



## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Joe Enook**  
(Tununiq)

**Hon. David Akeeagok**  
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention*

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Labour*

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Education; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**Mila Kamingoak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

**Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Patterk Netser**  
(Aivilik)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment*

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**Cathy Towtongie**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, May 28, 2018**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeegok, Hon. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:35*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Joe Enook)(interpretation): Mr. Qirngnuq, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and members, good afternoon. Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

Today in particular I wish to remember and we all remember people who have lost loved ones in Nunavut. On a personal note, I am thinking of my relatives in Pond Inlet and my paternal cousin chiefly, along with family members here in Iqaluit who are in duress due to the loss of a loved one. You are in our thoughts. Further, my colleagues and fellow residents of Nunavut, I urge you to pray for them and keep them in our thoughts. We should always commemorate our loved ones' memories.

Today I would like to remind you, as colleagues have noted, that Mr. Keyootak is not in the House. The Member for Uqqummiut has a good reason wherein he is serving as an escort for a relative to a medical centre. Our thoughts are with you and we hope you can return prior to the end of this session, Mr. Keyootak. We hope all is well with you and look forward to seeing you in this House.

Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I would like to read the following letter:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that following the proceedings and at the Second Session of the Fifth Assembly, Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019*; and Bill 5, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*.

Sincerely, Nellie Kusugak, Commissioner of Nunavut

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 2. Budget Address. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeegok.

## Item 2: Budget Address

### Minister's Statement 012 – 5(2): Budget 2018-2019

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, fellow MLAs, and all Nunavummiut, I rise today to present to you the first budget of this Fifth Assembly. This budget advances our government's work to improve the lives of Nunavummiut and begins to deliver on priorities identified in *Turaaqtavut*.

I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and input into this mandate and budget, and for supporting the three-month interim appropriation that kept this government operational during the transition period.

The Members of the Fifth Assembly were elected late October and have been very busy planning and developing the individual aspirations that got us elected. Through the process of developing the mandate, we were able to collectively take those and move towards implementing a number of initiatives and shared approaches. Not all of these will take place overnight or by this budget. However, I am confident that working together over this term, we will support one another in addressing many of the needs of Nunavummiut that we continue to hear about.

### Turaaqtavut Overview

Mr. Speaker, *Turaaqtavut* expresses a clear vision for Nunavut and describes five priority areas for government action over the next four years.

Departments and territorial corporations are developing the initiatives that will enable us to achieve our mandate. Some of the early actions will be supported by this budget. Others will be included in the business plans and budget for next fiscal year and within the term of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I will now comment on *Turaaqtavut* priorities and how they are reflected in this government's budget for 2018-19. I will also note examples of how we are using existing resources to advance our priorities.

### Inuusivut

Our population is widely spread across the territory, which presents great challenges in the delivery of health and social programs and services. Each successive government has been concerned with improving the well-being and self-reliance of our people and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the number of seniors in Nunavut has doubled since 2004. Our elders help us remember the lessons of the past and use them to shape our future. It is a priority for our government to meet our elders' needs for support and care in the territory...

>>Applause

...so that they can be closer to their families, language, and culture.

Along with our recently approved capital plans and existing operational budgets, we will be taking steps to bring back our elders to our territory...

>>Applause

...by seeking partnership arrangements to build facilities and services in Nunavut. As a start, we will increase operational funding for the existing elders' homes by \$855,000 annually.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our government will invest in basic needs such as housing and food security.

Our government is now in the second year of implementing the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* and this year we will keep the momentum going on our whole-of-government approach to addressing Nunavut's housing crisis.

We will continue to strengthen the Income Assistance Program. The Department of Family Services will receive \$22.7 million over three years to support changes to the program. These changes will ensure the food allowance covers the basic living expenses for households and fairly represents differences in the cost of living among communities.

>>Applause

We continue to spend too much on medical travel and care outside the territory, Mr. Speaker. Our government will enhance the health care services that are available in the territory so that care can be delivered as close to home as possible.

The Department of Health will receive \$1.5 million over the next three years so that two operating rooms at the Qikiqtani General Hospital can be used simultaneously and for longer hours. This will help to address the wait-lists for surgical procedures performed at our own hospital.

>>Applause

The department will also receive \$1.6 million over three years to enhance hearing assessment services in Nunavut. This funding will help to prevent high-cost treatment by focusing on early intervention.

We are committed to working in partnership with the Government of Canada and Inuit leadership in the country to eliminate tuberculosis. Our government is investing an initial

\$5.8 million over three years to expand Nunavut's tuberculosis prevention and control program.

Mr. Speaker, mental wellness continues to be a priority for this government. In this budget we will continue to invest in and improve the outcomes of mental health, addictions, and family counselling programs and services through a mix of traditional and contemporary approaches.

>> *Applause*

The Department of Health is expanding its pilot of specialized mental health and addiction services. The department will also introduce new initiatives in health and mental wellness under the new Northern Wellness Agreement signed with the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we must be prepared for the legalization of cannabis in Canada. The Department of Health will receive \$1.8 million over three years to develop a cannabis harm reduction program in Nunavut and train health care providers in our communities.

The Department of Education is working with its partners to provide training that helps schools and community agencies prevent violence against children, promote healthy youth relationships, and prevent bullying and harassment. Our government is investing an additional \$1.1 million over three years to expand the availability of crisis support and counselling in schools and communities following a traumatic event.

Mr. Speaker, healthy, self-reliant communities are safe communities with culturally relevant programs and services that support healing and restorative justice.

Foster parents play a crucial role in providing a safe and culturally appropriate family setting that supports the well-being of children and youth while they are in care. The Department of Family Services will receive \$1.1 million over three years to strengthen its foster care program through training and other resources for foster parents.

The Department of Family Services will also receive \$2.6 million over three years to strengthen and expand the Public Guardianship program. Improvements to the program will ensure that vulnerable Nunavummiut are supported effectively.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, our government will increase funding for community-based justice programs.

The Department of Justice will receive \$1.2 million over three years to enhance the capacity of its Community Justice Division. This will enable the division to improve community services, support crime prevention, and focus on more culturally appropriate ways to address crime and its impact on victims.

The RCMP “V” Division will receive funding to establish a special victims unit in Nunavut. This unit will enhance the RCMP’s ability to investigate sex crimes and address cases involving victims who are at risk or particularly vulnerable, such as children and persons with mental disabilities.

(interpretation) The RCMP will also receive funds to add new Inuktitut-speaking civilian employees in six communities. These local staff members will assist with administrative tasks and provide a valuable connection between the RCMP and the community.

>>Applause

### **Pivaallirutivut**

Mr. Speaker, we must develop our infrastructure and economy in ways that support a positive future for our people, our communities, and our land. Our government is actively seeking opportunities to invest with partners in infrastructure that will enhance our well-being and connect us to one another.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Community and Government Services will receive \$13.5 million over the next three years to increase the capacity of the Government of Nunavut’s information technology infrastructure in preparation for migrating to a higher bandwidth. This will help us to deliver programs and services more efficiently.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, we must diversify and improve economic opportunities in all communities to encourage self-reliance and provide local employment.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation will receive \$3.3 million over three years to assist companies involved in mining exploration to engage more effectively with communities. This program will replace the fuel tax rebate that was previously available for exploration companies.

(interpretation) The Department of Environment is realigning their harvester support programs to provide enhanced support to active harvesters.

### **Sivummuqaqalliagjutivut**

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, education begins in early childhood and provides the foundation for a positive family and community life, as well as meaningful employment.

Through a new agreement with the Government of Canada, the Department of Education will work to make licensed child care more readily available and affordable for families.

>>Applause

Licensed child care facilities will receive top-up operational funding on the condition that the facility maintains or lowers its fees. Communities will receive assistance to reopen previously closed child care facilities.

>> *Applause*

Our government is committed to amending the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to support bilingual education, ensure quality schooling, and improve student outcomes.

The Department of Education is continuing to roll out the new Inuktut Titiqqiriniq balanced literacy program. In addition, the department will develop new Inuktitut language and cultural materials for licensed child care providers that will seamlessly transition into the K-12 literacy framework and Inuktut Titiqqiriniq.

>> *Applause*

The Department of Education will receive \$12 million over the next three years to fund 40.5 positions for the student-educator ratio that meets the needs of students and schools. These positions were previously funded from within the department's budget. The department will receive an additional \$1.4 million to staff the new school in Igloodik.

Mr. Speaker, employers in the territory are relying too much on imported labour while many Inuit are under-employed or dependent on social assistance.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** We will put our communities first by offering more local skills and trades training.

>> *Applause*

Nunavut Arctic College offers the Environmental Technology Program each year. The college will reallocate funds this year to once again deliver an additional Environmental Technology Program in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, our government will improve supports for post-secondary students and post-secondary programs that develop the knowledge and skills needed in the territory.

Nunavut Arctic College is implementing reorganization with its own-source revenues to build institutional capacity for revitalizing educational programming.

