managed to get things working again in Pangnirtung without any accidents, injuries, or loss of life. That's quite an accomplishment and that's one of the things that I'm quite proud of because it took a lot of departments to make sure that took place.

Again, one of the things that we look at is the *Public Service Act* that took eight years to complete. That's one of the things that have taken place. Mr. Speaker, there are many more accomplishments that we have done with this government. I know there's a lot more to be done yet and that's one of the things about governments. We could be here another hundred years and there are still going to be lots of things that we're going to accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, again, when we lost the school in Cape Dorset, it was a dire situation. Again, the ministers and officials took care of that without any loss of life. It was a dire situation. It took a lot of work from all departments, Finance, Education, Community and Government Services, and it took a lot of effort. We had to coordinate people to make sure that things were taken care of, the needs of our people and the students.

Again, the situation in Kugaaruk where another school was lost, I understood that after one week that the students from kindergarten up to grade 2, I believe, were already back in school. That took a lot of effort and a lot of sleep was lost for officials and ministers to accomplish that.

Mr. Speaker, I've got to commend the members that ensured that there's open communication between the government and the community, and I appreciate the efforts put forward by the regular members from Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset, and Kugaaruk. These are dire situations and they can happen again. I thank the members for the assistance that they provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier indicated, there is much to do yet for Nunavummiut through this government. With this in mind and in the spirit of looking forward, what advice would the Premier provide the next Assembly should he part of it or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a crystal ball and as usual, we do have a transition process within the government for this transition from after general elections. That's taking place at this point where we're making it easier for the

transition into the new government whatever the new government may be. I don't know that and again that's something that we have to honour.

As an outgoing government, we do make transition plans for the next government to take place and that's one of the things we have started already at this point to make sure that once the general elections take place and there's a new government sworn in, the transition is responsible. There are many files that are ongoing and there are many things that still have to be done behind the scenes. Again, with the help of all the departments, we will ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

I can't say for sure whether we're going to be there, including myself. I don't know that, which is why I indicated that I don't have a crystal ball, but plans are already being put in place to make the transition a lot easier going into the next government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 702 – 4(3): Status of Portable Classrooms for Kugaaruk

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

First I would like to express my appreciation for all of the support the community of Kugaaruk has received from the Government of Nunavut, from communities all across Nunavut and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we know that students are getting their supplies. I thank my colleagues for approving just yesterday the \$10 million for the government to move forward with its plans. For the sake of people are listening out there and Kugaarummiut, can the minister provide an update on the specific plans for the purchase and installation of modular classrooms in the community of Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking for an update. I'm happy to say that we're able to carry on with that and right now the Department of Community and Government Services is in the process of working on the plan. They are the department responsible for the assets. Currently they still have to determine and they will probably find out quickly who will be constructing the new school. As we speak, they're working on the plans.

Secondly the portable classrooms that will be used for the classes are under preparation, and most likely this fall is when we want to bring them into the community. Currently they are focusing on six portable classrooms to be shipped to Kugaaruk. That is

happening as I speak. Obviously they are working on that development. I am also very happy that I am scheduled to travel to Kugaaruk on March 20. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that replacing the lost school is a huge task and the government has worked very hard in a short period of time to address the situation. Can the minister provide further information on how the modular portable classrooms will be shipped to the community of Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, these can only be shipped up via sealift as that is the case with most communities where bulky items are shipped. This will follow that same process. At least that is our expectation. We are anticipating the shipping of these classrooms on a cargo ship scheduled to go to the community and that is what we expect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 703 – 4(3): Inuit Language Protection and Revitalization

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

Earlier this month an academic from York University published a research paper on language loss in Nunavut. I intend to table this research paper later today at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker, in this paper the author, Mr. Ian Martin, provides his insight into the current situation of the Inuit language in our territory. In his paper Mr. Martin also makes a number of recommendations to the federal and territorial governments.

Can the minister indicate if he has had the opportunity to review this paper titled *Inuit Language Loss in Nunavut*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, in relation to the member's question on the study, at this time it is still in progress and we are behind schedule. However, this will be completed and I plan to table the report on this issue at our fall session scheduled for September. At this time, however, it is still under review and I have yet to see the report on it.

With respect to his question on Uqausivut 2, which includes many details and subjects, including what he enquired about, this work is still ongoing. Although we are behind schedule, what I can provide to the member is that phases 1, 2, 3, and 4, which are all separate phases, will be completed and the fact that this is part of the review. In particular phase 3 has many details pertinent to our regional bodies, including NTI as well as the regional Inuit associations. These are who we will partner with to develop this plan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is unfortunate. This document that I will table shortly and which is the subject of my questions will be available to the minister for his information.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, subsection 24(2)(a) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* says that the Minister of Languages is required to “develop policies or programs intended to promote increased learning, proficiency and linguistic vitality of the Inuit Language, including its revitalization through initiatives targeting communities or age groups in which there are special concerns about language loss or assimilation.”

Can the minister tell us what specific programs are currently being undertaken by the Government of Nunavut to protect and revitalize the Inuit language? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Languages, Hon. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my response I indicated that many details are included in this review. We are collaborating with the regional Inuit associations as well as with NTI. This is done in partnership to complete this review. To reiterate, the subjects he is querying me about are included in this review.

Now, I can only speak to it upon the completion of this review and it had been scheduled for the spring, but we are a bit behind schedule. Nonetheless, it is obvious that by the fall session, this review will be completed and a report will be available for tabling in the House. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us today: what is the total amount of funding that the Government of Nunavut has allocated to programs designed to revitalize and protect the Inuit language for the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In regard to my colleague's question about the amount, I can't provide that detail at this time. I have to consult with my departmental officials and once I have the amounts, I will be able to provide the funding amounts relative to his question. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 704 – 4(3): Support for More Daycare Spaces in Baker Lake

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in the past the Minister of Education has frequently stated that when his department builds a new school in a community, that school will also include space for a daycare. Sadly the plans for a new middle school in Baker Lake fell off the capital plan last year.

Can the minister provide an update on what other options might be available to Baker Lake to establish more another daycare in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for requesting that information. Now, any community can establish a daycare, but with respect to private daycare initiatives, this has to be done privately by first identifying a facility as well as establishing their own (interpretation ends) society status (interpretation) and once the society is established, then we, the Department of Education would be able to provide funding for their operations of the daycare.

Our department is not responsible for acquiring facilities specific to daycares, but, this initiative has to come forward from the community, and with the establishment of the society, then funding becomes available for the operations of the daycares. I can only encourage the residents of Baker Lake to identify a building for a future daycare space as well as the (interpretation ends) society status (interpretation), as our department waits for applications for a future daycare, and if they wish to operate it. We just wait for applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I recognize and understand fully the government's decision at the time not to continue with the construction of the proposed middle school in Baker Lake, primarily due to the issues surrounding student attendance.

Nonetheless, I want to assure the minister, that our community of Baker Lake is fully committed to address this issue, and they are preparing plans to improve it. It is also obvious the last school to be constructed in Baker Lake, the Jonah Amitnaaq School, included a daycare space in the original design but it doesn't have a daycare currently.

Can the minister provide a clear explanation? I now would ask the minister why some schools being constructed have daycares included in the design, while other schools don't have this facility added. I would like to know what that is the case, and if the minister can clearly outline the reasons for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed my colleague is truthful in bringing up the fact that not all schools have daycare spaces, while some of the newer schools such as the one in Naujaat and newer schools include the daycare facility.

The need for daycare facilities was recognized and new school designs and/or school additions do include that, as this requirement was established after the construction of the Jonah Amitnaaq School was completed.

