

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(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 Kaernerck
(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
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, June 1, 2018**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeegok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickers, Hon. David Joanasi, 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 9:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and members. Good morning, Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. I hope we have a good day today.

We can now proceed with the orders of the day. Mr. Mikkungwak, thank you for saying the opening prayer. We can now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Premier Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 032 – 5(2): Online and Videoconference Learning Options for Public Servants

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Igloolik and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs delivers many training programs for public servants. In 2017-18 my department offered a record number of training courses online and by videoconference.

Mr. Speaker, there were 5 courses offered online and 16 training sessions offered by videoconference, with a total of 96 participants from across the territory. The training included:

- Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel computer courses;

- Nunavut History and Governance course;
- Retirement planning courses;
- Employee and cultural orientations; and finally
- Mentorship information sessions.

Mr. Speaker, all of the training that my department offers is designed to improve participants' skills and abilities in their current positions and to help prepare them to take on higher positions within the Government of Nunavut. Offering training online and by videoconference helps to meet the needs of public servants in smaller communities or with varying work schedules.

Mr. Speaker, *Turaaqtavut* aims to provide workplace education and training for public servants across the territory, and online and videoconferencing options are an important component of that goal.

By offering more training opportunities for public servants in small and decentralized communities, our government is also working to increase Inuit employment and developing strong Inuit leaders. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 033 – 5(2): Nunavut Marine Tourism Regulations

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut *Marine Tourism Regulations* are now in force. These regulations apply to pleasure craft and commercial passenger vessels that are based outside of Nunavut.

The Canadian Arctic is increasingly open to the world. This comes with significant opportunities for Inuit, but there are challenges to overcome as well. It is in this context that the *Marine Tourism Regulations* have been created.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut saw a large increase in cruise passenger visits from 2010 to 2017. The Government of Nunavut is committed to ensuring that the industry develops in a reasonable, responsible manner that benefits Nunavummiut.

These regulations will help guide industry development in a way that creates opportunities for local Inuit businesses, artists, carvers, performers, and other individual stakeholders involved in marine tourism.

Mr. Speaker, the *Marine Tourism Regulations* equip the government with tools to track cruise operator spending in communities and monitor the number of Nunavummiut employed on-board cruise ships.

We remain committed to ensuring that communities have significant input over the types of tourists they want to see in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Angnakak.

Minister's Statement 034 – 5(2): MEDITECH Electronic Health Records

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, over the last eight years the Department of Health has been implementing the interoperable electronic health record system, MEDITECH, to community health centres across the territory.

In 2010 MEDITECH was rolled out in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, and in the years since has been implemented in a total of 23 communities.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to MEDITECH, health care professionals in hospital and community health centre settings have access to important patient information, such as lab and diagnostic imaging results, clinical reports, medication profiles, and immunization records.

When a health practitioner needs access to data that's stored in an electronic health record, it's available instantly regardless of where a patient may be located in the territory. Communication between physicians is greatly improved with electronic health records, allowing each party full access to a patient's medical history.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that the shift from paper to electronic recordkeeping makes for a more efficient health system, but it is also critical that medical records are secure, and our electronic health record system is providing better security and privacy for our clients and staff.

I am very pleased to report to my colleagues that the Department of Health is on track to implement MEDITECH in all Nunavut communities by the end of this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Minister's Statement 035 – 5(2): Fisheries Cookbook

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again say “good morning” to the people of Arviat.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker and fellow members, I'm pleased to announce that my department is developing a new fisheries cookbook. The book will include char, turbot and seal recipes, with all contributions by and for Nunavummiut.

Fisheries in Nunavut carry significant importance both culturally and commercially. With this cookbook, my department will continue to promote fisheries, sealing, and awareness of lesser-known species like turbot, increasing the demand and consumption of seafood within our territory and on our dinner tables.

Mr. Speaker, healthy and productive fisheries are critical for the long-term food security of our communities, providing accessible food and sustainable livelihoods for Nunavummiut. Char, turbot, and seal are renewable resources available in our very own waters, and this cookbook will further support the development of new value-added products...

An Hon. Member: I'm hungry.

>>*Laughter*

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: ...and local markets for Nunavut seafood.

Mr. Speaker, my department is also committed to passing on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* for generations to come, so the cookbook will include many traditional methods for preparing and sharing country food. I encourage everyone to share their favourite seafood recipes, country food memories, or harvesting stories by visiting my department's website for more details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Minister's Statement 036 – 5(2): Decision on the QEC's General Rate Application

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
Good morning to my constituents of Cambridge Bay and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the members about the Qulliq Energy Corporation's current general rate application.

The Government of Nunavut has approved the corporation's revised proposal to increase the electricity rates by 6.6 percent. However, the QEC's proposal to shift from the current rate structure to a territorial-wide rate structure was not approved.

To help minimize the impact of the new electricity rates on customers, the QEC will apply the rate increase over two years effective May 1, 2018 (retroactive) and again on April 1, 2019. Customers in public housing will not be impacted by the rate change.

Mr. Speaker, the rate increase will meet the QEC's revenue requirements and will ensure its effective operation and continued supply of safe and reliable power to our territory.

In light of the decision to keep the current rate structure, where electricity rates vary from community to community, cabinet came to a consensus that an assessment of the existing Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program through the Department of Finance is required. Once the assessment is completed, the Government of Nunavut will update members on the findings.

In the spirit of *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* and *Pijitsirniq*, the review of the program is to ensure that the needs of all Nunavummiut are taken into consideration. I, Minister of the QEC, have directed the QEC to work closely with the Government of Nunavut in initiating this important next step.

Mr. Speaker, the final decision on the QEC's application follows a thorough review process by the Utility Rates Review Council (URRC) and public consultations. I would like to acknowledge the URRC's vital role as an advisory body during the review of the QEC's general rate application.

More information on the new electricity rates will be made available on the QEC's website at www.qec.nu.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanase.

Minister's Statement 037 – 5(2): Outstanding Principals Award Recipient – Rebecca Hainnu

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my colleagues and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House of a recent award given to one of our principals. Rebecca Hainnu, the Principal of Quluaq School in Clyde River, is one of 40 principals from across Canada recently recognized as (interpretation ends) Outstanding Canadian Principals and this award is by the Learning Partnership, a Canadian non-profit organization that works to promote educational excellence across the country.