Mr. Speaker, as the territory's largest employer, the government must compete with other employers within and outside Nunavut. On-the-job training builds the capabilities of the public service, helps to attract and retain employees, and increases Inuit employment.

>> *Applause*

Our government will continue to provide workplace education and training for all public servants. We will invest in education, training and career development programs that are targeted to Inuit employees.

The Department of Education is establishing a new Inuit employee education leave program called “Sivummuakpaallirutiksat” using internal funds to advance its Inuit employees’ education and skills, and enable them to move into professional roles in the schools.

>> *Applause*

### **Inuunivut**

Nunavut is unique in our arctic geography, our majority Inuit population, and the model of governance established by the Nunavut Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, our government will strengthen Nunavut as a distinct territory in Canada and the world.

>> *Applause*

Many visitors come to Nunavut to learn about Inuit culture and seek experiences on the land. Our people are welcoming and one of the highlights of their visits. As Nunavut’s tourism industry grows, a significant number of part-time and full-time employment opportunities are being created.

To assist Nunavummiut who are interested in tourism-related work, our government is investing \$945,000 over three years to enable the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to provide training in cultural interpretation skills, hospitality and business skills, on-the-land guiding and survival skills, and the certifications needed for many jobs in tourism.

Nunavut’s *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provide an unprecedented level of protection for an indigenous language in a Canadian jurisdiction.

The first *Uqausivut Plan* for the implementation of the Language Acts was tabled in 2012. The Department of Culture and Heritage is developing a follow-on Uqausivut plan that incorporates findings from a recent evaluation and input from language stakeholders across the territory. (interpretation) Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the three regional Inuit associations were involved as key partners and stakeholders in the development of the new plan.

Implementation of *Uqausivut 2.0* will be enabled by the Canada-Nunavut Agreement on French Services and Inuktitut Language, which was renewed last year and provides

increased funding towards the protection and promotion of Inuktut in the territory until 2020.

>> *Applause*

Our government is also working to enable the Inuit language as the working language of the public service.

>> *Applause*

### **Katujjiqatigiinnivut**

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Agreement sets out governance and co-management arrangements that require the territorial government to work in partnership to advance the goals and aspirations of Nunavummiut.

We will work to establish more strategic partnerships with Inuit organizations, the federal government, and the private sector to meet the needs of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it will take time to develop new partnerships. However, many of our departments are already working in innovative ways with other organizations.

The Department of Environment's Climate Change Secretariat is engaged with the provinces and other territories in implementing actions identified in the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. The secretariat is also administering a \$1.7 million funding program with the federal government for climate change adaptation projects, including working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to monitor sea ice through the community-based SmartICE program.

The Department of Health has established a partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland. Residents in family medicine at the university have an opportunity to work in Nunavut for six-month periods while completing their medical education. Our government will contribute \$1.6 million over three years to fund the NunaFam program, which will add medical capacity and help us to recruit physicians for our territory.

>> *Applause*

To be a fully effective partner, we must continue to develop capacity and capability in our public service.

The *Human Resource Strategy* will be updated this year. The Department of Finance will also design and develop a respectful workplace program to focus on conflict management and alternative dispute resolution, rooted in Inuit societal values. All departments and agencies will continue to work actively on increasing Inuit employment, recruiting skilled people, and developing our employees.

The Department of Community and Government Services is using internal funds to create more than 20 new permanent positions that will replace long-term casual work. Nunavut Arctic College is doing the same. Together Community and Government Services and Nunavut Arctic College are creating almost 50 new permanent positions in communities throughout the territory. These are secure jobs that can be entered without advanced education, jobs in which employees can learn and grow.

>> *Applause*

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will continue to provide Government of Nunavut-wide career development opportunities for Inuit employees, including the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program. Our government continues to work in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Canada to best use Nunavut implementation funds to increase and enhance Inuit employment through education and training, such as the Amaaqtaarniq Education Leave, Hivuliqtikhanut Emerging Leaders and Policy Foundations programs.

>> *Applause*

### **Economic Outlook**

Mr. Speaker, I will now turn to our territorial economy and our fiscal situation.

Nunavut's economy is growing. This growth is due largely to a strong mining sector. Mineral and petroleum exploration has declined over the past several years, but mine construction and mining operations are active and have the potential to expand throughout the territory.

Nunavut's tourism and cultural industries also contribute to our diversifying economy and help to create a positive reputation for Nunavut in Canada and abroad. In particular our marine tourism sector is growing and has the potential to provide increasing economic benefits to communities, if managed correctly.

Mr. Speaker, gross domestic product (or GDP) is the broadest measure of economic activity in our territory. The conference board estimates that Nunavut's real GDP will grow 4.4 percent in 2018 and 9.1 percent in 2019. This is much greater than the 2.1 percent growth projected for Canada as a whole in 2018 and the 2.0 percent growth projected nationally in 2019.

The unemployment rate in Nunavut improved slightly last year and wages grew by 4.3 percent.

These are all signs of a positive economic outlook for the territory. It suggests that Nunavummiut will have increasing opportunities to seek full- and part-time employment outside of government.

However, growth in GDP and employment does not mean immediate or rapid growth in government revenues.

### **Fiscal Overview**

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, our revenues in 2018-19 are expected to be \$2.18 billion, up 5.5 percent from last fiscal year.

Approximately 10.6 percent of our revenues, or \$229.8 million, is collected in Nunavut through income taxes, rent for staff housing, service fees, revolving funds, and other sources.

As with other territories, the majority of our revenues come from federal transfers and third party agreements to fund particular programs or time-limited initiatives.

Federal transfers will provide us with over \$1.67 billion this fiscal year. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the annual growth rate in these transfers has declined over the past five years.

Federal transfers are intended to help territorial governments pay for essential infrastructure and public services, including hospitals, schools, and social services. There were long-standing deficits in all these areas at the time of Nunavut's creation and the underfunding has continued. This persistent social deficit undermines the health, well-being, and advancement of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the government expects and is planning for slower growth in federal transfers, but it will reduce our flexibility in coming years and is not sustainable in the long term. We must find creative ways to make use of our financial resources and prepare for difficult choices to ensure that we can deliver the programs and services that Nunavummiut need.

>>Applause

### **Fiscal Update – 2017-18**

Mr. Speaker, the former government began its year by projecting a small fiscal surplus in 2017-18. We ended the year with a fiscal deficit of approximately \$39 million. This number is not final, as our books will not close until the end of June. But to put the amount in context, it is approximately 1.9 percent of our expected revenues for 2017-18.

The main reason for the deficit is higher-than-expected spending, including supplementary funding for core areas within the departments of Health, Justice and Family Services.

## **Fiscal Strategy**

For 2018-19, our government is projecting a fiscal deficit of approximately \$28 million. This projected deficit prudently includes \$30 million for contingencies, which will allow the government to respond to issues and opportunities that we cannot plan for.

Mr. Speaker, it was not easy to plan a budget with the large social deficit that we face. The departments of Education and Family Services must respond to the needs of a growing population, and core areas in the departments of Health and Justice have required significant supplementary funding in each of the past few years.

Mr. Speaker, our budget reduces the uncertainties in core funding by recognizing and addressing these needs now. It is a first step in dealing with the issue of historical underfunding.

The Department of Health will receive new base funding to better meet the demands for medical travel and for mental health and addictions services.

*>>Applause*

The Department of Justice will receive new base funding to address a systemic salary deficit. In addition, the Department of Education will receive new base funding to address the impact of the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association. These are necessary expenditures that our budget must address.

*>>Applause*

It is important to note that this fiscal strategy does not take into account revenues or spending associated with the legalization of cannabis or the carbon tax. These are two federally-driven initiatives that we expect will impact our budget later in the year.

Canada plans to set a national price on carbon pollution to encourage businesses and consumers to use “greener” alternatives to fossil fuels. Our government supports efforts to address climate change, but we do not think the carbon tax will be effective in Nunavut because we have few alternatives to the fuels we rely on for our power supply, air travel, home heating, and traditional activities.

Mr. Speaker, I have met and corresponded with federal Finance Minister Morneau to highlight our concerns and to confirm that we do not intend to administer a territorial carbon tax ourselves.

We expect the federal government will implement its “backstop” tax of approximately 2.5 cents per litre on fuel in Nunavut. Revenues would be shared with Nunavut. Our government will need to consider how to best use this revenue starting with next year’s budget.

Mr. Speaker, we will report on the carbon tax and legalization of cannabis in a fiscal update when we have a better sense of the impacts of these federal initiatives.

### **Conclusion**

In speaking about our Assembly's first budget, I have emphasized necessary new funding commitments. It is important to note that most departments are budgeting within the same amounts as last year and are funding enhanced programs and new positions from within their existing budgets.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that there is not much flexibility within the government's fiscal situation. Our efforts to address just some of the historical underfunding have put us into a deficit budget.

Our housing stock remains inadequate for our population and our crucial infrastructure is aging beyond repair. We can address only small parts of the large social deficit that has been accumulating since long before Nunavut's creation.