That is the situation today, and obviously, as per my many references to that fact, new school designs or school additions includes the requirement for a daycare space. This is the current requirement, but many of our schools don't have daycare spaces as this requirement for such a facility was decided after the completion of these schools.

As an example, that occurred with the Jonah Amitnaaq School which is the case today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, within the capital planning process, this was part of the plans for the middle school design in Baker Lake, but it wasn't built.

With that being the case, daycare spaces that may have been available if the school had been constructed are obviously part of our shortfall. Nonetheless, can the minister commit to working with the residents of Baker Lake, in conjunction with the local DEA and other local organizations in the community, to identify opportunities to establish more daycare spaces due to the importance of this issue?

Our students who may have be able to attend school with more daycare spaces are currently unable to attend. The need for more daycare spaces in our community of Baker Lake is extremely important as it would result in students being able to attend their classes as required. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education works on these issues through the (interpretation ends) Early Childhood Education (interpretation) Division and we have a full complement of staff.

Further, our employees are able to work with local communities, such as Baker Lake, and perhaps the local DEA can invite the officials to meet with them and the specialists in the (interpretation ends) early childhood division (interpretation) will be available from our offices. We have these positions in our offices.

Further, I want my colleague to be aware that we're going to start reviewing (interpretation ends) the *Child Day Care Act* (interpretation) and ascertain what improvements are required to better manage daycares we operate. We will do a comprehensive review of the (interpretation ends) the *Child Day Care Act* (interpretation) and my expectations are that there will be improvements.

Further, I want to reiterate what I said earlier about the local DEAs, such as in Baker Lake, who can submit their application for assistance or if they want further information on establishing new daycare facilities so that this initiative can move forward. I just want my colleague to know this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Question 705 – 4(3): Departmental Positions

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

During Saturday's sitting of the House the minister committed to getting back to me with detailed information concerning my questions about her department's positions in Pond Inlet. I appreciate having received a letter earlier today which indicated that the position of transportation programs officer in Pond Inlet is currently filled on an indeterminate basis.

For the record, can the minister confirm the total number of positions that her department currently has filled in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. Yes, I do have the information for all of Nunavut where our department has positions and there are approximately 136 positions in total. Perhaps 97 positions are filled and about 35 positions are vacant.

Specific to Pond Inlet, our department has... . Although this information isn't completely updated, there are perhaps eight positions in Pond Inlet out of nine in total. There is one position here for the (interpretation ends) senior finance and administrative officer (interpretation) that is not actually based in Pond Inlet, but it is currently open. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are eight that are filled in the position, for the record, can she confirm how many of these positions are currently filled on indeterminate basis and how many are currently filled on term or casual basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the member. They're all indeterminate positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, can the minister confirm which of her department's Pond Inlet positions are currently vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the member for asking the question. The letter we gave to the Chair of the Committee does not state or identify but at this time, there doesn't seem to be any positions vacant at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 706 – 4(3): Update on the Activities Schedule of MV Nuliajuk

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon members and good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions concerning the activities of the government's research vessel during our recent fall sitting. In his response, the minister indicated that his department had recently lapsed its five-year-plan for the

research vessel and that there would be a meeting in early 2017 to plan a schedule for the activities for the vessel.

Can the minister explain how the government determines the schedule for activities for its research vessel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The priorities of the research vessel are determined by the research meetings that occur there. What projects that the proponents want to do are all put there; including the funding, where they're coming from and the people that run the boat, the people for environment and people that are doing the studies meet there and they come up with a plan and prioritize which projects they will do a research on in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also asked the minister last fall what activities the research vessel would undertake in the coming year and his response he stated that there would be a meeting in January/February to determine the activities.

Can the minister tell us today what the government's research vessel will be used for during the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the vessel will be used for researching in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the list has not come back to me yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Hudson Bay is a large inland sea that seems to be rich in underwater marine life. Can the minister indicate when we can expect to see the research vessel collecting data in the waters surrounding the Belcher Islands? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I can't tell the member of when that will be. A lot of the research that is done is external funding. It is done through external funding as the funding that we have to do the research in Nunavut is limited. Like I told you I have not got the results back of what research they want to do within Nunavut yet.

The hamlet or the HTO in Sanikiluaq can put in a proposal in and say they would like

what they want studied and nothing is going to be done but it would be looked at. They were doing some studies around Chesterfield Inlet and Wager Bay last year. If there are resources to be studied around Sanikiluaq and the funding is there then I don't see why it shouldn't be done. The meetings dictate where they go and as of now I don't know where the research is going to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 707 – 4(3): Recommendations of Nunavut's Coroner

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

As we are aware, just recently I received a report from one of my constituents in regard to the auditors report and the recommendations on the hospital review. Will your department commit to responding to the recommendations in this report? Thank you? Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member speaking on behalf of the coroner's report of the incident that happened and I can ensure the member that the Department of Health is looking over the recommendations from the report itself.

That being said there are also a number of recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General's report that have overlapped so we will be able to track the progress of that through the action plan that will be forth coming and will be shared with committee members prior to the Office of the Auditor General's appearance in the public accounts committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know the department is under barrage at times but I feel that healthcare for Nunavummiut is, and lives matter. So I stress that the minister stay focused and report on the findings from the department on these two reports in particular. When can the minister report on these matters in the future? (interpretation) 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 appreciate the member's acknowledgement of the work that goes into when reports of this nature are brought to the attention to the Department of Health.

It may be a little bit off topic Mr. Speaker, but I am going to use it as a segway into informing this House that, because of all these reports that have come to the attention to the Department of Health: the Office of the Auditor General's report; the recent coroner's report; and, in addition to the privacy commissioner's report upcoming, I've instructed the department to delay the implementation of the advisory board of the QGH.

This health care provision to Nunavummiut is a priority and that is where we need to focus what limited resources we have on so at this time like I said I've instructed the department to delay the implementation of that work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree. I know that it is very important. Yes, we need to get over and deal with them. I would like to ask the minister when his department is going to respond to the recommendations. When will we be expecting a response to the reports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I can't commit to a specific time, I can assure the member and all members that when reports of this nature or topics of this nature come to the Department of Health, especially when we are dealing with the quality of care, it is the priority of the Department of Health to make sure that we not only respond to recommendations but that we implement action behind those recommendations to make sure that incidences like the member has brought up don't happen again.

The department has taken a number of steps through our continuous quality improvement. We've got designated people tasked to make sure that the quality of care for Nunavummiut is consistent across the territory, and that the level of care that is being provided is what they expect, and what they should expect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 708 – 4(3): Negotiating Non-Insured Health Benefits

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, during this recent sitting, my colleagues and I have raised a number of issues with respect to funding for health services, with respect to a number of issues. Sorry, such as medical travel and accommodations, for example. The minister has often indicated that the costs related to providing their service are closely tied in with what is covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

Can the Minister of Health clearly describe the process that is followed when he and his staff attempt to negotiate for additional financial support from the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member's timing is impeccable. Negotiations are ongoing as I stand here with Health Canada, specifically on Non-Insured Health Benefits funding and care that's provided through that agreement.

That being said, those discussions don't just happen when an agreement comes to its sunset. There are continual conversations that occur on establishing rates for boarding homes, medical travel, food allowances, and prescription care. There are a number of different factors that play into the continuous dialogue that happens with Health Canada on the provision through Non-Insured Health Benefits. That being said, I am very much looking forward to see how negotiations continue to progress with this next phase of our agreement with Health Canada on NIHB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that medical travel and accommodation are only two of the benefits provided for under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. The NIHB program also covers certain dental services, pharmaceuticals and vision care. Can the minister clearly explain; who decides what dental services, what pharmaceuticals and what types of vision care are going to be covered under the NIHB program? Who decides how much the program will pay for each of these items or services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. When we negotiate a lot of our agreements in general with Health Canada, but specifically to NIHB, they still have control over the rates of what we receive from the services that we act on their behalf. An example, escort travel is not covered through NIHB. That turns out to be a government Department of Health expense.