Mr. Speaker, this prestigious award was announced nationally on January 31, 2018. Choosing the 40 participants began with the nomination of hundreds of principals from across Canada and through a rigorous selection process the final 40 winners, including Rebecca, were selected.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to read from the press release announcing Rebecca's selection by the Learning Partnership:

(interpretation ends) "Rebecca works with the community and Elders to establish collaborative relationships and responsive practices. Drawing on her skills as a translator, Rebecca works to provide materials in Inuktitut, through 'Inhabit Media', to make foundational literacy programs accessible to teachers and students. Rebecca models compassion and resilience for staff and students. Her door is open and she is visible in the community, sharing her vision for improved student achievement and welcoming input and support. Rebecca is now recognized in her own community, region, territory and beyond, as a phenomenal, outstanding educator."

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Rebecca has also met with the other 39 principals at Canada's Outstanding Principals and National Academy of Principals at the Rotman School of Management in the University of Toronto. The focus of this networking opportunity was "Equity and Inclusion." Rebecca is already putting what she learned into use through a learning partnership at her school entitled "Welcome to Kindergarten." I know she will continue to grow as an educational leader and that she will share the knowledge she gained through this experience.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by recognizing Rebecca Hainnu's hard work on behalf of her students, staff, and community and by extending congratulations from myself and on behalf of my department for winning this prestigious award. I'm also pleased that I was able to be in Toronto when she received her award.

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the teachers and parents. Let's be proud of them as they carry out their duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 059 – 5(2): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's 2018 High School Graduates

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say “good morning” to the people of Nunavut, the people of Sanikiluaq, and especially my grandson if he's watching today.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a very proud moment for me to be able to rise in this House and acknowledge the hard work and success of the young men and women who are graduating from high school.

Mr. Speaker, a High School Diploma is a key that will open doors to a successful future. This year nine youth are graduating from Sanikiluaq's high school.

Mr. Speaker, these 2018 graduates are role models. Their success demonstrates to the youth of the community what self-discipline and dedication to their studies can achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate:

- Alisa Amarualik;
- Paulossie Amarualik;
- Jaani Audla;
- Moses Audla;
- Sappa Cookie;
- Joe Willie Iqaluk;
- Jane Kudluarok;
- Rebecca Kavik; and
- Quintin Sala.

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is also important to recognize the role of parents and guardians in encouraging their children to go to school and do their best. I also wish to acknowledge the role of the teachers and community members in supporting our youth as they work towards achieving their education and expanding their future opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sanikiluaq's 2018 graduates and extend my congratulations to everyone who helped our graduates reach this success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak. (interpretation ends) No? (interpretation) I'm sorry. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Member's Statement 060 – 5(2): Congratulations to Local Housing Organization Board Members in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to congratulate the recently appointed members of the boards of directors of the local housing authorities in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I asked questions earlier this week about the issue. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to note that these appointments were published yesterday in the *Nunavut Gazette*.

Mr. Speaker, the new members of the board of directors of Kugaaruk's local housing authority are Elisiusi Alakanuark, Randy Inutuinaq, Bernadette Iqqugaqtuq, Brenda Qauqjuaq, and Catherina Qirngnuq. (interpretation) I think you will recognize her last name.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the new members of the board of directors of Taloyoak's local housing authority are Johna Johnson, Kristine Kamingoak-Lyall, Lena Pauloosie, Levi Peetooloot, Sarah Takolik, Jeannie Ugyuk, and Marlene Umingmak.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the people who serve on the boards of our LHOs face many difficult challenges. They work with limited resources and they are often faced with making difficult decisions regarding such matters as housing unit allocations. Mr. Speaker, the employees of our LHOs also deserve our thanks for the hard work they do.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Netsilik, I will continue to advocate strongly for new housing units for both communities that I represent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in expressing our support for the members and employees of all of our communities' LHOs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 061 – 5(2): Congratulations to Arctic Bay's 2018 High School Graduates

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tonight at the Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay, they will be celebrating the graduation of students with the community. The public will be invited to attend the celebrations. There are six youth who will graduate tonight and I want to express my pride in them publicly, as I am quite proud of their accomplishments.

Further, to the students, their parents, as well as members of the community who have supported them in their work toward their completion of grade 12, they will be graduating formally tonight. As well, my advice to the students is to pursue further education in post-secondary courses and work toward improving your knowledge so that you can work in a career of your choosing.

My colleagues, I would like you to join me in congratulating:

- Robyn Qaunaq,
- Donathan Kigutikajuk,
- Emily Kunuk,
- Owen Willie,
- Kathleen Kilabuk,
- Rebecca Allurut

Further, to people in Arctic Bay, please join the graduates in celebrating tonight in your community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 062 – 5(2): Missed Days Due to Back Problems

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my apology to my constituents. I have a recurring back problem and I wish to apologize that I wasn't able to attend the session for two days due to it. My mother used to suffer from back pain and perhaps I have inherited her back problem. I inherited my shyness from my father.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker and the people of Amittuq, I apologize to you all for not being able to attend for the past two days. Nonetheless, I will continue to work hard on your behalf. Although my back is continually painful, I did try to attend yesterday, but I couldn't tolerate the pain and didn't stay due to my back pains.

I just wanted to apologize to my constituents for this reason since I wasn't able to attend. That is what I wanted to state today, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for providing me with this opportunity. That is all.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towntongie.

Member's Statement 063 – 5(2): Happy 50th Anniversary to David and Rosie Oolooyuk

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that my older sister-in-law, Rosie Qaunnaq Oolooyuk, and my husband's older brother, David Oolooyuk, are celebrating their 50th anniversary, which is quite long.

>>Applause

I also want to give some background about my brother-in-law. David Oolooyuk has won several dog sled races in the past from Manitoba to Kivalliq, so he was really invested in dog teams, but today he is starting to lose his mobility.

To my older sister-in-law, Rosie Oolooyuk, I love you and miss you. She recently came back from Washington, DC. She went to the Smithsonian Institution. Her ancestors from Qairniq were involved in our community and some of the leaders of the Qairniq clan include Maani Uluyuk and Joan Atuat, who are actually from the area of Rankin Inlet. Let us keep them in our thoughts. Most of us Inuit migrated to Rankin Inlet after it was created. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 064 – 5(2): Funding Announcement for Churchill Railway and Port

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, (interpretation ends) ministers, Premier, (interpretation) and the people watching the televised proceedings.