Mr. Speaker, running back-to-back fiscal deficits is manageable but not something we plan to sustain.

To continue adding necessary new programs and initiatives, we must question which programs we can eliminate, which costs we can reduce, and how we can raise new revenues. Our government will continue to identify and cancel programs such as the fuel tax rebate that are no longer effective or relevant to ensure that we operate in a fiscally responsible manner and better meet the needs of Nunavummiut.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Over the next few weeks my colleagues will be in front of the committee to provide specific details on their *Turaaqtavut* initiatives that I have outlined today as the approval process begins for the Fifth Assembly's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, we will take a 15-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:26 and resumed at 14:41*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Let's now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Premier Quassa.

### Item 3: Ministers' Statements

#### Minister's Statement 013 – 5(2): Minister Absent from the House

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik will be absent from the House for approximately two days. I just want you to know that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 026 – 5(2): Congratulations to Nursing Student Mavis Ell

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you, (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, (interpretation) for his interesting comments.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a nursing student from Coral Harbour. Mavis Ell is a Coral Harbour resident who received a Queen Elizabeth II scholarship award for being one of the top students in Nunavut Arctic College's Nursing Program.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, working towards a nursing degree is no easy task, especially when I have to go to the health centre every now and then. It takes hours of study and attention to detail and it takes a driving desire to complete every learning task to the best of their abilities.

Mr. Speaker, the nursing profession is a demanding but rewarding career, and we honour those who take them.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that filling nursing positions in Nunavut is an ongoing struggle. In fact nurses are in demand all across Canada, and a nursing degree at Nunavut Arctic College meets the national standards. Successful graduates can work anywhere across this great nation, although of course we would prefer that they stay here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of Ms. Ell and on behalf of the community of Coral Harbour, my town, we wish her the best of luck as she continues her studies.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 027 – 5(2): Encouraging Our NTEP Students**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our students and future professionals to keep up their studies and education as they work hard to achieve their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that Nunavut's education system is in dire need of Nunavut-trained teaching professionals. I am very proud that some residents of Sanikiluaq are doing this share to meet that need.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Sanikiluaq's current Nunavut Teacher Education Program students, Silatik Qavvik, Meena Hoyt, Charlotte Crow, Alice Kavik Sala, and Leah Meeko, who are just completing the fourth year of the NTEP program.

Mr. Speaker, they have one more year to go. I would like to wish them the very best and a safe, relaxing summer. It will be a pleasure to congratulate Nunavut's newest teachers when they graduate next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Member's Statement 028 – 5(2): Support for Search and Rescue Organizations**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today let the Minister of CGS know that I will be asking questions in regard to search and rescue at the appropriate time.

I am very proud of search and rescue teams, not just in our community but in the entire Nunavut territory. When they find the lost person, we become relieved. I know it's very difficult and challenging; it becomes emotional when we can't find individuals. I just want the minister to be aware that I'll be asking questions in regard to this issue.

I would also like to congratulate all the search and rescue teams for working very hard across Nunavut. They do volunteer work and they use their own equipment and transportation to search for an individual who is lost. Therefore I would like to congratulate all the search and rescue teams throughout Nunavut.

I would like to tell the young people from Nunavut that when people older than them tell them what to do, please listen to them because weather is very unpredictable and

sometimes equipment breaks down. Elders try to advise us using their knowledge and experience. Sometimes when we go out hunting, we need help.

I just want the minister to be aware that I will be asking questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

### **Member's Statement 029 – 5(2): Rankin Inlet Fishing Derby**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wish to acknowledge first of all the Rankin Inlet trout and cod fishing derby organizers: April Warden, Amy Siusangnark, Susan Hickes, and Iris Tatty.

They raised \$60,000 to \$70,000 for the total prizes, with the top prize for cod at \$10,000 and for lake trout at \$10,000 for first place, and descending prizes ranging from \$7,000, \$5,000, \$4,000, all the way down to \$1,000. I am immensely proud of their work throughout the winter raising funds earmarked towards these prizes, although they don't receive much financial support.

As well in Chesterfield Inlet there was a cod fishing derby for recreational cod fishing. I would like to thank Lillian Simik for her work in preparing the cod derby, including other marine fishes, and a sculpin fishing derby for the elders to occupy their day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 030 – 5(2): Appreciation for Clothing Worn for Budget Address**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to express my immense gratitude and recognition to someone who put together my outfit when I did the Budget Address; I was provided with various pieces.

This parka shell design was copied by my wife from an old photograph of my late father, so it is fashioned after that.

Further, my kamiks, which I am wearing, were given to me this year by two constituents who felt pride in my accomplishment and who are now retired and still living in Iqaluit, and who had bought a pair of kamiks from my late mother, maintained them to now for

44 years. They wanted me to wear them whenever I had an important event. It is a reminder and showcasing the kamiks made by my mother as I wear them now.

>> *Applause*

Although my parents have passed away and no longer on this earth, one can't help but to recall them when events transpire, and in being proud and grateful to them, I am wearing them in their honour. I also thank all my relatives and my lovely wife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

### **Member's Statement 031 – 5(2): Comments on the Budget Address**

(interpretation) Firstly I wish to comment on the Budget Address. To the announcements of the Minister of Finance, I also share his optimism.

First he mentioned the J-2 issue, and our Premier has maintained that position in this House.

Further, I wish to inform members of the cabinet that I am in full support of your work. I have no enmity towards any executive member. As we are all aware and have seen examples, southern politics include a "partisan" (interpretation ends) party system (interpretation) that oppose any initiatives of the other parties which are seen as enemy positions. Here in Nunavut, we should continue our consensus governance, of which I am very happy to partake in.

>> *Applause*

Nonetheless, there is a caveat, or a "but". When it comes to decision-making as regular members, we have to work with the cabinet, but we shall speak to issues in the upcoming sessions and months as we wish to see this government move forward. It is also obvious that funding is at a premium due to shortfalls. In rebutting some of the commentary, I will have to switch to English or mayhap I shall attempt to state it in Inuktitut.

In past years not enough investment has accrued to communities. I should remark here that I live in Arviat and represent Whale Cove, who has suffered historic underfunding as with similar sized communities. All the while the decentralized communities with the majority of opportunities receive most of the infrastructure projects. We who live in and represent smaller communities feel slighted or forgotten, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

And yes, I do know that larger communities require more infrastructures. To use Iqaluit as an example, albeit I know that yes, we too in Arviat will require infrastructure required to service our larger population, with size comes greater needs. However, we need to level the playing field or to use this example, if one person in Iqaluit needs something and another person in Arviat does too, their needs are exactly the same. This is how we can use this principle of equal treatment, which I am encouraging, for your information, Mr. Speaker, in order for the smaller communities to not be overlooked.

Now, within the topics addressed in the Budget Address which I perused earlier, yes, there was some good news on several fronts for large ticket projects. However, I want to hear more details about what is available towards limiting our expenditures and what ideas members have towards that. I will have questions to the government on that later.

If we were to focus more investment in this sector I believe it would lead to tangible benefits. This is occurring in my constituency for the first time related to mining. There is a developing mine in the proximity of Rankin Inlet at Meliadine River called the (interpretation ends) Meliadine mine, (interpretation) which is set to open in 2019 as per the plans. Now is the time to invest in training our people for mining sector positions so that they may have gainful employment in our territory.

>>*Applause*

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Main, please proceed.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues for letting me go on and on.

>>*Laughter*

We have to put investment in mining training, which I brought up earlier. We have to spend those monies in the Nunavut communities in order to create job opportunities. People finish their education, but then there are no jobs for them in the communities.

One other subject that I heard in the Budget Address was community empowerment. Before Nunavut was created, it was one of the main topics that were brought up. At that time Yellowknife was the capital of the Northwest Territories, which we were a part of, and then yes, Nunavut was going to be created and set up in a system that is different from the way Yellowknife was set up.

I don't know how community empowerment is going to be implemented, but if we look at the dollar amount and divvying it up between the communities and the larger

communities, especially Iqaluit, most of those projects... (interpretation ends) The centralization of power is very concerning to me as a resident of a non-regional centre. I think that we have really lost track of that goal of empowering our communities across Nunavut.

I'll use the example of mental health. We have numerous communities which are facing crises in terms of mental health. What is the answer, Mr. Speaker? I don't think that the Nunavut government is in a position to intervene directly in every single community. I feel that, using the example of mental health, the key element that we are missing is community empowerment. I would like to see that implemented in health, economic development, and infrastructure as much as possible.

This is something that's very near and dear to my heart, and it was also part of the original vision for Nunavut. It's something that I believe as a legislature that we can work together in the months and years to come and I look forward to that. (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, let me remind you that you have ample opportunity to reply to the Budget Address in Item 11 of the *Orders of the Day*. If you have a statement or comment to make specifically on the Budget Address, you have an opportunity to do so when we get to that item.

Members' Statements. Moving on. Returns to Oral Questions. There are no returns to oral questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague, Mr. Main, and I had the distinct pleasure yesterday afternoon to spend a couple of hours with some visitors to our city and to our territory.