When we're talking about prescription drugs of what makes the list, those are discussions that occur with Health Canada on what specific pharmaceuticals would be covered. It's a collaborative effort, but at the same time it is a federal program that we administer on their behalf. Like I had mentioned, there are a number of discussions that happen ongoing, but at the end of the day it is a federal program that the Government of Nunavut administers on behalf of the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Non Insured Health Benefits program is coordinated under the federal government's First Nations and Inuit Health branch, as the minister stated, and it appears that the benefits are identical for First Nations and Inuit clients. However, it is well known that the costs for products and services is much higher in Nunavut than in the south.

Can the minister describe how the benefit amounts for products and services under NIHB are reviewed and calculated? How is it taken into account when we have higher costs here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is preaching to the choir. That is my exact argument and the argument that the department continuously puts forward to Health Canada to acknowledge the higher costs associated with providing health care in Nunavut all across the board, not just under the First Nations and Inuit Health branch, but in addition to all the services.

We do have agreements with other jurisdictions on reciprocal billing where rates are established and set for procedures to be accessed in other jurisdictions. I can't speak to what benefits First Nations get on specifics. All I know is that the agreement that we have with Health Canada, like I had said, it's a continual adventure, I'm going to call it, of educating our federal counterparts in acknowledging the level of care that we need to provide, considering the limitations that we have geographically and economically.

It is an argument that I make every opportunity I get to any of my counterparts across the country, not just the federal side of things. We rely upon NWT, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario to provide health care for our residents out of our different regions. There's continual dialogue and there's a lot of support that I've had verbally and in any correspondence I've had with my other counterparts in other jurisdictions. It is an ongoing effort to make sure that other people recognize the high level of costs.

The more statistics and more data that gets gathered, the more information that we're gathering through our own department helps lend credence to our argument to move forward in sustainable, appropriate funding for health care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak. The time for question period has expired. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Motion 046 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Uqsuqtuuq, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor to extend question period. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Question 709 – 4(3): Need for More Elders Facilities in Nunavut

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, during our recent fall sitting my colleague, the Member for Gjoa Haven, tabled a resolution from the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. In these resolutions the Kitikmeot elders' delegation expressed their need for funding, opportunities for infrastructure, operation and maintenance funding for elders' buildings in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, these types of buildings include designated spaces for elders to meet with one another and other members of their community to discuss important issues such as cultural development and a community crime prevention initiative.

Mr. Speaker, according to its current 2016-19 business plan, the [Department] of Culture and Heritage has allocated \$405,000 to its Elders' Support Program which supports community-based elder initiatives throughout Nunavut.

Can the minister clarify its department's Elders' Support Program can provide funding for the development of maintenance of elders' buildings in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for his question. Mr. Speaker, on his question on the communities on the elders, youth would a meeting place for elders and youth, I understand his question. The communities can put in proposals and on the buildings, if there was a building in the community to renovate it and to meet for the elders and youth to meet at. If there's a request for such a proposal as Culture and Heritage can provide them funding for the renovation, if the community can identify a building that can be used like for instance to his question, we have funding available for renovations for that building in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He didn't quite my question, so I'll ask him again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our elders need a designated space where they can meet with youth, discuss ways to reduce crime and violence in their communities. Can the minister clearly explain how his department's Elders' Support Program ensures that each community has this type of designated space? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Hon. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, maybe the Inuktitut because of our dialects, maybe he didn't quite understand what I said.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm saying is our department has funds available where any community that wish to renovate or fix up a building in the community that they wish to use towards our elders and our youth to use to do whatever activities they would like to do in the community. I cannot say which communities that are not being used but could be fixed up to be used to have groups like my hon. friend is mentioning, elders and youth to use it for meetings and whatever.

I can tell the member that we have funds available for such buildings where they can renovate it and get it fixed so that they can use that building to have their meetings and whatever in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He answered the question I was going to ask, so I don't need to ask it anymore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 710 – 4(3): Dust Control Initiatives

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Earlier during this sitting my colleague, the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, asked the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation a number of questions concerning dust control in Nunavut. In her response the minister stated that "\$2.5 million will be used for dust suppressants. Since it's going to be a feasibility study, we are going to be including different types of dust suppressants."

Can the Minister of Community and Government Services clarify if his department will still be responsible for dust control initiatives in Nunavut's communities and, if so, can he clarify how exactly his department will be sharing this role with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify first that I can't speak for the Department of Economic Development's budget and their intended use of their budget, but I can speak to dust control in my department. We fund the municipalities for dust control and we will still continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, I have raised concerns regarding the need for more effective dust suppressants in Baker Lake on many occasions in this House.

In my community we are unable to apply calcium chloride on our airport road due to its proximity to the community's runway, resulting in large amounts of dust rising and moving through the community during summer months. Mr. Speaker, this is a significant issue for residents in my community, as it negatively affects air quality and individuals with respiratory problems.

Can the minister indicate if his department has conducted any research to determine what other types of dust suppressants could be used on Baker Lake's airport road and, if not, why not? 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 member is correct in terms of calcium chloride being a corrosive.

Mr. Speaker, last year we had a pilot project to test a different dust suppressant product called Dustop. There are certain conditions that have to be met for it to be fully functional. At that time the results for Iqaluit were inconclusive due to weather conditions.

In Arviat they cancelled the test pilot altogether because it was raining and it was too cold in the fall. This summer they will be testing it there and this product can be put on airport roads. Depending on the outcome of this product, we may or may not use it for other communities to come because it is four or five times more expensive than calcium chloride, but if it lasts longer and if it's cost-effective, we will look into it.

We will look at any other products that might help the dust problem in Nunavut because the member is concerned about dust in Baker Lake, but I have heard from almost all the MLAs. It is a concern in all the communities and we would like to come up with a viable solution. Currently we use calcium chloride because, when laid down properly, it is

effective and it's the most economical means that we have right now to try to suppress drugs in Nunavut...dust. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, the ultimate solution to dust control in our communities would be to pave the roads, but I recognize that paving all of Nunavut's roads is not feasible at this time. However, there is an alternative method which involves applying a solution to gravel roads, which binds the gravel and dust together with a solution that forms a pavement-like foundation. This method is often referred to as a "poor man's pavement."

Can the minister clarify if his department has looked into the feasibility of using this approach on Nunavut's roads? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're always looking at other options and we have read up on other options. We have not tried any other options in Nunavut. We have read up on a few; we have not tried them. We just take one product at a time. We will see how this Dustop product works and if it works well, then that's what we might go with. If it doesn't work out well, then we will look at the next step.