Yes, I am thrilled to rise today, Mr. Speaker as news stories were announced that the facility in Churchill and Manitoba, which is currently part of their work, which is the Hudson Bay rail line resulted in an (interpretation ends) agreement-in-principle (interpretation) to work on the rail line, so I ask colleagues to share in celebrating this good news with Churchill and Manitoba.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the partners involved are northern communities and First Nations in northern Manitoba. They're One North, and Missinippi Rail LP. They have joined forces with Fairfax Financial Holdings and there's an agreement in principle to buy the assets in terms of the rail line and the port at Churchill from OmniTRAX.

It's notable that the announcement made Wednesday afternoon came from the federal government. As a Kivallirmiut, who sits north of this area of the country, I'm encouraged to hear that the federal government is indeed interested in investing in the north, Mr. Speaker.

The federal minister, Jim Carr, natural resources minister, was quoted in CBC as saying it's a very good day for Churchill, for northern Canada. The minister was also quoted as saying that indigenous people will have a stake in all of this, their voices will be clearly at the table, and they too will be very much a part of what we know will be an exciting future for Churchill and the north.

Mr. Speaker, I can only assume that when the minister refers to the north, it includes Nunavut. I very much look forward to the day when the federal government is announcing infrastructure deals, whether they're private or whether it is public funds involved that do involve Nunavut and the Kivalliq region,

Mr. Speaker. I would like to point out that the community of Churchill... .

At this point I'll ask for a little bit more time to conclude my statement. (interpretation)
Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

I wanted to speak to this railway line, as it was no longer in use for some time. The Mayor of Churchill, Mike Spence, whom I would like to acknowledge, has tirelessly championed this cause and continues to voice his support for this project.

However, I would like to know if our government has released any announcements on their position related to the Kivalliq winter road or the potential of a (interpretation ends) hydro line and fibre line. (interpretation) In the news stories it seems that our government is not very vocal about their support. It seems the preference is silence, but if we're silent, how will they be able to hear that we support it, Mr. Speaker? That confuses me.

The people of Churchill have been very vocal and you hear them on the news regularly, and they keep advocating for it. I'm proud of them and their work is worthy of support. I will have questions for the Premier at the appropriate time on how we, as Nunavut, work with Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 065 – 5(2): Working for the Betterment of Future Generations

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, cabinet members, interpreters, the CBC booth, and all of our staff. Good morning to everyone in this House.

We sometimes do not agree and even have heated arguments, but we are bigger than our disagreements because we are working on behalf of our future generation.

I, too, am starting to get grandchildren. When I arrived last Friday, my grandchildren wanted to sleep over, the two little cousins. When I was alone with them, they started fighting and they would push and nudge each other. Then they would say, "Let's play hide-and-seek," and they forgot their fight right away.

That's exactly how we should be behaving in the House because this is not a personal issue; this is for our future generations. We are working on behalf of our younger generation so that they can have a brighter future and say that their ancestors worked on behalf of them. Let's work on behalf of the future generation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 066 – 5(2): Traditional Practice of Sharing Food

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to an integral part of Inuit, which is hunting, harvesting, and our cultural food resources which are quite unique. Inuit are quite proud of their traditional foods, especially in the South Baffin region, where marine mammals are harvested and Inuit hold communal feasts to celebrate the harvests.

If any of you have gone to Kimmirut in the past month, pretty much for the entire month the residents were hunting beluga at the floe edge. When they conduct a communal feast, they call it "talirunganaa" in the Kimmirut dialect. As well, for seals here in the South Baffin, when Inuit gather to share seal meat, they call it "alupajaaq."

Mr. Speaker, this tradition will continue as our culture stems around eating our country foods as a community, and I want to express my pride in all hunters who provide country food to their fellow residents.

Further, under Ministers' Statements, an announcement was made about a (interpretation ends) fisheries cookbook (interpretation) that would be made. Perhaps *talirunganaa* and *alupajaaq* should be included in the cookbook, but I want to thank the people who

provide country food to others less fortunate, especially in light of the deliciousness of our country foods. We can either eat them raw or cooked for any animal that is harvested by our hunters.

It is now geese hunting season; geese are also a delicious meat. Our cultural traditions revolving around hunting is still very strong and it will continue, so let us celebrate our traditions and be proud of our culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 086 – 5(2): Justices of the Peace

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister of Justice.

First of all, I want to begin by congratulating one of my constituents, Charlie Tautuaqjuk, for his appointment as a Justice of the Peace. This appointment was published yesterday in the *Nunavut Gazette*.

As the minister will be aware, the importance of appointing JPs in our communities is an issue that I have been raising for a number of years.

For the record, can the minister confirm how many Justices of the Peace are currently serving in Baker Lake? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, my colleague, for the question. Currently there is one person serving as Justice of the Peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday's *Nunavut Gazette* indicated that ten new JPs have been appointed in the territory. For the record, can the minister confirm the total number of JPs currently serving in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Currently we have... I'm just trying to tally up my numbers here. Currently there are nine Justices of the Peace in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what plans her department has to encourage more Nunavummiut to apply to take the training necessary to become a Justice of the Peace? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We encourage Nunavummiut to submit their resumé's if they are interested in Justice of the Peace. We advertise within the communities and we ensure that all positions are filled. Again, we encourage them to apply, and then the recommendations are made to executive, which appointments as Justice of the Peace are finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 087 – 5(2): Support Services for Public Servants

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier during my member's statement, I seemed unwelcoming, at least in my own mind. Therefore I first say "good morning" to my colleagues, the people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, Nunavummiut, and to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question today regarding the support of the employees within our territory of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is in need of support services more than ever. As Nunavummiut, we are trapped in our own society. As Nunavummiut, we are losing our friends and children far too quickly.

Can the minister elaborate on what types of support services are available to government employees who are facing difficult circumstances in their lives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There are a number of initiatives that we do to help support the staff in our public service.

The one that we often encourage and utilize very well is our Employee Assistance Program. There is a toll-free number that is available to any of our staff and that has a range of assistance to our staff. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you, minister, for your response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as we know when anyone assigned to heavy workloads can easily get burnt out, it seems that we do that to our staff a lot, especially when there are vacancies and staff have to do extra work on top of their own jobs.

Can the minister describe what steps the government takes to fill vacant positions, especially those positions where the lack of employees puts an additional burden on other workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to vacancies for positions that need to be filled, we go through a number of processes. If there's an urgent need, there are ways, such as hiring casuals and staffing actions are the fastest way of hiring our staff if there's capacity.