I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to recognize a number of visitors in the gallery today who have joined us from the Parliamentary Internship Programme of the House of Commons. These young Canadians are currently working in the offices of Members of Parliament and they are in Nunavut this week for their program's annual study tour.

Mr. Speaker, the interest that they have shown in how we work as a legislature and how it differs from other jurisdictions across the country is admirable, to say the least. As a political junky myself, I found some of their questions really intriguing and very insightful, and the interest that they're showing in how we move forward as a territory and how they can share that knowledge with the MPs that they work for in Ottawa to help build further alliances for our territory across this nation.

I would like to welcome members to join me in welcoming the following individuals, and I would ask you to please stand when I mention your name:

From Newfoundland and Labrador, Patrick Butler.

>>*Applause*

From Ontario, Ronald Hoffman.

>>*Applause*

From Prince Edward Island, from one island to another, Emily Jensen.

>>*Applause*

From Ontario, Ross Linden-Fraser.

>>*Applause*

From Alberta, Andrew Merrell.

>>*Applause*

From Quebec, Alex Miller-Pelletier.

>>*Applause*

Also from Quebec, Kim Paradis.

>>*Applause*

From Saskatchewan, Avnee Paranjape.

>>*Applause*

From Quebec, Aurélie Skrobik.

>>*Applause*

And finally, also from Quebec, Rose St-Pierre.

>>*Applause*

I would like to welcome you to the gallery, along with my colleagues, and I hope you have a very enjoyable week visiting us here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To all of you, welcome to beautiful Iqaluit and welcome to beautiful Nunavut. I hope you're having a great visit. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, colleagues, and Premier.

Today I would like to recognize my husband, Russel Akeeagok, my brother-in-law P.J. Akeeagok, and Carol Akeeagok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Always feel welcome in your Legislative Assembly. We're no strangers. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize my spouse, Samantha Morgan.

>>Applause

My son, who is named after my mom, Jarrod Morgan.

>>Applause

And my niece, Iga Malliki. I would like to recognize them. I know they're shy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my best friend from the Ukiivik residence. She controlled all of the students; we had to follow her, Joanna Awa.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Also P.J. Akeeagok; I'm not going to say what we joke about, but you can ask him.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Joanna. To those who weren't recognized, welcome to your legislature. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to point out the parliamentary interns from Ottawa. My colleague over there recognized them to our legislature.

I would just like you to be aware that I will be speaking to them on Wednesday morning. These interns are learning how legislatures operate and how we operate as Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut while they are here in Iqaluit. They come from all regions of Canada. I'm proud of them and I welcome them to Nunavut and to the House.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though they were already recognized, I want to recognize my relatives who are in attendance here. I am happy that they support me and they are my wife, Carol Akeeagok, my three nephews Russel, P.J., and Etuangat Akeeagok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the same people, but they are my nephews. If I didn't recognize them, it would not seem right. They are Russel, P.J., and Etuangat Akeeagok. My constituent, Joanna, your name was already mentioned, but I would like to recognize you too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Item 6: Oral Questions****Question 042 – 5(2): Transfer of Old Health Centre to the Municipality of Pangnirtung**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Welcome to the visitors and my fellow residents.

(interpretation ends) This question will be to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

During last Thursday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I tabled a copy of the Municipal Council of Pangnirtung's formal *Request for the Immediate Implementation of a Pangnirtung Urgency Intervention Plan*.

In its request, the council noted that "Pangnirtung has no shelter for victims of domestic violence. In emergency situations, victims seek refuge at the homes of relatives, neighbours or break into shacks where they hide from their assailants."

Mr. Speaker, the council also noted that, and again I will quote directly from the document, "One option is for the Government of Nunavut to immediately release the Old Pangnirtung Health Centre to the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, which could be renovated to accommodate a shelter and support services for vulnerable community members."

The Minister of Community and Government Services is responsible for administering the government's *Surplus Disposal Policy* for buildings and other assets. Can he indicate today how the government is responding to the municipality's request? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. We follow a policy when there are surplus buildings by the government, a right of refusal. We are still using that process and we are almost at the end of that process. We will have an idea of exactly what we are going to do with that at the end of the month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Pangnirtung's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan was completed in 2010, almost ten years ago. The plan stated that "Council has expressed interest in acquiring the old health centre." Can the minister confirm what discussions have been held to date between his department and the municipality regarding the building? *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department has been going through the *Surplus Disposal Policy* and it's in the final stages. I hope that at the end of the day we will be able to help the community with the matter. Once we go through the disposal policy, we also have to go over the building to ensure that it is adequate to release to the municipality and make sure that there are no and if there are major deficiencies, to point them out to the municipality if that is what we would do at the end of the day. Hopefully we will have some answers to these questions in the coming week or weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Pangiirtung's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan indicates that the community's old health centre dates back to the mid-1970s. Consequently it may contain asbestos or other harmful substances. It is my understanding that an environmental assessment would need to be performed on the building before it is transferred to the new owner. Can the minister indicate how long the process would take? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. As I said, part of the process we are going through right now is once we have gone through the disposal policy and it has gone to the end of this month, I believe, to see if any department is interested in the building. Then we will have to go through and inspect the building, as I said, to see if there are issues with the building. That will probably take a couple of weeks to a month or so to do, providing that we have an inspector or inspectors that would go through the building and see the deficiencies in that matter, and then our department will take a close look to see if they are repairable and, if they are, how we would tackle that.

There is still a process to go through. Hopefully we will have that done sooner than later. I just can't commit to details in terms of a specific date, but I assure my colleague that we are trying to work on this as quickly as possible, as we are very well aware of the issues surrounding Pangiirtung and the municipality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

#### **Question 043 – 5(2): Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

During our recent winter sitting, I asked the minister a number of questions concerning his department's role in the construction of the new Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project. I want to revisit some of these issues today.

The Government of Nunavut recently awarded the contract for the construction of the new facility in Iqaluit and the new facility in Pond Inlet to Tower Arctic Ltd. The award value of the contract was over \$89 million.

As I noted back in our winter sitting, the tender for this project prescribed a minimum Inuit labour content requirement of 15 percent. Can the minister indicate whether or not the successful bidder committed to achieving a higher level of Inuit employment for either or both of these projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. I'll have to look into the details of those particulars at this time, as I don't have them, and we will have to work with our client department. I don't have those particular details at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing that information at a later date.

During our recent winter sitting, I also asked questions about the issue of the removal of shoreline shacks in Iqaluit. At the time the minister indicated that the issue was "quite complex" and that many organizations were "participating to make sure that it goes as smoothly as possible, especially for those who may be living in those premises."

Mr. Speaker, the government recently issued public information materials which indicated that the Department of Community and Government Services "wants to talk with every shack owner near the small craft harbour." Can the minister update the House today on how the issue is being addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of the shacks along the shoreline is presently being looked into. The Department of Community and Government Services officials want to talk to the owners of the shacks to come to an understanding of how they want the shacks to be treated, whether they're going to be relocated or be torn down. The officials are setting up a schedule to meet with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's information materials also indicate that "the removal of beach shacks along the shoreline will be needed for the construction...once the contractor's schedule is created...the contractor will give one month notice before anything is removed." Can the minister clarify the current timeline for the commencement of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank you for that question. We are now trying to get a clear understanding from the owners of the shacks and what they want to do before moving forward on construction. Once we get the information and the weather clears up... The weather was pretty bad today and there was blowing snow. We will be able to work on the land, weather permitting, and we need to get a clear understanding of what the shack owners want. That's why it's very difficult to state exactly when the construction will commence. We don't know exactly when this will occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

#### **Question 044 – 5(2): Support for Search and Rescue Organizations**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my member's statement, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. It's his third time getting up to respond to questions.

The local search and rescue committee in Hall Beach has expressed the need for new equipment. For example, they lack snowmobiles or SPOT devices.

The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for administering the government's *Community Based Search and Rescue Contributions Policy*. Page 6 of the policy provides for the transfer of surplus government equipment, including snow machines and boats, to community search and rescue groups.

Can the minister indicate if his department's policy also provides funding for the purchase of new equipment for community search and rescue groups? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, thank you for letting me know ahead of time about the questions that you will be posing. Knowing ahead of time is a great help.

The Department of Community and Government Services sometimes donates and allocates surplus equipment to search and rescue groups, whether it is outboard motors, snowmobiles, or boats. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. The government's most recent annual report on emergency management indicates that there were a total of 24 search and rescues in Hall Beach during the year, which was the highest number of any community in Nunavut.

Although you responded by indicating the surplus provision, can you indicate how your department takes the number of searches a community experiences into account when determining where to allocate surplus equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When surplus equipment will no longer be used by the department and can be used by either municipalities or search and rescue groups, we work with them. We evaluate conditions of surplus equipment. Although we want to provide support to search and rescue groups, sometimes the cost of repair outweighs the equipment's value. However, we're open to working with the hamlets when it comes to emergency management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Last January I brought letters from municipalities which were requesting contributions for community-based search and rescue groups.