This Dustop sounds good, but there has to be no rain, it has to be above 5 degrees, and traffic cannot go on it for 24 hours. It has limitations on where it can be, but we will check this product first, just one step at a time. If this product is not viable, then we will take the next step and try another product. We fully want to take the dust problem head-on, but we've got to do it economically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak. Hon. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 022 – 4(3): Annual Fuel Purchases by the Government of Nunavut and Fuel Distribution Service Contracts

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the subject of annual fuel purchases by the Government of Nunavut and fuel distribution service contracts.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Expressing the information in the same format as that which the Government of Nunavut provided in Return to Written Question 10 – 4(3), what quantities of fuel were purchased and delivered during the 2016 calendar year?
2. Expressing the information in the same format as that which the Government of Nunavut provided in Return to Written Question 16 – 3(3), with which entities has the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services entered into a local delivery contract for the delivery of fuel products?
3. What is the commencement and expiry date of each contract?
4. With respect to the request for proposals issued for each contract, what entities submitted proposals?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written questions be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. Hon. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Written Question 023 – 4(3): Promotion Decisions under Section 15 of the Education Act

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Education and they deal with the subject of promotion decisions under section 15 of the *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Broken down by community and school, how many students in grades 9-12 were promoted within the meaning of section 15 of the Education Act during each of the following school years:
 - a. 2014-2015
 - b. 2013-2014
 - c. 2012-2013

2. Broken down by community and school, how many students in grades 9-12 were denied promotion within the meaning of section 15 of the Education Act during each of the following school years:
 - a. 2014-2015
 - b. 2013-2014
 - c. 2012-2013

3. Broken down by community and school, how many students in grades 9-12 were denied promotion within the meaning of section 15 of the Education Act on the grounds of academic achievement during each of the following school years:
 - a. 2014-2015
 - b. 2013-2014
 - c. 2012-2013

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Written Question 024 – 4(3): Administration of Human Resources Manual Directive 206: Preferential Treatment

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions are for the Minister of Finance and they concern the administration of Human Resources Manual Directive No. 206, which deals with the issue of preferential treatment and nepotism in the public service.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many approvals were granted within the meaning of section No. 6 of the Human Resources Manual Directive 206: Preferential Treatment during the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (to date) fiscal years?

2. Broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many approvals were granted within the meaning of section No. 7 of the Human Resources Manual Directive 206: Preferential Treatment during the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (to date) fiscal years?

3. Broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many disclosures were made within the meaning of section No. 8 of the Human Resources Manual Directive 206: Preferential Treatment during the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (to date) fiscal years?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. The Hon. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Written Question 025 – 4(3): Strategic Investments Program

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. I just had to go get some documents. Thank you for recognizing me again.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the subject of the department's Strategic Investments Program.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Expressing the information in a comparable format to that which was provided in Return to Written Question 13 – 4(3), what were the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's activities and expenditures under its Strategic Investments Program during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 (to date) fiscal years?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. The Hon. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Written Question 026 – 4(3): Status of Decentralization

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and they deal with the subject of decentralization.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Expressing the information in a comparable format to that which was provided in Return to Written Question 12 – 4(2), what is the status of the Government of Nunavut’s decentralization initiative as of March 1, 2017?
2. As of March 1, 2017, what is the status of the implementation of the “Key Actions,” “Key Recommendations,” and “Timelines” contained in the Government of Nunavut’s *Decentralization Action Plan*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 5, 2012?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. 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. Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 295 – 4(3): Letter to David Joanasie, Chair of Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations Regarding Revision to 2017-2020 Business Plan Content

Tabled Document 296 – 4(3): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefit Policies for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016

Tabled Document 297 – 4(3): Letter to Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Regarding the Carbon Tax

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three tabling documents today; the letter addressed to Mr. David Joanasie, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations regarding revisions to the 2017-2020 business plan contents.

Mr. Speaker, today I am tabling the *Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefit Policy for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016*.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today the response letter to Louise Grondin, Senior Vice-president, Environmental and Sustainable Development, and also to Dominique

Gerard, Vice-president, Nunavut Operations, from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. regarding the Government of Canada's proposed carbon tax and potential impacts to the company's Nunavut growth strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Tabled Document 298 – 4(3): Fuel Tax Rebate Program Summary Report for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am now tabling the *Fuel Tax Rebate Program Summary Report* for 2014-15 and 2015-16. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Tabled Document 299 – 4(3): Department of Justice 2016 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report

Tabled Document 300 – 4(3): Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report 2015-2016 Community Justice Division

Tabled Document 301 – 4(3): Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal 2015-2016 Annual Report

Tabled Document 302 – 4(3): Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy March 2017

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have four documents I would like to table, one for my colleague, Ms. Angnakak. I'm tabling the Department of Justice's 2016 *Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report*.

Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling the *Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report* for 2015-16.

Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal's 2015-16 Annual Report.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am tabling Nunavut Crime Prevention Five-year Strategy, March 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Languages, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Tabled Document 303 – 4(3): Minister of Languages Annual Report 2012-2013

Tabled Document 304 – 4(3): Minister of Languages Annual Report 2013-2014

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two documents in the House today. The first one, I'm pleased to table today the *Minister*

of Languages Annual Report for 2012-13 and the other one, *Minister of Languages Annual Report* for 2013-14. Those are the documents I have to table today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. George Kuksuk.

My apologies. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Tabled Document 305 – 4(3): NHC Contracting Procurement Activity Report
March 31, 2016**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table today the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Contracting Procurement Activity Report for the year ending in March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Tabled Document 306 – 4(3): Department of Education 2014-2015 Annual Report

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today the Department of Education's 2014-15 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

**Tabled Document 307 – 4(3): Inuit Language Loss in Nunavut: Analysis, Forecast,
and Recommendations**

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a research paper that was recently published by Ian Martin from York University titled "Inuit Language Loss in Nunavut."

Mr. Speaker, this paper provides a number of insights into the current situation of the Inuit language in our territory and also includes tidbits on Inuit employment as well as how that relates into our education system and I am tabling it today for the benefit of our viewing public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Tabled Document 308 – 4(3): Photographs of the Qajaq Program in Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Tom Sammurtoq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the pleasure of making a statement in the House on February 24, 2017 concerning the innovative Qajaq Program in Chesterfield Inlet. I am very pleased to table today a collection of photographs of the students in action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have one.

Tabled Document 309 – 4(3): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Thank you, members. I wish to table today a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. (interpretation) Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills**Bill 39 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 39, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2017*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 39, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2017*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent so that Bill 39 can receive second reading today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 39 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 39, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2017*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in the French version of certain enactments of Nunavut. It harmonizes the English and French translations of family-related terminology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 39 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 26, 27, 28, 30, 38, 41, and 43 with Mr. Enook 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 proceeding to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:49 and Committee resumed at 16:17*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Good afternoon to our fellow Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome to your committee.

In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 26, 27, 28, 30, 38, 41, and 43. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members. Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the clause-by-clause review of the following: Bills 26, 28, 30, 38, 41, and 43. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 26?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike, welcome. Let me first ask while we review the bill on social assistance if you would like to have officials with you at the witness table. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike would like to have officials with him at the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Mike, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Rebekah Williams, and Legal Counsel Thomas Ahlfors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Ms. Williams and Mr. Ahlfors. Minister Mike, if you have any opening comments, you have the floor now. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Committee of the Whole, I am pleased to be here today to speak to the proposed changes to the *Social Assistance Act*.

The bill to amend the *Social Assistance Act* is part of the Department of Family Services' ongoing efforts to review and reform income assistance.

The Income Assistance Program provides assistance to vulnerable Nunavummiut to meet their basic needs and support individuals and families in moving forward with independence and self-reliance through a variety of programs.

(interpretation ends) In *Sivumut Abluqta*, our government committed to help Nunavummiut reduce their dependence on government. To accomplish this, we are committed to review and reform our Income Assistance Program.

As you know, over the past year my department and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation travelled across Nunavut to hear from Nunavummiut about how our programs can better serve communities. We heard clearly that we can

improve the current system so that it does a better job helping Nunavummiut meet their basic needs and encourages Nunavummiut to work.

Last June we tabled our final report on the review and reform of the income assistance and economic development, which outlines a number of proposed reforms to accomplish this goal.

(interpretation) One of these reforms, under the category of strengthening internal administration is updating the *Social Assistance Act*. The *Social Assistance Act* provides the legal authority for the Income Assistance Program.