I just want to qualify that if there are positions that are in those... . If you look at some of the work that we ask our staff to do, they do get overworked. As we have been talking about this, there's overtime that takes place in our communities. We monitor those through those. If there are justifications where they need additional staff, our departments go through the budgetary process to try to get some of those staff increased. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it seems that many of our employees do not know where to turn to for support when the stresses of their personal lives or their work lives become overwhelming. Will the minister commit to tabling information about staff support and assistance programs so that more government employees can be made aware of them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Member, I very much thank you for requesting for that information to be tabled. We try to publicize this information to all our staff. We provide that information through the Department of Finance's website. All our employees have computers and they can read it. If they don't understand any of the information, they can approach the staff of the Department of Finance and ask them questions.

We also table reports to the House annually. In English it's called the (interpretation ends) Public Service Annual Report. (interpretation) We provide that service through the Public Service Annual Report and the information would arise. Staff, please don't be afraid to ask questions or request help. If we need help, let's help each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 088 – 5(2): Nunavut Liquor Commission

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance, who is also responsible for the Nunavut Liquor Commission. I would like to return to the questions that I asked on March 14, 2018 regarding the bottle deposits.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent annual report of the Nunavut Liquor Commission indicates that the commission charge on the bottle deposit fee is 29 cents per bottle and 14 cents per can. The report also indicated that the commission incurred \$178,000 in expenses related to the bottle deposit refund program during that fiscal year.

As the minister had stated on March 14, recycling is not in our liquor commission, but we have a contract agreement with a local contractor to accept recyclables for alcohol. Can the minister clarify what the entity's responsibilities are under the agreement with respect to where the bottles and cans ultimately end up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For the recycling program, any of the beer cans or wine does go to the entity that is here and the onus is on the company to do the recycling. That is one area that does get provided as part of the recycling program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. My next question is: as the onus is on the entity to recycle these products, is the entity currently in compliance with the terms and conditions? What I am trying to ask is: does this entity actually recycle these products? Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the member raised it in the last sitting, it was revealed that there are some components that are going into the landfills. I have instructed my officials to look into the contract and how they are supposed to go and provide the recycling. I have not got a report back on that one from my officials yet on what is taking place right now. As the member mentioned, this is unacceptable and is one

that I am looking into. I should be getting a response. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had previously mentioned, the bottle deposit fee is 29 cents. When customers return these bottles, they receive 25 cents in return, meaning that the contractor keeps the 4 cents difference.

Now, considering that there are currently no glass recycling facilities in the territory and it is not exactly economical to ship the glass out to be recycled, they do end up in our dumps and solid waste facilities.

Aside from that, it has come to my attention that our local restaurants and other establishments don't even have the glass products picked up by the contractor to be recycled. They just get thrown in the garbage and put directly into the landfill. My question is: when this occurs, does the contractor still receive the 4 cents revenue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) No, the contractor gets what gets delivered to him, either by the public or by the establishments. Any of those gets recorded. The obligation for the contractor is to respond back in terms of how many bottles and how many cans have been returned. Through that, we pay the contractor the fees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 089 – 5(2): Carbon Pricing in Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like I'm going to continue the trend of the day and direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the minister made a minister's statement on carbon pricing in Nunavut. My question is a fairly simple one, Mr. Speaker. What was the basis for the decision for Nunavut to not administer a territorial carbon tax? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. The decision of not administering the carbon tax was that since the introduction of the federal carbon pricing, we have echoed over and over and again with the federal government that we shouldn't be double-taxed in this carbon tax.

The onus was that each jurisdiction was to tax and, if they didn't, the onus would be on the federal government to put a backstop.

We have been communicating with our federal counterpart that carbon tax does not make sense for our territory. This is the only way that we send a message of saying that we will not administer our carbon tax. We hope that we don't get that tax. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the minister's statement, the government was celebrating \$15 million in new revenue. Mr. Speaker, this is an empty celebration. These revenues are based on someone else deciding to impose a tax, increasing an already high cost of living for Nunavummiut.

The government has acknowledged that "We have yet to see how specifically the federal government proposes to recognize Nunavut's circumstances through their proposed backstop program."

Mr. Speaker, by relinquishing our right to actively participate in administering a carbon tax, what is the current status of discussions on this proposed backstop program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There is a pan-Canadian framework as part of this carbon pricing and one in which with our joint committees that are being done. For the territories, there has been a very high level working group that consists of various departments, including the Department of Finance, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, and through that, with the federal agencies that are administering. That work is still continuing and some of the work in terms of how to administer this would still be in those discussions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Other jurisdictions have exempted certain groups or industries in their carbon tax plan. By relinquishing control over a tax on our residents to an outside jurisdiction, are there discussions imploring the federal government to provide exemptions to such groups as harvesters feeding their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes, there are a number of conversations that are taking place. Our Premier just had a meeting with the

Prime Minister and also with his counterparts with the northern territories in trying to exempt it. There are a number of exemptions that we would like to see, such as aviation fuel. We don't have a choice of flying our food here. Taxing that is going to hinder a lot of our customers, including ourselves, our harvesters, and our heating.

Without getting into finding alternative energy, we will need to do our heating through our diesel. That's a fact. There are no immediate alternatives. It's not fair for us to be taxed and to be double-taxed is even worse. I applaud the question and I continue and urge Nunavummiut to have this conversation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 090 – 5(2): Meeting with Inuit Organizations

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say “good morning” first of all to my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

My question today is for the Premier.

As we follow *Turaaqtavut* in the Fifth Legislative Assembly, it states that we would work with the Inuit organizations. That's what we agreed to during the retreat in Pond Inlet.