The 2017-18 main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services included \$500,000 in contribution funding for community-based search and rescue organizations, which works out to an average of \$20,000 per community. Can the minister indicate if his department's 2018-19 main estimates will include an increase to this amount? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be close to the figure the member just stated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

**Question 045 – 5(2): Coral Harbour Airport**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Economic Development. It's his day today.

Concerns have been brought to my attention about the status of the contract between the Municipality of Coral Harbour and the territorial government. The funding is inadequate, but the government can use the funding to go down south.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, concerns have been brought to my attention about the status of the contract between the Municipality of Coral Harbour and the territorial government. My understanding of the situation is that the municipality is under contract to operate the aspects of the airport, but the current level of funding is very inadequate. Talking to my SAO, I understand that their annual shortfall is over \$50,000 a year and they have to make that up from the block funding that they get from the territorial government.

Can the minister clarify how many communities are funded to the airports in the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the level of detail of how each community is funded, but I can explain to the member a bit that there are generally two different funding sources or funding contracts to each community. One is to maintain the airport in terms of maintenance to make sure it's running properly and the snow the clear, the gravel is hard, and the other one is for the CARS operator, which is through NAV CANADA.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with which part of the contract that the hamlet is having a shortfall on, but by no means are we here to download our programs and put the hamlets in a deficit. If there are concerns, then they should be brought to my attention. Bringing it up in the House here is good, but come to talk with me with numbers and figures and we can deal with that, and if the member can specify on which part of the funding the Municipality of Coral Harbour is having a shortfall on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I just mentioned earlier in the preamble the funding aspect of the operations of the airport. The funding is very limited for the operations of the community and they have to take the money out of their block funding to address the shortfall of the airport operations. It's very important that we continue this program.

Can the minister clarify how much funding is provided by the federal government to the territorial government in terms of addressing the airports in our communities?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail with me right now, but I will get back to the member to get the figures back to him as soon as they are available to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I know that CGS does work with the municipality. That shortfall and block funding are different. (interpretation ends) Can the minister commit to working with the Minister of Community and Government Services to address the concerns raised by the municipality of my town? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The running of the airports in Nunavut is under the mandate of Economic Development and [Transportation] and we're there to fund them. It's not a responsibility of Community and Government Services. In your situation you said that the shortfall is being funded by the hamlet, which comes from CGS, but it is the responsibility of my department to fund airports and I tell the member that I will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

#### **Question 046 – 5(2): 2018 Northern Lights Conference and Trade Show**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier.

Yesterday we were listening to the interview with the Premier about the Northern Lights trade show where the whole cabinet went down to attend. Maybe I misunderstood it, but I heard that there was \$7,200 spent for a limousine. What was it used for and why was it being used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. I have been making a few statements about the trade show. As I indicated earlier, the trade show is not a yearly event; it is held every two years. Usually the monies that are expended for the trade show are budgeted. We spent four days down

there in attendance and it was of great benefit to us. We also attended different events. The premiers have the opportunity to be provided limousine services. It's an event that was already planned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was something of a surprise when I heard it in the news. I have been in Ottawa as the president of Nunavut Tunngavik and I have walked and also used taxis. Those are public funds we are talking about and we have to be careful about how we use them. With respect to this \$7,200, the government keeps saying that they don't have any money and it's an embarrassment to the government. Was it mandatory to use the limousine services in the amount of \$7,200? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for requesting additional information. As I indicated earlier, we have the budget set up before we attend any event and this is not the first time. The premiers are provided limousine services and it has already been budgeted. I would like to state again that it's not taking any money out of any programs or services that are provided. It doesn't take anything away from the budgets that are set aside for specific purposes. If we're going to be attending any events like the trade show, then they're budgeted and it's approved by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in the investigative report, I have not seen what money was spent by the Greenlanders or by the other provinces. Nunavut was the only one that used the limousine services and expended \$7,200. None of the provinces brought their whole cabinet to the trade show. Is this the first time that the entire cabinet attended the trade show, and is this the first time that limousine services were used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, this event happens every two years and this is not the first time. When the Northern Lights trade show first became an event, the premiers at that time also used the limousine services. When the government is in attendance, they are provided limousine services. This is not the first time that those services have been used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 047 – 5(2): Status of Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Taloyoak and my fellow residents of Kugaaruk, our government, and my colleagues.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

(interpretation ends) The issue of alcohol-related harm in our communities is very serious. In one of the communities that I represent in the Legislative Assembly, the possession of alcohol is prohibited. In the other community it is unrestricted. However, there are problems in both communities associated with alcohol abuse.

On November 8, 2016 the Government of Nunavut’s action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the minister’s predecessor.

Can the minister confirm which department of the Government of Nunavut is responsible for leading the implementation of its action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like being asked questions about such issues. Yes, we are concerned about alcohol-related harm in our communities. The communities have the discretion of whether it is going to be unrestricted or prohibited. Our department is responsible for alcohol-related plans. We have done tours of communities to talk about alcohol-related issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn’t hear a response to my question.

(interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut’s action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut indicates that “Sometimes the courts, justices of the peace, RCMP or other mechanism...restrict or prohibit an individual from accessing alcohol. These restrictions are often put in place after the individual, under the influence of alcohol, has caused themselves or others significant harm...to better reinforce these restrictions...the government could potentially support such court-ordered restrictions by not issuing an alcohol import permit to the individual. For this to work, the permitting system would need to be aware of the alcohol-related restrictions in place.”

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance is responsible for the permitting system. Can the minister tell us what actions have been taken to implement this idea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon David. Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through this campaign that's taking on right now on "Let's Be Aware," there are a number of initiatives that our department has been undertaking.

When it comes to areas where there are alcohol education committees where the local people decide how the permitting will work, we support that through providing training and also talking to interagency organizations, such as the RCMP and social workers. In some communities and the community I represent, they do have a restricted community... . The RCMP visits the committee on a regular basis and provides lists in terms of who has had alcohol infractions. That is very valuable for the committees.

If the community that you represent does have an alcohol education committee and they haven't gotten any training yet, I want to hear about it. From my understanding, each of the committees get training and when they get elected in, we try to provide that training to each of the committees and for each of our communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Minister of Finance for his response. My last question was answered partially, but I will ask it. (interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut also indicates that "The government will explore ways to better support the RCMP's efforts in reducing the harms of alcohol by improving information-sharing and communication between government and the RCMP." Can the minister indicate if this work has had an impact on reducing the illegal sale and possession of alcohol? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon David. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have the statistics in terms of whether it has reduced any illegal activities that have taken place in the communities when it comes to alcohol.

Through this campaign, it is becoming aware. "Let's Be Aware" is the title, Ujjirusukta. That's a very good campaign and if I was given opportunity, I would try to promote it as much as possible.

In the areas where there are prohibited communities, when a community decides that it's prohibited, we try to take action and inform the RCMP, who is our law enforcement, that

alcohol is not welcome in the community. When those infractions do take place, they do get charged.

I encourage people that are in prohibited communities and have concerns to talk to your RCMP members and to our department in terms of trying to help the communities battle the illegal operations that are taking place in our communities. It is having good communication at the community level that helps reduce alcohol violence and any other illegal activities that do take place.

When a community makes these decisions on which of those three areas that they're going to do, we try to support that. In order to support each other, we need to work together as a community and as "interagencies." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 048 – 5(2): Status of New Municipal Office for Sanikiluaq**

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

As the minister is aware, Sanikiluaq's municipal offices are currently located in a leased facility. The space is no longer adequate for the municipality's needs. It is my understanding that both the municipality and the Department of Community and Government Services have identified a new municipal office building as being a high priority in the government's capital planning process.

Can the minister indicate if funding to begin this project will be included in his department's capital estimates for the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. I thank my colleague for that question. Yes, our department is very well aware of the issues regarding the municipal office in Sanikiluaq or the lack thereof. Yes, our department is looking to put some money in this fall's budget to start to address the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the information. As the minister is also aware, concerns have been expressed about the inadequate size of the community hall in Sanikiluaq. I appreciate his willingness to be open to the possibility of incorporating a new community hall with the new municipal office as a multi-use facility.

Can the minister confirm that this option is still under consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I thank my colleague for the follow-up question. Mr. Speaker, at this point it's not out of the realm of possibilities, keeping in mind that the bigger you make it, the longer it takes to complete and harder to push through. At this point nothing is out of the realm of possibilities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we're on the realm of possibilities, I will continue.