During our preliminary review of the program, we had identified the Act would benefit from a number of modest updates, such as replacing outdated terms, updating content related to privacy legislation, and shifting some elements to regulations, specifically the bill to amend the *Social Assistance Act*. It includes the following proposed changes:

- Changing the name of the Act from *Social Assistance Act* to *Income Assistance Act*. Income assistance is the umbrella term for all programs that provide support to vulnerable Nunavummiut to meet their basic needs. This includes social assistance, but also for example, the daycare user subsidy and the senior fuel subsidy.
- Changing the name of the *Social Assistance Act* will improve the clarity of the legislation.
- (interpretation ends) Updating and removing terms that are out of date. This includes, for example, references to “welfare.”
- Strengthening content related to privacy legislation. The bill adds new content to specify under what circumstances the department may collect and use personal information to align with requirements under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This is especially important since the current *Social Assistance Act* was created before the introduction of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- Standardizing content related to the appeals process. Although the appeals process itself will not change, the bill proposes to move sections of the appeals process to regulations, which will allow the department flexibility to improve the appeals process on an ongoing basis by requiring a regulation change rather than a change to the Act. The amendment also strengthens the independence of the appeal board by clarifying that Department of Family Services’ staff cannot be members of the board.

Together the proposed changes to the Act are meant to improve the administration of income assistance programs, provide more clarity on the program, as well as strengthen the Act’s provisions for privacy and confidentiality.

I will also note that although the changes to the Act are considered minor, the broader work on the income assistance review and reform is ongoing. As most of the income assistance rules are set out in regulation rather than in legislation, many of the reforms we are aiming to implement can be made without legislative changes.

(interpretation) With the 20 proposed reforms we outlined in the Final Report on the Review and Reform of Income Assistance and Economic Development, Nunavummiut will be able to engage with an income assistance system that is more focused on their strengths and goals. Those that need help will receive it, and there will be stronger supports to help Nunavummiut build their skills, work in the wage economy or through traditional livelihoods.

(interpretation ends) We still have more work to do to turn these proposed reforms into real changes. (interpretation) I look forward to continuing to update members on progress on each of these reforms, and I thank you for your support in moving this important work ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*.

The standing committee recognizes that Bill 26 was introduced to amend the current legislation by updating terminology, improving the operations of the appeals process by moving it to regulations, and to address the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information. Amending the current legislation was one of the recommendations in the government's report on the review and reform of income assistance and economic development, which was tabled in June of 2016.

Standing committee members appreciate that implementing that other recommendations of that report may also include additional changes to regulations and policy, as well as a number of other initiatives.

Members encouraged the minister and his staff to ensure that information, with respect to revised or new regulations associated with the legislation is shared with members of the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, while the standing committee accepts that a number of the proposed amendments to the current legislation will improve the income assistance appeals process. Members expressed some concern with the length of time allocated for that process to be conducted. Clients who have been denied income assistance could wait up to 30 days to receive a resolution regarding their appeal of that decision. Members were

of the view that this is a long time to wait without being able to buy food to feed a family, and recommend that future revisions of the regulations address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner for her input during the standing committee's review of Bill 26. Her comments and observations relating to access, use, and disclosure of personal information collected under the auspices of the legislation reinforced the standing committee's decision that the bill needed to be strengthened with respect to the protection of privacy of income assistance clients.

The standing committee was, therefore, in full support of an amendment to clause 13 of Bill 26 to ensure that information collected under the Act will only be used for clearly specified and prescribed purposes. That any information sharing agreements will put limits on the disclosure of personal information, and that retention and destruction schedules of information collected will be included. Another amendment to the bill under clause 12 clarifies the reference to taxation laws, to specifically refer to the *Income Tax Act* and the *Income Tax Act Canada*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee welcomes the opportunity to work with the minister to strengthen and improve Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 26, as amended and reprinted, to all members.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Are there any general comments to Mr. Mike's comments and Mr. Sammurtok's opening comments? Are there any general comments? If there are none, we will then go to Bill 26 in your legislation binder. We will begin the clause-by-clause review of Bill 26. Please indicate if you have any questions as we're going through the bill. I will proceed. I have the English copy, so I'll read it in English. It reads, (interpretation ends) Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister a question related to collection and use of personal information. I would like to know how you will go about ensuring that the clients using the service who must provide written consent absolutely understand what they're consenting to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. Yes, this issue relates to the implementation of the *Family Services Act*. When the legislation started becoming used, the matter of confidentiality arose and due to that issue surfacing, the issues surrounding confidentiality became clear. That is included in the amendments to the legislation. I want that clearly understood, especially by the

listening audience. With that being the case, amendments have been made to undertake these changes.

Now a client served by the department is included in the compiling of the information, and they are made to sign a form due to the confidentiality issues that arise from providing their personal information and to allow the social worker to release this information to other officials they have to work with. This is part of the process to protect confidentiality of a client served by a social worker, as they have to consent to the information that applies to them, and only with their consent can the information be passed along.

This legislation is to protect confidentiality of the client and within the parameters of the protection of privacy legislation. That would allow the client to be served and to abide with our existing legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, are you done? We are reviewing Bill 26. I'll continue where I left off. Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 24. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree to Bill 26 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, pursuant to Rule 62(2), do you agree that Bill 26 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my two officials here at the witness table also the staff in our department. I would like to tell the people of Nunavut that we will be making changes to our legislation. I would like to thank people of Nunavut who participated in the consultation process. We've proposed to make some changes to this Act.

Thank you people of Nunavut, the people that I work with the Department of Family Services I would also like to thank my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Mike. We will proceed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

We will be dealing with Bill 28, if you would like to get ready for the next bill.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Savikataaq, we will be working with you on Bill 28. I will ask you first if you want officials at the witness table. Minister Savikataaq.

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I would. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, would like his officials at the witness table. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the officials to the witness table. Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Savikataaq for the record please introduce you officials. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have Ms. Lori Kimball the DM and to my left Mr. Eiryn Devereaux the ADM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball, Mr. Devereaux welcome to the Assembly. Minister Savikataaq, for Bill 28. If you have opening comments the floor is yours minister.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these proposed amendments to the Technical Standards and Safety Act (TSSA) and the Building Code Act (BCA) are meant to ensure that these two 'companion' pieces of legislation are consistent in how they deal with safety issues related to the design, construction and operation of buildings, facilities and equipment.

The major changes to these two pieces of legislation that are under these amendments include:

- Expand the role of the Building Advisory Committee to include TSSA matters. This means that designers, builders, and others who seek permits and approvals under both pieces of legislation will now have the same opportunity to seek redress related to regulatory officials' decisions and to inform potential independent advice to the minister under the TSSA than they will under the BCA once both are proclaimed.

- Provide a distinction between regulatory functions of “inspection” and “investigation.”
- Amend municipal legislation to remove the authority to pass by-laws adopting and modifying the Building Codes of Canada.
- Amend the administrative penalties provision to make them an absolute liability standard (TSSA).

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and colleagues for this opportunity to review the proposed changes in this bill. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 28, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts respecting Codes and Standards*.

As members will recall, Bill 28 received second reading on October 25, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration. The standing committee supports the intent of Bill 28, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts respecting Codes and Standards*.

During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 28, a total of five motions were moved to amend the bill.

For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the major amendments to Bill 28.

Clause 7 of Bill 28 has been amended to ensure that building officials’ power to collect and disclose information during the course of their inspections or investigations of a building, is only used to the extent that is necessary for the purposes of fulfilling their duties, under the *Building Code Act*, or otherwise authorized by a warrant.