I would like to ask the Premier: has he met with the Inuit organizations in Nunavut as to how we can work together with them? Has he asked them any questions like that or has he met with any of the Inuit organizations since the mandate was introduced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ever since we started, my ministerial colleagues have met with Inuit organizations and I'm in continual discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other Inuit organizations. We're in constant conversation with them. We try to keep each other informed through correspondence. We will work with the Inuit organizations and we keep a conversation open with them. We have been in communication with them since the mandate was introduced and even before that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his response. I would like to ask the Premier: with respect to the Inuit organizations that he meets with, what are they pushing hard for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak for the organizations because they have their own thoughts and needs or wants. After we put together *Turaaqtavut*, we met with NTI and asked them how they feel about it and they agree with it. Following the Nunavut Agreement, we have to keep the Inuit organizations informed and consult with them. We have always had to inform them about what we are doing here. They approve of it and we have gotten their approval for the things that we want to request through *Turaaqtavut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Premier's letter to *Nunatsiaq News* through (interpretation ends) letters to the editor, (interpretation) it's clearly written in English and I'll read it. (interpretation ends) "Likewise, we have developed a mandate implementation plan and tasked an interdepartmental oversight committee to ensure that actions are being taken to fulfil each and every priority" in the *Turaaqtavut* Mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier: what actions have been taken to ensure that the mandate has been taken up to today? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. We keep the Inuit organizations informed about the priorities of this government. We all know that our elders are a priority of this government. We make sure that the Inuit organizations are informed about all our priorities. I have repeatedly said since I became the Premier that we're going to be in partnership with the Inuit organizations because it's a requirement. We have to work with the Inuit organizations and other entities and businesses. I have said that repeatedly and that's also indicated in our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Question 091 – 5(2): 2018 Western Premiers' Conference

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. I had told him earlier about the questions that I was going to be posing.

The Premier had a meeting with his counterparts in the Northwest Territories. We have a beautiful country over here. They had a meeting in Yellowknife. This correspondence was released and it outlines a number of things.

In regard to infrastructure, we have been working very closely as Kivalliq communities with Manitoba, especially on the issue of health, as we send our medical patients down there. We also have had dialogue with Manitoba businesses and transportation. The airlines are owned by Manitoba.

In regard to infrastructure, there are two items that keep coming, one regarding the Manitoba-Kivalliq highway and the other one is the hydroelectric power line. I would like more information on those two subjects and how much support they're providing Manitoba for those types of infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your question. My father was from the Kivalliq region and all his descendants are living over there.

Yes, it's very true that we had a meeting in Yellowknife with Premier Pallister. We didn't cover those subjects that you described, but I would like to inform you that we already have a memorandum of understanding. It's quite old now as it was signed in November 2015, but the MOU covers 2015 to 2020.

We do have dialogue with Manitoba in regard to health. The memorandum of understanding covers health, (interpretation ends) energy, economic development, tourism, transportation, and cultural trade. (interpretation) It covers several subjects and how we can work on them.

With respect to the Kivalliq-Manitoba highway that you spoke to, I want my colleague to know that (interpretation ends) the National Trade Corridors Fund (interpretation) provided funds to the overall budget, but it was not included when the funds were disbursed in the program. This project wasn't approved.

However, we will continue to work together on this matter. Further, we plan to set up a meeting with Premier Pallister of Manitoba to discuss the MOU and to try to update the agreement. This memorandum is getting quite old as it was agreed to in 2015. This is how we are trying to deal with this issue. It is obvious and as I stated earlier, I haven't had a chance to speak to him on this issue, but I plan to meet with him specifically on this agreement to modify it as this government is also quite new and we plan to try to complete these action items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. In regard to the memorandums of understanding, I understand that they do provide benefits. Governments can choose not to follow them. In English, (interpretation ends) they are not binding. In this case, it's unfortunate that it's not binding.

With regard to the winter road project and the hydroelectric line, has the Premier received any indication, written or otherwise, that the Government of Manitoba supports these projects? What I'm trying to get at is if we're trying to connect electrical resources or if we're trying to connect to Canada in terms of a road, and if the jurisdiction that we are trying to connect to doesn't support our efforts, then it's going to be very hard for us to

go forward. I feel that if Manitoba does not support our efforts, then maybe we should look at Saskatchewan because they also have northern communities.

Again, does the Premier know if the Government of Manitoba supports the efforts for a winter road and/or a hydroelectric line? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems obvious that this may require a two-phased approach when contemplating a road, as (interpretation ends) it could be an all-weather road or a winter road. Certainly the cost is different right there.

Of course, through the Manitoba-Nunavut roundtable, these discussions have been taking place. (interpretation) The discussions have been ongoing from the beginning. Further, when discussions are held at the roundtable, the Minister of CGS also acts as a co-chair of the roundtable and the discussions have been held at that forum. There have been releases of support.

However, with respect to operational issues, the federal government has to be part of this project. The federal government, Manitoba, and our Government of Nunavut would comprise the parties, as this isn't a single or two-party project. The federal government has to be party to this development.

Further, I want my colleague to be aware that I have continually brought up this subject at other meetings. As a matter of fact, when I had a meeting with the Prime Minister, I advised him that Nunavut is the sole remaining part of Canada not connected to the mainland or to the south of 60. We are the last part of Canada not connected, so we continue to advocate for this development.

Only through this avenue, obviously, can the proper support be shown if the funds are made available through the (interpretation ends) National Trade Corridors Fund (interpretation) that finances these types of projects. At another meeting with the three northern premiers and the Prime Minister, this subject was also brought up to the Prime Minister that the (interpretation ends) National Trade Corridors Fund (interpretation) requires further funding past the year 2019. This was in keeping this project in mind. That is how we have dealt with this matter, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the information the Premier has provided, but I am still in the dark. As a regular member, I don't have access to the same information that the Premier does.

As the Premier has pointed out, it's important for the very high levels of leadership, including our Prime Minister, including the Premier of Nunavut and, I feel, the Premier of Manitoba, to lead when it comes to these very large infrastructure projects. I

understand that the Hudson Bay Roundtable exists, but that isn't the place where these high-level infrastructure decisions will be made, Mr. Speaker. They will be made within the highest levels of government.

Does the Premier have any indication, written or verbal, that the Government of Manitoba supports our efforts to connect by road or by hydroelectric line? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this government was created, we have not received any correspondence on those issues. As I indicated earlier, we hardly brought this up when we had our meeting in Yellowknife. Just as a reminder, Premier Pallister, the Premier of Manitoba, and I are preparing to have a meeting at a later date. At that time we might possibly bring this issue up, but to date I have not received any correspondence since I became the Premier of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 092 – 5(2): Decommissioning of Old Airport Terminal Buildings

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

As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved capital funding earlier this year for the decommissioning of Sanikiluaq's old airport terminal building. As the minister will also recall, I strongly support this action given the condition of the building and the hazards that it poses.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of the tendering process for this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't count how many ministers that have responded to the member's question. I will finally be able to give him an answer that he would be agreeable to. The tender for the project to decommission and get rid of the old ATB building in Sanikiluaq should be out by the end of this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For nine years I have been after the government to move forward with this project. My next question is: can the minister clarify the department's timeline for completing this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As today is Friday, I can answer the member and let him know that yes, we do have a timeline. The decommissioning of the ATB building in Sanikiluaq should be done by the end of the summer. Just to clarify, because the summer in Resolute Bay and the summer in Grise Fiord and Sanikiluaq might be quite different, the project should be completed by October of this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: That's summer?