>>*Laughter*

As the minister is also aware, I have been expressing concerns for a number of years about the general lack of adequate office space in Sanikiluaq. Will this issue also be taken into consideration in the design and planning of this new municipal office facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, if there was time for three more questions, I think we would end up with a really big building in Sanikiluaq.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I thank the colleague for these questions. I think it fits in the same category as the community hall issue. It's something that our department could discuss with the municipality, seeing how we're at the planning stage, not to say they can't or will happen, but we can discuss them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

#### **Question 049 – 5(2): Health Care for Outpost Camps**

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

Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago one of my constituents, who lives in an outpost camp near Kugluktuk, had an accident. The family called the health centre but was unable to speak with the doctor. The family eventually travelled to Kugluktuk by snow

machine to get medical attention, but it was slow going due to the weather and being cautious of the injury, which could have been quite serious.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain what protocols are in place for health centre staff to provide assistance in these rare situations where accidents happen out on the land or in outpost camps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the member for her question. I don't know the exact point-by-point protocol, but what I do know is that if somebody is hurt out on the land and somebody has a phone or a way of getting in contact with the health centre, then the health centre will do all they can to get somebody out where this person can be picked up. I know, for example, we have an agreement with the mining company. If somebody gets hurt out in the mine where they're mining, we're able to do that. There are different methods of transportation that the health centre can use. Although I can't tell you exactly step by step what it is, I know that there have been instances where we have sent out help to get somebody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. Mr. Speaker, my constituents live out at Contwoyto Lake Outpost Camp.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that our health centres are constructed in established communities and that the majority of our population lives in these communities. However, our history, our culture, and our tradition also include living on the land.

Can the minister describe how the Department of Health works towards accommodating and supporting traditional Inuit culture and lifestyle? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak, I believe there are two questions there, but you may respond if you wish.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if the member can give a better meaning of what she's getting at. It seems to be a totally different topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak, please clarify your question.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was: can the minister clarify how the government provides help and support to our constituents who live in outpost camps, especially in the provision of health services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I understood it, so I believe you also understood it, Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said in my last answer, we recognize that there are people who don't all live in the communities, although there are few. There are not a lot of examples, but we still consider them as part of Nunavut and we will do all we can to provide our services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? Okay. Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### **Question 050 – 5(2): Questions on the Budget Address**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Finance.

I was just going over the conclusion of his budget speech today, and in the conclusion in the last page, it talks of the need to continue adding necessary new programs and initiatives. What new programs and initiatives are prioritized for implementation in this government's life? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) All the new initiatives and the programs that are identified are the ones I just went through, and each department will be going in and doing their specific details. Those are prioritized in that order through this budget. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Budget Address he spoke to continue adding necessary new programs and initiatives. We must question which programs we can eliminate, which costs we can reduce, and how we can raise new revenues.

To me, when I read that, they're anticipating new programs to be rolled out. I'll move on to my next part of it. How does this government identify programs that are no longer effective or relevant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This is one that we mentioned in the House in terms of what is and is not relevant. A good case, in example, is that no longer effective or relevant in our Budget address is our fuel tax rebate.

As I committed in this House, I am looking for programs that we will longer need. I have not identified which of those programs are. I want to stress that, through our budget

process, when I do the call letters out to the departments, this is one of the areas that I ask departments and my cabinet colleagues to identify programs. I continue and will remain open to all Members of this House to help us identify these programs too. Through this address, I'm reaching out for this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How do I go about this, Mr. Speaker?

When there's a statement, such as the minister has made, that they're looking at identifying different programs that are no longer effective, every government in Nunavut's history has done some type of a program review to identify just that, programming inefficiencies or areas where more investment needs to be made.

In the last government, again, there was another program review, of which we saw a 28-page first phase tabled in the House last fall. What is the review status from the phase 2 or final report from the program review, and when will that be shared with members so that we can evaluate the effectiveness of some of the programs that were analyzed in that report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What was done and planned by the previous government, (interpretation ends) with phase 2, the one that we have been mentioning but have not shared is, because we're still working in terms of figuring out how to take those recommendations, the shared services report. That's one of the phase 2 approaches. There are a number of other things that we have asked through the operational audit in terms of the review. As those come along and if there are reports to be shared, then those would be shared with my colleagues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 051 – 5(2): Solid Waste Management**

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

Mr. Speaker, one of the documents that I tabled in the Legislative Assembly last week was a letter from the Municipal Council of Baker Lake concerning the issue of solid waste management and recycling in the community. In its letter, council has requested that a request for proposals be issued to identify long-term solutions for the community.

As the minister will be aware, his department issued a request for proposals on Friday of last week for a solid waste management feasibility study for the community of Clyde

River. Will the minister commit to having his department issue a similar RFP for Baker Lake before the end of this summer? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we can't issue a similar RFP before the end of this summer for Baker Lake. I know it's not good to hear that, but I'll give you my reasons.

During our winter sitting, when reviewing the funding available under the (interpretation ends) Building Canada Fund, (interpretation) is where I stated there was a total of \$136,000,000 in three distinct categories, if my colleague recalls. There were 13 communities within Nunavut where the solid waste sites required improvements. There are three subcategories: urgent, pressing, and planning required.

Since these communities are already identified, the preparations are already commencing for Clyde River's solid waste facility and the contract amount has been included here. The other projects that will be undertaken due to their urgent status as they are there for that reason, while other communities among the 13 are outside of the urgent status are in the secondary bracket, the preparations will be ongoing during this upcoming winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The request for proposals for the Clyde River study indicates that "domestic solid waste management in Nunavut is characterized by non-engineered facilities and primitive practices...poor management of dumpsites is a prominent issue in all of Nunavut's hamlets...the development of proper solid waste management sites is the first step in preparing the communities to adopt better waste management practices."

Mr. Speaker, although Baker Lake is undeniably the most beautiful community in the territory...

>>*Laughter*

...even I can't claim that our landfill is a work of art. Can the minister indicate how many other solid waste management feasibility studies his department will be undertaking over the coming year and for which communities these will be done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had mentioned in my first response, my colleague remembers when we were sitting before the House during our winter session, I talked about three different bundles of funding for solid waste sites. In

those three bundles there are 13 communities. For waste bundle 1, there are Arviat, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay; solid waste site bundle 2: Rankin Inlet, Kimmirut, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Pangnirtung; and bundle 3: Igloolik, Hall Beach, Whale Cove, and Sanikiluaq.

The planning stage has started in those 13 communities, as were identified after going through all the communities and seeing which ones needed the priority in dealing with solid waste. These were identified as at the top 13 and we will be working on those, of course, working to deal with the other 12 communities after that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall from his previous tenure during the Third Legislative Assembly, he tabled a document in the House on October 26, 2011 concerning the current state of solid waste management and facilities in Nunavut.

Can the minister indicate how he is working with the Minister of Environment to expand the use of recycling in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our departments work very closely together on solid waste sites and other issues that we have to work together on. I think we're collaborating very well in terms of trying to deal with the cleanup and remediation of some of these sites, Mr. Speaker. I assure you that we're constantly looking at ways to clean the dump and keep Nunavut clean. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Mr. Main.

#### **Motion 005 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and question period is now extended for another 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Question 052 – 5(2): Budget Address**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues for allowing me to ask another question.

I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get clarification from his Budget Address.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a particular term jumped out at me in terms of this Budget Address and those are the two words, “historical underfunding.” Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister to provide an explanation of what exactly he is referring to when he says, “historical underfunding.” Does this refer to internal budget allocation processes or is it referring to federal funding that the Nunavut government receives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon David. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for questioning this. When I am referring to it, it is a combination, as I mention, for our federal part and our territorial funding formula. We continually stress to the federal government that this is not adequate for the full of our budgets.

At the same time, when we do look at our own departments and one that, through this budget, I mentioned at least two of the departments have their core funding increased as a result of this underfunding. Through this House, there continues to be supplementary appropriations brought forward and it continues to be the same areas. That’s what we tried to address as part of this that we’re “underfunding.” (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that response. If there are areas which have been identified in terms of historical underfunding, my next question for the minister is: are there areas that have a pattern of historical overfunding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. We have to work together in order to achieve milestones. (interpretation ends) At this point I don’t have anything that is historically overfunded to identify. I can’t say in this House whether there has been any, but that’s a very good question for me to research and come back to this House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm encouraged to hear the minister will be looking into this.

In the Budget Address you also referenced what my colleague brought up a few minutes ago, which costs we can reduce. I'm interested in the mechanism by which the minister's department looks at the government's expenditures and tries to determine where we might have a bit of excess, or have a bit of *tunnuq*, to use a Nunavut term, a bit of fat to cut, Mr. Speaker.

I'll bring up a few examples. GN travel, which can, in some cases, be discretionary, the habit of March madness spending where departments and divisions rush to get their budgets fully spent, and issues with procurement, and not to mention of course trade shows. In terms of the mechanism within the Department of Finance, what is being done to determine whether we are wasting money as a government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There are a number of mechanisms that our government uses. Through our priority setting of *Turaaqtavut*, that's going to be the underlying mandate that we will go through.

For areas where there might be *tunnuq*, as you referenced, I wish we could have that in the Baffin because that terminology is almost lost in this part of the region, but for certain areas, to get into this in terms of the mechanisms, our government has a process that we call a three-year expenditure forecast. Through those expenditure forecasts, we call upon each departments and a call letter goes out to every department. I stress that to my cabinet colleagues too in terms of which areas we will need to cut or reduce.