Similarly, a new clause has been added to Bill 28 to ensure that an inspector’s power to collect and disclose information during the course of their inspections or investigations of equipment is only used to the extent that is necessary for the purposes of fulfilling their duties, under the *Technical Standards and Safety Act*, or otherwise authorized by a warrant.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee had raised the issue of the collection and disclosure of information under the current legislation. The standing committee

encourages the Government to ensure that the collection and disclosure of information under the *Building Code Act* and the *Technical Standards and Safety Act*, is undertaken strictly for the purposes of implementing the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 28 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. To the opening comments, are there any general comments? If there are none, look at Bill 28 in your legislation binder. If you want to comment, please show your hand. Let's do clause-by-clause, I'll start with...I have an English copy, so I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) Bill 28. Reprint. *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 24. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 27. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 28. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 29. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 30. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 31. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 32. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 33. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 34. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 35. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 36. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 37. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 38. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 39. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 40. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 41. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 42. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 43. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 44. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 45. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 46. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 47. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 48. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 49. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 50. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree to Bill 28 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do members agree that Bill 28 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, if you have any closing remarks, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank all of my staff here and everyone else that worked hard on this legislation to get it done and get it done to the satisfaction of the members to pass it.

I would like to thank the members for reading it thoroughly because it is pretty dry reading. I thank you for making Nunavut a safer place to live and work now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. We will proceed to Bill 30. Minister Savikataaq, we will be reviewing the bill with you. I would like to ask you if you would like to have the same officials with you at the witness table or if you would like to bring in other officials. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be keeping the same staff here. Thank you.

Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If you have any opening comments on Bill 30, Minister Savikataaq, I now give you the floor. Minister.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These amendments to the *Fire Protection Act* are meant to address current inconsistency with the *Fire Prevention Act* comparability with the new *Building Codes Act*.

The major change to the legislation under these amendments include change the name from *Fire and Prevention Act* to the *Fire Safety Act*, expand the current *Fire Prevention Act* to cover both fire prevention and fire protection, require municipalities to make, and maintain a fire protection plan that would be consistent across the territories relative to standards of fire protection, made consequential amendments to the *Fire Prevention Act* that recognizes statutory provisions in the *Building Codes Act*, and expand the role of the Building Advisory Committee to include *Fire Safety Act* matters.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, for this opportunity to outline the proposed change in this bill before the House. I will be pleased to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*.

As members will recall, Bill 30 received second reading on November 8, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

The standing committee supports the intent of Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, a total of two motions were moved to amend the bill.

One of the amendments provides for a public right of access to copies of municipal fire protection plans on a similar basis to that which presently exists under the *Emergency Measures Act* regarding public access to copies of municipal emergency management programs.

The other amendment clarifies a reference in bill 30 to a provision of the *Building Code Act*.

Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, establishes a number of new responsibilities on the part of municipalities and the Office of the Fire Marshal. The standing committee looks forward to future annual reports of the Fire Marshal accounting in detail for progress made in fulfilling these responsibilities, including the development of municipal fire protection plans.

The standing committee also notes that subsection 23(3)(d) of the *Building Code Act* provides for a representative of the Office of the Fire Marshal to sit on the Nunavut Building Advisory Committee. The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of the first annual report on the activities of this entity.

The approach to the development of municipal fire protection plans that is provided for in Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, is similar to that which is provided for in section 6 of the *Emergency Measures Act* with respect to the development of municipal emergency management programs

However, although the *Emergency Measures Act* received Assent on November 8, 2007, sections 5 to 9 of the statute have still not yet been brought into force, almost a decade after the statute was passed by the 2nd Legislative Assembly. From its dialogue with the minister, the standing committee has been advised that the government hopes to complete this process within eighteen months.

The standing committee has also been advised that the government intends to bring those provisions of Bill 30 that "pertain to municipal fire protection plans" into force "no later than June of 2018." Consequently, municipalities would have six months in which to make and submit their fire protection plans by January of 2019. The standing committee appreciates the department's commitment to working closely with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators regarding municipal compliance in this area.

Section 1.1 of the current *Fire Prevention Act* provides that the legislation binds the Government of Nunavut. However, the extent to which the Office of the Fire Marshal has the jurisdiction to conduct inspections and issue decisions and orders in relation to buildings and other physical structures under the control of the federal government within

the territory of Nunavut is unclear. The standing committee recognizes the jurisdictional complexities in this area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 30, as amended and reprinted, to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? If there are none, please refer to Bill 30 in your legislation binder. We will begin the clause-by-clause review of the bill. I have the English copy, so I'll be reading it in English. Please indicate if you have any questions or comments. (interpretation ends) Bill 30. Reprint. *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have one question under this about municipalities to maintain the fire protection plan. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us how aware are the municipalities about this amendment and how prepared are they, and perhaps if he can give us some more information on where communities stand today when it comes to a fire protection plan, if they have any at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The municipalities have been informed twice through NAM meetings. The fire prevention plan will be a template that is offered to the municipalities where they, in certain areas, fill in the blanks for the stuff that they have and then fine-tune it to their own municipality. We will be helping them out with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back. Bill 30. I will continue where I left off. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the assistant fire marshal that would be in the community, it says, “review of orders by the assistant fire marshal or local assistant.” Who would be the local assistant? There are many communities. Can you explain this? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't quite understand the question. If he can rephrase it for me, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, can you rephrase the question?

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm referring to the local assistant. Who would that be, seeing that we have 25 communities within the territory? Can he identify who that local assistant would be and duties and powers, and how long they would attain those powers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, do you understand?

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying. This section would be rarely used. It has been quite extraordinary circumstances, where the Fire Marshall can ask for assistance from someone while they're doing an investigation or other matters. Just in the short term, if there is no one there and it was just pertaining to whatever issue he is dealing with at the moment in that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This local assistant that you have identified in the document, who would that be? What position, or who would that be, by-law officer or maintenance man from CGS? Can he identify who that local assistant would be in the respective communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This person will be whoever the Fire Marshall identifies as a qualified person to help. It could be the by-law. It could be the

Fire Chief. It could be one of the fire departments. It would be anyone who the Fire Marshall deemed would fill the need to be his local assistant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are under Bill 30. We'll proceed where I left off. Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 30 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do you agree that Bill 30 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, do you have any closing remarks on that bill? The floor is your, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank all my staff, again, for working on this legislation. All the members, again, for reading all the details. Now we can, like I said, have a better, safer living and working environment again working in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We will proceed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will proceed to Bill 38 with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. If you can get Bill 38 ready.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, welcome. Let me ask you if you want officials at the witness table.

Bill 38 – Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk would like her officials to join her. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the (interpretation ends) Executive Director of the NNI Secretariat (interpretation) and to my left is (interpretation ends) Legal Counsel Thomas Ahlfors. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ahlfors, welcome. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, who is the (interpretation ends) executive director (interpretation) of NNI? You didn't say his name. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry for not saying his name. He's Ron Dewar.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Dewar, welcome to the House. We will now be reviewing Bill 38. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, if you have any opening comments, I now give you the floor. Minister.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On February 21, 2017 Bill 38, the *Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act*, received first reading, and I was pleased to review this bill with the Standing Committee on Legislation on March 9, 2017.

(interpretation ends) This bill provides the necessary support for the new NNI Policy by providing legal authority to specific provisions, a regulation-making power to make the NNI Policy binding, as well as clarity on certain matters where there may be a conflict with other GN legislation.

This bill also recognizes and empowers the bodies created by the policy, namely, the tribunal and the review committee.

As my colleagues are aware, there have been concerns raised regarding the binding nature of NNI Tribunal recommendations under the new NNI Policy. This legislation provides the NNI Tribunal with more authority, which will further ensure compliance by government contracting authorities.

This bill is necessary because we have determined that there are provisions in the NNI Policy that should be supported through legislation and not simply through policy or even through changes to regulations under the *Financial Administration Act*.