>>*Laughter*

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to finally see this project getting near completion and we will see how it goes in October.

The department's business plan indicates that it is also planning to conduct similar work in Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Nanisivik, and Resolute Bay. Can the minister clarify the department's current timetable in respect to these communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The environmental assessments have been done for the buildings that the member has mentioned. We don't have the funds in place to get rid of or decommission those buildings yet. We're working on one place at a time. Sanikiluaq is first and then we will be looking at the other communities. We are committed to removing these, but currently we don't have a timeline for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 093 – 5(2): Marine Tourism Regulations

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning to my community of Gjoa Haven.

Guess who my question is to today?

>>*Laughter*

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

As the minister will recall, we passed important amendments to the *Travel and Tourism Act* during the previous Legislative Assembly. One of these amendments provided the government with the authority to make regulations concerning marine tourism.

This is an important issue for the people of Gjoa Haven, as our community experiences a number of cruise ship visits each summer, and we are likely to see more visitors in the years ahead given the interest in the Franklin Expedition.

Mr. Speaker, the new *Marine Tourism Regulations* were published late yesterday afternoon in the *Nunavut Gazette*, and I now have had the opportunity to review them with care.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is this: Schedules A and B of the new *Marine Tourism Regulations* contain important new codes of conduct for both cruise ship operators and passengers. Can the minister clarify how his department plans to enforce these regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm surprised that the member got up early this morning to read the gazette, but I'm proud that he's right into it.

Mr. Speaker, these regulations are new right now. Our first goal is to make them known to the communities that get cruise ships and to the cruise ship operators and any other tourist vessels that might come, whether it be pleasure crafts or commercial crafts. If the code of conducts is known and then if there are any complaints, they would be brought forward to our department, and then our department will deal with those complaints as they come in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 5 of the new *Marine Tourism Regulations* requires cruise ship operators to submit detailed post-trip reports to the department's chief tourism officer. These reports are to provide important information concerning the ship's visits to our communities. This information will be very valuable for our municipalities and local economic development officers given their role in promoting responsible and sustainable tourism.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to ensuring that the post-trip reports, which are submitted under section 5 of the new regulations, are shared with the relevant municipal authorities in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't see a reason why we would not share that information once we have it and have analyzed it with the affected communities or the communities that get the tourist ships. We're here to work with the communities to maximize the benefits and employment that these communities that do get cruise ships can get. We will be working with the municipalities and any businesses in the communities on how we can get as much benefit as we can from the cruise ships that do visit our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday... . My right hand couldn't turn the page.

Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of June and summer is just a few weeks away. Can the minister indicate how many cruise ship operators will be receiving copies of the new *Marine Tourism Regulations* in the coming weeks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fellow members, today is the first day of summer, which I disagree with. When I came to work this morning, I saw snow and ice. It might not be summer yet.

For the member's question, every cruise ship that will be coming into Nunavut will receive this information so that they have it and they can study it and familiarize themselves with it so that they know what the rules are. We have to have a set of rules that are well understood and that are adhered to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 094 – 5(2): Priorities for Elders

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. My question is for the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Regarding our elders here in Nunavut, as you just now mentioned, our elders are a priority for this government. I would like to ask this first question: how will this government make our elders a priority in Nunavut? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that I am old enough to be an elder, I will try to respond appropriately.

Indeed we have clearly stated how we need to prioritize our elders and what types of services should be provided to our elders in our territory. This will be the first step in how we provide services to our elders. That is how we plan to start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying that. Let me then elaborate further. Having been brought up by elders, when they make a truthful assessment even though it may not apply immediately, it usually turns out their assessment was correct.

Let me clarify that a bit further, Mr. Speaker. An elder once asked me a question, wondering how he could be driven to places where one could enjoy the day, such as being taken to events with numerous people. Let me use this example of the events for Canada Day. Even though the day seems enjoyable, the elder feels that his children are no longer part of his daily life.

Communities that have elders facilities, to use Igloolik as an example, the elder stated to me that he too enjoyed the day and wanted to partake in the celebrations, but they couldn't personally walk to the event. I wonder if our elders who are placed in these elders facilities by the government can be assisted, as the elder touched me deeply.

It is unfortunate I lost my voice for a bit.

I wonder, throughout Nunavut and not just Igloolik or just Hall Beach, if vehicles could be provided when public celebrations are being held as elders also wish to partake in the festivities. To use a bus as an example, I wonder if these can be used to provide transportation for our elders in Nunavut. Can they be provided vehicles? Let me start with that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently met on the issue of elders as I became responsible of the Nunavut Seniors Society, and that's what we call them in Inuktitut. I have consulted with them to hear about what services they want to see in the communities.

I have heard in the past that... I know elders too. When I go to the communities, I say that we should care for our elders and give them assistance. This is our responsibility as Inuit. If we have a grandfather, let's help them. I encourage the families as our

relations... . Our elders have worked hard in the past and that's why we're here. This is Inuit tradition.

There are different programs for assistance to seniors. For instance, the Department of Health cares for elders and they have different services. They have caregivers on staff to assist the elders. They have to assist elders if they wish to go somewhere. Also, the Department of Culture and Heritage provides funding on a proposal basis for the seniors societies in the communities on what assistance they can provide. They can apply for funding through Culture and Heritage. They can take elders out on the land because elders enjoy the land. Further, the Department of Family Services has assistance available, even the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and they provide elders facilities.

Those are the different types of programs. It's not like we don't do anything, but we work together in the government on how we can provide for our elders. As I stated earlier, these are available through applications. I encourage the elders groups in the communities to apply for these different types of assistance programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the minister for clarifying that on the types of assistance available to our senior citizens here in Nunavut.

I hope and encourage our youth to listen to their elders. As our Premier stated, as provision of services to our elders as listed in the *Turaaqtavut* Mandate, younger people should always try to provide assistance to our elders, especially since we can't forecast the future. The Premier also stated that if it weren't for our elders, then none of us would be present today in the House, and personally I would not be standing here either.

I wonder if our Nunavut elders with these potentially beneficial programs that you referenced earlier under the Department of Family Services, Culture and Heritage, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation have assistance programs available. I am grateful for the provision of this information, as the Minister responsible for Seniors.