There are also checks and balances that are taking place right now. We constantly monitor our overtime expenditures and, when there's a certain number of overtime that is taking place, we question the departments whether it's because of the underfunding, is it because of the number, or is it what overtime is designed to do is to go on unexpected additional work.

There are other things that we do. We do have internal audits that we go through in each of those areas and other areas that we have checks and balances for the purpose of discretions on what my Budget Address addresses. That is going to be clearly identified in the call letter.

As you might be aware, the call letter is expected the day after the Legislative Assembly's sitting here because it takes this long. By the time we get our budgets for the next fiscal year, which we anticipate to be presented to you in Marc, leading up to that, June is the first call letter that we give to our departments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Question 053 – 5(2): Addressing Concerns at Boarding Home**

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

Just this past week I had some questions about guards at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, and the minister indicated that there has been additional guards set at the boarding home.

The minister responded that the concerns are discussed with the people in charge, and also indicated that it was not our contract. (interpretation ends) The concerns are put on the table and discussed by the people in charge of operations. It is not our contract, but we do get concerns and we make sure the health contract is being adhered to.

(interpretation) With that, I would like to ask the minister to clarify, for this House, who has the contract with the Tammaativvik Boarding Home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The contract is between the Nova Group and Indigenous Canada. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I appreciate your response. Also, in terms of the cost of accommodations at the boarding home, they are under the federal government's Non-Insured Health Benefits program and not out of the Government of Nunavut funds.

However, the clients of the boarding home are Nunavut residents, and their medical care is coordinated by the Department of Health. Can the health minister clearly explain how she and her officials work with the people in charge of operations in the boarding home, and with the contract holder to ensure the contract is being adhered to? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do it through regular meetings. We also do it through hearing from people who bring up their concerns. It is quite often when we hear from residents that have stayed there or patients or escorts. If they have concerns, I usually hear about it, and I want to because that is the only way we can address things.

We have a team within the health department that looks after Tammaativvik making sure that they are following the rules, and they do that by meeting with them and bringing up these concerns. That's currently how we make sure that the rules are being followed. Now, things don't happen overnight. Things don't always happen as quickly as one wants, but it's something that we do continuously. We're always bringing up issues and discussing concerns that have been brought up to our attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the work done by the staff of Nunavut's Department of Health to ensure that the best possible health services are provided to Nunavut residents.

Will the minister commit to meeting directly with the contract holder to bring forward the concerns noted by myself and fellow MLAs about the conditions at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home and reporting back to this House on the results of her meeting?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have senior staff that meet with the contractor. I don't have a problem meeting with the contractor myself. Also part of the work that I plan on doing is going to Tammaativvik, along with the hospital and other places that we cover. Yes, I can do that. That would be okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

#### **Question 054 – 5(2): Recruiting for Senior Positions by Southern Search Firm**

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

In the government's most recent procurement activity report, the Department of Finance awarded a contract worth \$298,502 to a southern headhunting company for the purpose "of recruitment of senior-level positions."

My question to the minister is: how many senior-level positions were advertised and how many were actually recruited as a direct result of this nearly \$300,000 contract awarded to this headhunting company? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question on (interpretation ends) the contract that was awarded for that amount. I don't have that level of detail in front of me, but those contracts are done in hiring mostly the deputy ministers and in some cases there are assistant deputy ministers

and very difficult positions such as in the area of health. Those are the positions that we give to firms that go and look nationwide and that help us assist and go through this. If I may, it would probably be more appropriate if I would be able to compile that information and present it to my member colleague. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing that information from the minister. I would also ask that the minister would be able to provide us with the actual expenditures associated with this \$300,000 contract as well as the average cost to recruit senior-level positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When I receive that information, I'll review it and at the appropriate time we will be able to judge that. I'm sure that that level of detail is in our records and I should be able to look into that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

#### **Question 055 – 5(2): Requesting Funding from Regional Centre**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is now for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

He resides in Rankin Inlet. I had a meeting with the Coral Harbour Hamlet Council, and, usually, the smaller communities go to the regional hubs to make requests for funding because they don't have enough personnel. They don't know whether they should go to the headquarters, or whether they should go to the department. Yet we just heard right now that they have awarded a contract to head hunters to fill top positions in the government.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, usually, if you want any information or make requests for funding or if you have any concerns, you will be directed to Rankin Inlet headquarters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the people of Coral Harbour who make their requests to Rankin Inlet headquarters, could you identify which department they would approach? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question. I will give you the information on which department you should approach for any concern or request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

### **Question 056 – 5(2): Authority of Head Nurses**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. If she can elaborate about head nurses in the smaller communities, and if the minister can answer: what kind of administrative powers do they have in setting up and applying policies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite understand. Could you rephrase your question please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck, please rephrase your question.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) What authorities do head nurses have when it comes to creating a policy? (interpretation) If you understood that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there's any policy development, it would be done in conjunction with the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency, there has been a concern about some of the policies that are applied, not only by a single individual. How do you set up policies, for example: hours or setting up appointments in the health centre?

That's the reason why I ask, who makes the policies? Do they go by the total number of the population or is it the head nurse who writes the policies and applies them in any particular community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) A nurse can't just go ahead and write a policy for their health care centre, otherwise we would have a mess, we would have different policies everywhere, and health centres operating all under different policies. We have an organized way of determining what policies a health centre will use. I'm sure the head department works with the health centre. If there are policies written for appointments or the rules surrounding appointments, it wouldn't just be for one community; it would be for all.

Also the other thing that would be taken into consideration is the different situations that happen at the health centre. Sometimes you can have a crisis going on, there's something going on in the community that's taking the time of the nurses away from regular appointments, or we have a shortage of nurses at that given time. All of these things come into play. The head nurse, depending on what her authorities are, using the policies already in place, would make her own decisions of what's going to happen at the health centre for that day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for explaining that. When those of us who live in the smaller communities are not aware why they make the decisions... I'm not trying to make them look bad and I'm not trying to put them down. Can the Department of Health consider improvements? Maybe you can utilize the health committees in the communities more when you're setting up policies for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they can be utilized. I think they go through the hamlets. Yes, they can definitely be utilized. I keep mentioning the Office of Patient Relations. If you have any concerns, you can call that office. They're open. It's got a 1-855 toll-free number. You can call them or as an MLA, you can approach me as the minister to tell me of your concerns or problems and ask me to look into it. We're completely open because we want to improve all the time. If there's a problem, you have to try to solve it, talk about it, and suggest improvements as required. That's what we would do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 057 – 5(2): Budget Address**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Finance.

With respect to the Budget Address and the first subject he talked about on page 9, it is good to hear that Nunavummiut, since Nunavut was created until the present, our youth

and elders, those who are bilingual are always applying for jobs. On page 9 it's good to see, as he said, Community and Government Services and Nunavut Arctic College are working in partnership, have created new jobs. Right in there it says that this will be implemented for leadership training, as the Leadership Internment Training that was set up last year.

With that being, since Nunavut was created until the present, people who are fully bilingual and casual employees. Looking at that, what changes are going to be made in that program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon David. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for asking that question. Different agencies will be sitting down to plan the TDLs will be worked out by the Minister of Community and Government Services will be here, and the Nunavut Arctic College officials will be here on exactly what details will be worked out within that program. They will be able to report back to you. It states here the staff, according to the budget, were not budgeted for. We'll be transparent with the 50 new positions and you'll be able to ask about it in the House on what exactly they're doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. As a member of the Fourth Assembly I was re-elected. The Inuit who hold jobs in the Government of Nunavut have never really changed much. Some people have moved further up in their positions. Looking at the total a good example is, as you stated earlier, that the new positions that will be created and those people selected for the jobs will be put into advancing their education within their jobs.

With that being said, will this be open to all Nunavummiut, to all Nunavut beneficiaries who can be hired for those jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon David. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be different positions available for Inuit employees, if they want to advance their education on what duties they want, if they need more training or education in their present jobs, that we'll make this available to them. They'll be able to advance in their education. There are quite a few positions that I can tell you about that are slated toward that. What certain jobs, the details will be worked out by the departments and they'll be reporting back to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In the address it states for executive intergovernmental affairs, and I will use Baker Lake as an example that positions that have never been filled, or even advertised, that they should be filled by bilingual employees, but since they have never been filled or advertised, people haven't applied...we support Nunavummiut who are looking for jobs.

With that being said, the positions that have never been advertised nor filled...in this document will the process be improved when you are advertising those positions to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are talking about here...they will be clearly in the budget. Toward those positions...what you are talking about, the positions that have never been filled that never seem to be filled, we have different positions we are always evaluating that and I ask about them, why have they never been filled when are they going to be filled?