In fulfilling our obligations under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the new NNI Policy was developed collaboratively with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. This collaborative process allows the parties to address overarching concerns about the NNI Policy and its intended benefits. We have also consulted with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated throughout this legislative project to ensure that our intent was fully understood.

This legislation demonstrates to Nunavummiut and to the business community our government's strong commitment to implementing Article 24 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* by ensuring proper and full implementation of the new NNI Policy.

It should be emphasized that the proposed NNI Implementation Act does not introduce any provisions that are not currently in the new NNI Policy.

As members will recall, the new NNI Policy is set to come into force on April 1, 2017. It is our hope that Bill 38 can be passed before the coming into force of the new NNI Policy to ensure that the policy's provisions have the necessary legal authority.

I have invited officials from my department as well as the Department of Justice to assist me today. I look forward to the committee's questions and comments regarding Bill 38,

the *Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act*. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Chairman of the Legislation Committee have opening comments, Mr. Sammurtok?

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 38; the proposed *Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act*.

As members will recall, Bill 38 received second reading on February 22, 2017 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration. The standing committee recognizes that the new NNI Policy was agreed to by both the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and is scheduled to come into effect on April 1, 2017.

The standing committee further recognizes that Bill 38 does not change any of the provisions in the new NNI Policy itself.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 38 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any general comments? If none, we'll review Bill 38, in your Legislation binder. I have an English copy so I will say it in English. (interpretation ends) Bill 38, *Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions here. Knowing full well that there are a number of contracts that are currently in place that are set for a number of years would those contracts be affected once this legislation is passed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will not affect any contracts that are already in place. It's for new contracts after April 1. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The businesses that are within the territory of Nunavut that currently hold contracts, would they be notified of possible amendments that may be foreseen, or would that be left to the negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be no amendments to any current contracts that the GN holds. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We'll move on with where I left off...Clause 1. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion that I would like to move. This is a minor housekeeping matter to fix a drafting error in the bill. Specifically there is an error in a reference to a paragraph of the *Financial Administration Act* that needs to be corrected. I would like to emphasize that there is no substance to this change. I thank my colleagues for their understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank Minister Ell-Kanayuk. (interpretation) The motion is in order. Members, the motion is in your motion binder. To the motion. All those in favour.

I'm sorry, Minister Ell-Kanayuk, and I'm sorry, my colleagues. Let's go back. I obviously have the discretion as the Chair. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, can you read your motion? Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Committee Motion 016 – 4(3): Bill 38, Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act, Clause 1 Amendment

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that paragraph 1(b) is amended by striking out "107(f)" and substituting "107(1)(f)." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell-Kanayuk. Let's try again. Thank you. The motion is in order. Members, you can refer to the motion in your motion binder. To the motion. All those in favour, raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Clause 1, as amended. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let me proceed. Clause 2. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if the minister can tell us, when it comes to the tribunal and appointments to sit on the tribunal and in fact the review committee, whether or not the business representatives of Nunavut will be taken into consideration to make sure that at least somebody from the business sector sits on either the tribunal or the review committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NNI Tribunal will be comprised of five members and they will be an independent tribunal. We will be appointing two of the five members from the list of nominees that will be provided and three will be appointed by the Government of Nunavut. The GN and NTI will be free to select the individuals who have demonstrated background in business and have knowledge of economic realities in Nunavut, training and/or experience in procurement law, procurement practices, and government contracting. The answer to that question is yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. How long would the term be for the five appointed members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the tribunal will have a term of three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. After their three-year term, if they would like to get back to their position, could they apply again to the membership of the tribunal board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These individuals whom are appointed for this three year term, are they able to resubmit their application to continue their representation on the NNI tribunal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now with regard to the appointments representing all of Nunavut in this role of the NNI Tribunal, what happens when a party complains about the appointment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, as I have no idea of the usage of the term “complaint” and if the person wants to be the chair, and somebody complains, perhaps I am off on a tangent here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Mikkungwak, can you please clarify your question on this issue?

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That was unfortunately misunderstood. Yes, when any business submits an appeal for any contract they may have lost out on, does that business person have the ability to appeal that decision based on the appointee’s background or the fact they are not representing all of Nunavut, as they have to review appeals for all of Nunavut.

As I understand, these tribunal members have to have awareness of the whole territory of Nunavut, otherwise it would seem a hurried response based on a frivolous appeal, as this language seems to indicate that any business appealing a contract has that right. Does this also apply to the various government contract RFP advertisements that are quite numerous, and will this apply to every single contract that this tribunal will oversee? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Yes, they will be representing all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask if the minister can clarify, once again, in regard to appointments; how many appointments the GN makes, how many NTI makes, and how many appointments the federal government makes. I wasn’t quite clear, so maybe if you can clarify exactly who is making the appointments and how many? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, please make a clarification.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two will be appointed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and three by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for that clarification. I will go back to Bill 38, and I will start off where I left off. Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On 5(d) as well as 5(e), there is wording in there that says “preferential treatment.” I just need to see what that explanation means. What do they mean by that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ll have Ron Dewar explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Dewar.

Mr. Dewar: Thank you. The preferential treatment is the bid adjustment formula that’s built into the policy for Inuit firms. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I will go back to where I left off. Bill 30. Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to Bill 38 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do members agree that Bill 38, as amended, can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, do you have any closing comments, you have the floor minister.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the NNI secretariat Ron Dewar and Allan Kunuk, who's here as the intern for executive director of the NNI secretariat, for having worked diligently on both the NNI policy and the *NNI Implementation Act*, also the Department of Justice for their work in contributing to the drafting of the Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell-Kanayuk. Before we proceed, we will take a 15-minute break, but before we do, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will take a 15-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:32 and resumed at 17:47*

Bill 41 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Annual Reports Provided to the Speaker – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): We can proceed. We will now be working with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I would first like to ask the Speaker if he would like any witnesses. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Yes, I have witnesses that I would like to bring to the witness table.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The Speaker would like his officials at the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, we will be dealing with Bill 41. If you have opening comments, you have the floor. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I will be speaking in English, as my documents are in English.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 41, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Annual Reports Provided to the Speaker*.

As members are aware, the Legislative Assembly recommends the appointment of five independent officers: the Chief Electoral Officer, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Integrity Commissioner, the Languages Commissioner, and the Representative for Children and Youth.

All of these office-holders report to the Legislative Assembly. Each office-holder's enabling legislation requires that an annual report on his or her activities be submitted to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for tabling in the House. As members are very much aware, a number of these reports are the subject of televised hearings each year on the part of standing committees of the Legislative Assembly.

At present, there are significant inconsistencies with respect statutory reporting deadlines for annual reports of the independent officers. For example, section 68 of the *Access to the Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requires the Information and Privacy Commissioner to submit an annual report by July 1 in each year, which is only 90 days after the end of the previous fiscal year. By contrast, section 24 of the *Official Languages Act* requires the Languages Commissioner to submit an annual report within 12 months after the end of each fiscal year.

The purpose of Bill 41 is to create uniform reporting deadlines for the annual reports of our independent officers, which will achieve significantly greater consistency and predictability.

All independent officers will be required to submit their annual reports to my office within six months after the end of each fiscal year. This a reasonable timeframe in which to produce a comprehensive annual report and it is a timeframe which will allow for the annual reports to all be tabled in the House during its fall sitting. I would also note that the Management Services Board has aimed to help facilitate the timely preparation and submission for such annual reports by providing assurances to all independent officers that the board emphasize the importance of the information contained in such annual reports, and does not expect them to incur significant expenditures of time and resources with respect to extraneous physical production features.

Bill 41 contains additional provisions regarding the Chief Electoral Officer's separate reports on the conduct of elections, by-elections and plebiscites.