While we are debating the provision of services, as you stated emphatically, I wonder if the government can actually repatriate the authority over certain programs to ensure that our elders are provided these services, such as being driven to events or outdoors to enjoy the weather, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to reiterate further this statement related to our language and provision of services, providing assistance to one another. I wonder if the minister can speak to this issue. Although I am quite young, I am also a mature adult. Can the minister state to the senior citizens of Nunavut, through *Turaaqtavut*, what kind of additional programs and services you will be providing to the senior citizens of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we have been here, we have heard more than once about our senior citizens being sent out of the territory for their care and they do get very homesick when they're under that care. That's our priority and that's the issue we keep raising since we have been here. Starting from the Pond Inlet retreat, our new government had set this as their priority.

Our elders need to reside in Nunavut and that's our priority. I just want to point that out. Also, we have stated in the *Turaaqtavut* Mandate, "Let's listen to our elders as to what kind of better support we can have and how we can better listen to the elders," (interpretation ends) responding to the needs of our elders.

(interpretation) Let's be aware that government alone can't care for our senior citizens. As you have stated, the grandchildren and children should be providing more help to their elders. The government alone can't do it. It takes a whole family to take care of our senior citizens because they raised us and they're the ones who have brought us forth to this time. Therefore we need to provide better help to our elders.

I know that there are seniors' societies in the communities and I am very proud of them. I ask them to work continually and I know that they provide all kinds of services and support to elders at the community level. They even take the elders out on the land. I know that. Some communities have different support programs for their senior citizens. I just urge all the communities to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired and therefore we will now proceed with the orders of the day. Let's proceed. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Budget Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health, Minister Angnakak.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 025 – 5(2): FPT Health Ministers' Meeting – October 19, 2017, Edmonton, Alberta

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling today the FPT Health Ministers' Meeting Report held in Edmonton, Alberta, October 19, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netsier.

Tabled Document 026 – 5(2): Photographs of Mould-infested Public Housing Unit

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to table this document yesterday, but I had to leave the House for a while. I apologize.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to table today a collection of photographs that depict mould infestation in the public housing unit that is located in my constituency of Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, far too many of our territory's residents live in unacceptable conditions and I strongly support taking all necessary steps to address this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I also have documents to table.

Tabled Document 027 – 5(2): 2018-2021 Business Plan for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**Tabled Document 028 – 5(2): 2018-2021 Business Plan for the Chief Electoral Officer – Elections Nunavut****Tabled Document 029 – 5(2): 2018-2021 Business Plan for the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut****Tabled Document 030 – 5(2): 2018-2021 Business Plan for the Representative for Children and Youth**

Members, I have four documents to table. The 2018-2021 business plans for: the first one, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut; second, Chief Electoral Officer – Elections Nunavut; third, the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut; and the fourth one, Representative for Children and Youth. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 4 and 5 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

Before we proceed further, we will take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:44 and Committee resumed at 11:03*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good morning, members. I would like to now 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. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue the review of Bill 4 and the Department of Health. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Does the committee agree that we continue with Bill 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Angnakak if she has witnesses that she would like to bring to the witness table. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Angnakak, could you please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Colleen Stockley, and to my left is my Associate Deputy Minister, Karen Kabloona. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Yesterday we started off the Department of Health under Directorate. We completed basically one round of questions and most members now are on their second round. With that, I will start the questioning today with Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, colleagues, minister, and staff.

I just have a couple of questions this morning. According to your draft 2018-19 business plan, the Upigivagitsi program under the Quality of Life Branch of your department is a contribution program for community and wellness organizations. What kinds of initiatives were supported under this program in 2017-18, and will there be any changes in a program focus or funding allocations in 2018-19? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can be permitted, please, before I answer Mr. Akoak's question, I would like to just provide some information to some of the questions that were posed yesterday that we said we would come back to the House with, if that's ok, Mr. Chairman? We were asked yesterday about the dental contracts and how many proposals were submitted, and I would like to say now, I have the numbers now.

For the Baffin, there were seven proposals submitted. For the Kivalliq, there were two and for the Kitikmeot, there were seven requests for proposals. We were also asked yesterday what kind of diseases we monitor or collect data on, and the following diseases are diabetes, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, asthma, and mental illness. For the record, thank you.

To answer Mr. Akoak's question, some of the activities we do are the following:

- For Iqaluit, we gave a contribution to the Alianait Embrace Life Tour;
- In Arctic Bay we did an elders story telling cultural class drama and we also did a cross-cultural Inuit/Dene suicide prevention project in Arctic Bay;
- In Baker Lake we had the Baker Lake suicide prevention program;
- In Baker Lake we had the Mianiqsijit youth sewing group and workshops for students;
- In Cape Dorset we did survival training on the land;
- In Cape Dorset we did Pilimmaqsaitiit Peter Pitseolak School sewing program;
- In Clyde River we did dark spark, reducing self-harm among youth through music and arts expression;
- In Coral Harbour we did the youth celebration camp;
- In Iqaluit we did the digital storytelling workshops;
- In Kugaaruk we did "Live to Love Life";
- In Kugluktuk we did "Live, Love, Laugh, Love – Coming Together to Heal Together workshop series;
- In Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset we did intercommunity wellness projects;
- In Pangnirtung we also did the elder youth intergenerational teaching lessons with Lasaloosie Ishulutak;
- In Whale Cove we did the Nakannarniaqsiiq project; and
- Pan-Nunavut we did a Qaggiavut *Kiviut Returns*.

We also did an initiative focused on providing support and training to young leaders in Nunavut to develop skills in recreational sports to a total of 11 communities represented by 21 youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back to your opening comments on page 3; you talk about addiction treatment options. What kind of treatment options are

there in small communities? We are not talking about Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, or Rankin, but the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have funding to provide such things if a community wants them, and we do provide some funding to communities through the hamlet to provide alcohol anonymous meetings, looking at prevention, we do awareness. If a community doesn't have that currently, we can fund things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 87, you have an alcohol treatment program valued at 1.3. What does that cover? Is that just for the services, or is that for PYs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is funding seven communities through application to alcohol and drug treatment programs. Currently, we are funding seven communities to provide that kind of service, and it is an application process. We are open to receiving applications from any community, and if any community wants support to make those applications, we can also do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information. Have there ever been any applications coming from my community on that project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just seeing if my staff know about any applications from Gjoa Haven, and they don't, but we can get back to you on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Yesterday, Ms. Kamingoak had her name on for questions. Do you have a question? Please, go ahead, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and staff. According to your draft 2018-19 business plan, the mobile trauma response program provides care, counselling, and healing to Inuit communities and Inuit language clients.