I have been provided different answers and I tell them to look at different avenues and they listen to you when we are doing our reporting. Positions that have been approved in the Assembly through the budget have to be re-advertised and I can report back to you on why, each department can report to you why they have not been advertised in your community. Please inform us and we are open and welcoming as ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that question period has expired and it cannot be extended. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 8. Written Questions. Item 9. Returns to Written Questions. Item 10. Replies to Opening Address. Item 11. Replies to Budget Address. Item 12. Petitions. Item 13. Responses to Petitions. Item 14. Reports on Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Item 16. Notices of Motions. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

### **Item 18: Motions**

#### **Motion 004 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the spring 2018 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Motions. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

### **Item 19: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 4, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Akeeagok.

#### **Bill 05 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 5, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 5 has been read for the first time. Thank you.

First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

### **Item 20: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 4, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019*, be read for the second time. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make operations and maintenance expenditures for this fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Akeeagok.

**Bill 05 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. Sometimes we get confused about what we can do regarding our bills.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 5, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*, be read for the second time. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 5 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Bill 06 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges  
– Second Reading**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Acts in Relation to Judges*, be read for the second time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This bill makes amendments to various statutes to change the designation of senior judge to chief judge. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried and Bill 6 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 4 and 5 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:52 and Committee resumed at 17:14*

**Item 21: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak)(interpretation): Good day to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 4 and 5. 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 review of Bill 4, starting with the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Rumbolt. Do you agree that we first deal with Bill 4? Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): We will be dealing with Bill 4. I would first like to welcome Minister Kusugak. I would now like to ask him to begin his opening comments on the Department of Community and Government Services. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleagues, for giving me the opportunity to make my opening comments on the O&M budget of the Department of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services continues to manage programs and services for local government, petroleum products, procurement and logistics, emergency management, information management/information technology, property and asset management, and sport and recreation, to name a few.

Our projected budget includes a net increase of \$10,301,000 over [last] year's main estimates.

The Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the fuel provision mandate for the GN. While PPD has no immediate plans to adjust retail fuel prices, the division is actively monitoring markets to secure product for the 2018 delivery season. Despite steadily increasing market prices, PPD's goal is to avoid increasing retail prices.

CGS continues to strongly support and fund the activities of the Municipal Training Organization. MTO has been providing much-needed training for municipal employees for over ten years now. The training provided by MTO allows municipal employees to gain skills that assist them in delivering services to residents with training costs that are low and affordable to municipalities.

Our Sport and Recreation Division recently completed its support activities for Team Nunavut's participation at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games. Team Nunavut consisted of 246 athletes, cultural and support staff participating in 14 sports and the cultural program. Team Nunavut finished seventh of nine participating units with a total of 55 ulus (15 gold, 17 silver, and 23 bronze).

>>*Applause*

In the same vein of increasing support for our municipalities, the Community Infrastructure Division has successfully delivered its second annual SAO capital planning workshop, funded through the Gas Tax Building Capacity Fund, to assist communities in building their long-term planning capacity. This workshop lays the groundwork for the annual community integrated community sustainability planning tours to follow up in the summer. The combination of workshop and community tours provides a strong platform

to reinforce the capacity building exercise established with SAOs with each municipal council.

The Community Development Division is currently leading a review, in collaboration with NAM, of the Municipal Funding Formula and the Water and Sewer Subsidy Program. These two programs support essential municipal operations and have not undergone substantial revision in more than a decade.

Our Property and Asset Management Division continues to pursue process improvements to ensure that the GN's preventative maintenance and lifecycle renewal initiatives will support higher-performing and longer-lasting buildings.

Mr. Chairman, CGS continues to invest in government operations by increasing funding to support our IT infrastructure. The number and types of devices that users need to work and communicate continues to increase and evolve with new technology. CGS is committed and continues to strive to improve telecommunications for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the department's Emergency Management Division has been working hard to improve search and rescue response available to the public. In 2017 there were 218 searches, 42 of which were triggered by SPOT devices. We continue to promote the use of SPOT devices and increase awareness of safety preparedness measures for all individuals going out on the land or water.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my comments give an appreciation of the progress that my department is making in addressing the goals of this government. CGS is a service-based department and we will strive to improve our service to all our clients. We will work collaboratively with all departments and our municipal government partners to meet the goals of *Turaaqtavut* as we work together in building Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Kusugak. You may now proceed with the standing committee's opening comments, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Member Simeon Mikkungwak, I thank you.

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development. I would like to note that I am the co-chair. Our chair, Allan Rumbolt, was unable to preside over the meetings, so I was the co-chair. We reviewed the proposed 2018-19 main estimates and 2018-2021 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The department's proposed 2018-19 operations and maintenance budget of \$251,600,000 (interpretation ends) represents a 4.3 percent increase from its 2017-18 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has increased by 33.0 PYs to 452.0 PYs, which represents a 7.8 percent increase from its 2017-18 main estimates. (interpretation)

It is the standing committee's understanding that a significant proportion of this increase is accounted for by the transfer of a number of community settlement maintainer positions to the department.

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

Amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2017. These amendments addressed the issue of cheque-cashing fees for government cheques and other matters. Regulations prescribing cheque-cashing fees for government cheques were published in the January 2018 edition of Part II of the *Nunavut Gazette*. The standing committee encourages the department to actively communicate these changes to retailers and other cheque-cashing institutions in the territory.

(interpretation ends) The department's draft 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-219 fiscal year is to "...continue to work on improvements to the Government of Nunavut's capital planning process...in collaboration with the Department of Finance."

(interpretation) The department's draft business plan also indicates that one of the priorities of the Local Government Services Branch during the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "continue to work collaboratively with municipalities to identify options to improve the integration of community infrastructure needs in the Government of Nunavut's capital planning framework." The standing committee looks forward to the public release of the government's updated *Capital Planning Process Handbook*.

The department's proposed 2018-19 main estimates include \$59,515,000 in contribution funding for a number of core programs that directly support municipalities, including the Municipal Funding Program, the Water and Sewage Funding Program, and the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program.

However, the standing committee notes that a number of the department's policies that govern the administration of these programs appear to have expired. These include the *Municipal Funding Program Policy*, the *Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy*, the *Sports and Recreation Grants and Contribution Policy*, (interpretation ends) the *NAMIX Grants and Contributions Funding Policy*, the *Nunavut Association of Municipalities Contribution Policy*, and the *Minor Capital Block Funding Policy*. The standing committee also notes that the department's Grants in Lieu of Property Taxes Program Policy also appears to have expired.

(interpretation) Nunavut's current territorial *Emergency Measures Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2007. Sections 5 to 9 of the legislation provides for the preparation of emergency management programs on the part of government institutions and municipal councils.

However, it has been over a decade since the legislation was passed and these provisions have still not been brought into force. The standing committee notes that the department's draft 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of the department's priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "work collaboratively with Government of Nunavut departments to develop departmental emergency preparedness plans." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area.

(interpretation ends) One of the department's priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year was to "develop strategies to address upgrades to core municipal infrastructure (water, wastewater, and solid waste) to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and municipal water licenses." The department's draft 2018-2021 business plan indicates that it has "received and distributed for review among relevant regulators, stakeholders, and communities, its findings regarding the feasibility of evidence-based options for appropriate water and wastewater regulations for Nunavut, and will continue to work with stakeholders to incorporate findings into the development of an overall water security strategy." (interpretation) The department's draft 2018-2021 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "initiate the development of a drinking water strategy framework." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area.

The department's proposed budgets for its telecommunications and information technology programs are projected to increase by a total of \$5,411,000 for the 2018-19 fiscal year, which represents an increase of 16.5 percent from the 2017-18 fiscal year. (interpretation ends) One of the department's priorities has been to "...continue to work on developing a broadband and telecommunications strategy, including funding agreements, collaboration models, and strategic partnerships to continue to evolve and update territorial connectivity." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area.

(interpretation) Notes included in the Government of Nunavut's 2016-17 public accounts indicate that the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services "...received Environmental Protection Compliance Orders from Environment Canada related to contraventions of regulations for storage tank systems for petroleum products at selected facilities in Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Iqaluit and Sanikiluaq. Those regulations provide for penalties for continued contravention by failure to address Environmental Protection Compliance Orders. The Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Sanikiluaq projects were completed in the fall of 2016. (interpretation ends) Compliance with the regulations at the Government's remaining storage tank farms facilities is expected to be completed over the years 2016 to 2021. Environment Canada has agreed to postpone further enforcement action pending satisfactory completion of the work as scheduled."

The standing committee strongly encourages the Minister of Community and Government Services to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the operations of the Petroleum Products Division of the department. (interpretation) The standing committee recommends that this report include detailed information concerning

the department's actions in response to Environmental Protection Compliance Orders, as well as such operational issues as rates of fuel evaporation, shrinkage, spillage, and theft in Nunavut communities, in addition to detailed information concerning inventory management practices and innovations

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2018-19 main estimates and 2018-2021 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Ms. Towtongie. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Going back to the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

### **Item 22: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 4 and the main estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Moving on with the orders of the day. Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 24: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Regular Members' Caucus meets tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Room with the Minister of Finance.

*Orders of the Day* for May 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 7
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 4
  - Bill 5
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 29, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:40*