At present, Section 23 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* requires that the annual reports of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* be submitted to both the Minister of Languages and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly prior to being tabled in the

Legislative Assembly. Given that the members of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* are appointed on the recommendation of the minister, it is more appropriate for the minister to be solely accountable for receiving and tabling these annual reports. Bill 41 amends this section of the statute to provide for a clear line of accountability.

I would also note that Bill 41 does not affect the ability of independent officers to submit special reports on matters of concern to the Legislative Assembly at other times. For example, as members will recall, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recently produced a special report on her office's privacy audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital, which I tabled in the House on November 8, 2016.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any general comments? If there are none, any questions to the opening comments? If there is none. Bill 41, you can get a copy from your legislation binders. I believe you all have a copy in front of you. I have an English copy, so I'll read in English. (interpretation ends) Bill 41, an *Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Annual Reports Provided to the Speaker*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 41 as a whole? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 41 can be immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, do you have closing comments? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I thank you all, and I would also like to thank all the staff at the Legislative Assembly, and also my colleagues. I thank you all.

**Bill 43 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, we would like to deal with Bill 43. At this time, again, Bill 43. Do you have opening comments? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

I was just following your lead.

(interpretation) I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide some brief opening comments concerning Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

Bill 43 amends Schedule C of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* to change the indemnities and allowances payable to Members. These changes reflect the recent signing of a new collective agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Employees Union. The base rate of pay for Members of the Legislative Assembly will be increased by the same percentage as that which has been agreed to for members of the Nunavut Employees Union.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide some brief opening comments concerning Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

Bill 43 amends Schedule C of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* to change the indemnities and allowances payable to members. These changes reflect the recent signing of a new collective agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Employees Union. The base rate of pay for Members of the Legislative Assembly will be increased by the same percentage as that which has been agreed to for members of the Nunavut Employees Union.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any general comments or question. If there are none. You can get a copy of the Bill from your legislation binders. Bill 43. I believe you all have a copy. I have an English copy in front of me so I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 43 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 43 can be immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, if you have any closing remarks, I give you the opportunity to make them. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just express my gratitude to our officials for their dedication on the completion of this work, and the successful completion of our session. I thank each and every one of you. Thank you.

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

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a long day for some of us. Mr. Speaker, we have completed the wish of the committee, therefore I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried and I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 26, 28, 30, 38, 41, and 43 and would like to report that Bills 26, 28, 30, 38, 41, and 43 can immediately be read for the third time and Bill 38 can now immediately be read as amended, and that one committee motion was adopted. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Akoak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, members. I wish to advise the House that I have received written notice under Rule 20(2) that the Member for Cambridge Bay intends to raise a matter of personal privilege under this rule. I now recognize the Member for Cambridge Bay. Mr. Peterson, please proceed.

Point of Privilege

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today pursuant to Rule 20(1) on a personal matter where I would like to correct published accusations against myself.

Mr. Speaker, as elected officials and especially as cabinet ministers, we are scrutinized by the public and media quite a bit. Over time we learn to develop a pretty thick skin and just roll with the punches that are thrown at us as we go about our duties serving the people of Nunavut. However, there comes a time when enough is enough.

Mr. Speaker, the media publishes a lot of stories that single out the work I do as a cabinet minister in this government. For the most part, I live with facts that are published.

Saying that, I feel I must address a recent story reported by Kent Driscoll which I saw on APTN's national website on March 9 entitled, and I quote, "Former Nunavut Premier asking why a report on RCMP being kept secret."

There are three statements that I believe are incorrect in the interview that misquote myself and could effectively and recklessly misinform the public.

In the video Mr. Driscoll states, and I quote, "The Government of Nunavut commissioned a report into civilian oversight of the RCMP."

Mr. Speaker, neither myself nor the Government of Nunavut have commissioned a report into civilian oversight of the RCMP.

I believe I clearly stated in both the October 18, 2016 and March 2017 *Hansard* that I have asked my justice officials to review what other jurisdictions do across Canada as it relates to oversight of police forces.

In the written summary of the story on APTN's website, Mr. Driscoll writes, and I quote, "The report investigated civilian oversight of the RCMP across Canada, and how that could work in Nunavut."

Again, there is no report and we did not investigate civilian oversight of the RCMP across Canada. Mr. Driscoll singles out the RCMP.

My request to my staff was to review what other jurisdictions in Canada are doing for policing oversight. Again, I believe that is clearly stated in the *Hansard*.

A misconception might have occurred when I responded to questions on March 2 saying, and I quote, "It's not a report I'm going to make public, but it's an internal report..."

Mr. Speaker, in the context of the discussion I was referring to, I asked my staff to gather information for me on what other jurisdictions in Canada do in relation to police oversight. That is all, Mr. Speaker, gather information by calling other provincial and territorial jurisdictions and do some basic Internet research.

Furthermore, Mr. Driscoll states, and I quote, "Okalik requested the review of civilian oversight of the RCMP in 2016, after a high profile incident in Iqaluit's cells."

Mr. Speaker, I reviewed the *Hansard* from when Mr. Okalik questioned me on October 18, 2016 and nowhere do I see where Mr. Okalik requested a review of civilian oversight of the RCMP. He does ask me if I, and I quote, "support the establishment of a civilian oversight body here in Nunavut, yes or no?"

It is pretty clear in our exchange that I did ask my justice officials to look at what other jurisdictions in Canada were doing in relation to police oversight.

Moreover Mr. Okalik was referring to civilian oversight relating to comments from an Ottawa Police Service member on social media and not specifically to incidents in RCMP cells, as the story indicates.

It concerns me that the reporter tried to make it seem that I have commissioned a report into the civilian oversight of the RCMP. This is clearly not true if you research and review *Hansard*.

I would like the RCMP to be rest assured that the Government of Nunavut values the dedicated and often dangerous work that the members of the RCMP do to protect our citizens and our communities across our great territory.

Mr. Speaker, the discussion of civilian oversight and the investigation of serious incidents involving the RCMP and Nunavut is a complicated one which began last spring. It still requires a great deal of work.

Indeed, in the shared directional statement I signed with the RCMP which was tabled in the legislature in November of 2016, we made a shared commitment to address this issue, stating that, and I quote, “The GN and RCMP agree that allegations of police misconduct must be taken seriously and acted upon.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by stating that I have the utmost respect for the men and women of the RCMP who protect our communities. They are part of our communities, their children attend school with our children, they participate in special events, and give of their time volunteering in our communities. For that I am very thankful.

I hope this clears up the misconception that this story has created. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. As Rule 20 requires no action from the Chair or the House, the matter is closed and we will proceed to the next item on the orders of the day.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Hon. Johnny Mike.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act – Third Reading

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Joe Savikataaq.

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards – Third Reading

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act – Third Reading

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Bill 38 – Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act – Third Reading

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 38, *Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor and it is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Bill 41 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Annual Reports Provided to the Speaker – Third Reading

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 41, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Annual Reports Provided to the Speaker*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Hon. Allan Rumbolt.

Bill 43 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – Third Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order, all those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Mr. Clerk, will you determine if the commissioner is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Nellie Kusugak (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated.

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

- Bill 19, *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*;
- Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*;
- Bill 28, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards*;
- Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*;
- Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*;
- Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016*;

- Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*;
- Bill 34, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2017-18*;
- Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-18*;
- Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*;
- Bill 38, *Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Implementation Act*;
- Bill 41, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Reports Provided to the Speaker*;
- Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*; and
- Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

As winter's darkness gives way to the light of spring, I wish all members a safe return to your communities, constituents, and families.

Rest well because you have worked hard to improve the lives of Inuit. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 30:

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

11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 27
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 30, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:23*