Can you provide further detail on how this program operates, where it is based, how it is decided when to send a mobile trauma response team to a community, and when to provide services by telephone? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are very fortunate to have this program, and it is only through partnership with communities that we are able to offer this. We usually initiate this if it comes from a community; there is something that happens in the community and the community feels they need extra help in counselling, then we have different mobile entities that we can send.

In partnership with Ilisaqsivik Society, Pulaarvik, Kublu Friendship Centre, Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre, and Health Canada, we have teams of counsellors who are available to travel to Nunavut communities.

Teams may be requested by community members, family members, or frontline workers, and the Quality of Life Secretariat provides the coordination between the teams, social services, community justice, RCMP, and mental health. It is a real combined effort. It relies on partnerships. We want to help where we can, and we are fortunate to have that. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that information. One of the priorities listed in your business plan for 2018-19 is to research Inuit protective factors, both traditional and modern, to incorporate into programs and policies. Can you describe how this research will be conducted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fortunately, I have staff here directly involved in that so, with your permission, I would like to get Ms. Kabloona to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Ms. Kabloona.

Ms. Kabloona: (interpretation) Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) The department has put together terms of reference to research into fermented foods because Inuit have natural protective behaviours that we can apply to our population health promotion work and also to addictions treatment in the future. We are looking at the different types of fermented foods. We want to know if there is alcohol in them but whether or not there is alcohol, we want to document how Inuit protect each other from overconsumption. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kabloona. Next on my list, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you and good morning minister and your officials. I know we are all aware that health has capacity issues as well. Staffing is a huge problem.

(interpretation ends) On page 137 of the business plan, one of your priorities for 2018-19 is implement recommended updates to the departmental human resources plan. Recommended updates, what will these recommended updates entail? Does it mean offering more benefits to employees to help to retain them? Does it mean changing the way that we recruit? More information, please. (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could just give me a minute.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new plan will place a significant focus on orientation and retention. We hired 101 nurses last year and what we really need to do is look at how we can keep those nurses because the hiring of them isn't really the biggest problem. The biggest problem is once they come to Nunavut, how we can keep you here. That's one of the bigger problems.

The director of human resources has reviewed the human resources plan and the new GN Human Resources Strategy. New initiatives have been drafted to address the above-mentioned issues, the ones I said, and to align with the Department of Finance Human Resources Plan. That is where we are with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. Can the Department of Health report on why nurses generally quit? What is the usual reason? Is it overwork or their salary is inadequate or is the housing inadequate? What are the problems? Why do nurses work only for a short time and end up resigning? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is always a concern for us and for the communities. Some communities are very concerned about it. Why don't nurses stay in the communities very long? I know we have the lack of nurses, and the nurses in the communities are overworked, and they get tired and we know that. I'm sure you have seen that we need security in nursing stations now, and that's worrisome. That's where we're heading. We need security in health centres. That is not good for our nurses to be in that situation. No wonder they want to leave. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand this correctly, they are overworked, and because there are too few nurses, they end up resigning. How are we

going to proceed? Are nurses quitting because they're overworked? We have a lack of nurses, and now whenever we hire nurses, they always end up resigning. (interpretation ends) What would be done to get past that cycle of workload issues and understaffing? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there are different things that we can still do, we haven't lost hope. It's going to be very challenging. We are in competition with the rest of Canada, as we've often said, and so we've looked at different things that might help nurses. One of them is admin. duties. As you have heard me say in the House before, one of the things that the department is going through and we should perhaps even be able to, in the fall table, the new model of care. That's going to determine how do we provide healthcare services in Nunavut? Which is the best way and what kind of staff do we need in place in order to do that?

We've been looking and reviewing with higher contractors to look at that, and that report is now being reviewed by my staff. We'll take over the summer to do that, and then hoping in the fall that I can table that. Things like admin duties; currently our nurses are, on top of their jobs, they are also doing admin duties. There's a lot of paperwork to be done, when you see a patient. You've got to do all that paperwork. That's an example of what we're looking at to see how we can help our nurses with their workload. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's good to hear. In terms of the workload issue, is there a maximum number of consecutive hours that nurses can work? I know there are some extreme cases where a nurse has been working all night, and then they're forced to go and report for work in the morning, maybe having no sleep at all because there's nobody else to fill the position. Is there a maximum set, or is it just the nurse themselves, they say look, I can't come to work, I'm going to call in sick because look, I have not had any sleep? How does that work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't know of anything that tells us a nurse can only work for so many hours. Pilots have that kind of thing where there's legislation. There's nothing like that for nurses. We've had instances of nurses that have worked for three days over the Christmas period, and that's not good.

I think all of you do know that in the communities you have experienced this where the health care center has closed and only for emergencies. It's because of this kind of situation where nurses are tired, they have done a lot of overtime, and they can't do

regular clinics. I know that some residents get frustrated with that, but we need to protect everybody, including our nurses. We need to look after people, the nurse staff.

Things like having the flu shot and other preventative kinds of measures, if people would take it upon themselves to wash their hands frequently so that you don't get as sick, these all go towards helping your own community and helping maybe not have so much or lessen the workload on nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Has the department considered at any point... ? I'm looking at it from retention, for example, if the department could say to people they're recruiting, "Look, we have an internal policy where, if you have worked 16 hours straight, you will not be penalized for not showing up to work the next day. We have an internal process where, 'Look, you're not looked on as a bad nurse if you've had no sleep.'"

Has the department considered putting anything like that in place? I think we are, in some cases, shortchanging the health care staff and putting immense stress on them. We're putting so much pressure on them I'm worried that we're burning them out; anything we can do to alleviate that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we agree with you. We're concerned about burnout too. That's not something that we want, but when it does happen, then that's what happens to the health centre. They have to close and only open for emergencies when we get to that point. They don't call in sick. They just close the health centre for a while unless it's an emergency. We also at times provide agency nurses to help with the load when it's needed.

We're concerned as well, but it's not an easy thing just to say, "Okay, this is how we're going to deal with it," because it is complex. We still need to provide the service. People still get sick and they expect somebody there and we all expect to be served. If you're sick, you want somebody to be able to help you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. If you could please slow down when you're talking; the translators are having a hard time keeping up. Mr. Main, please continue.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it comes to these agency nurses, how does the department determine where agency nurses go? My home community of Arviat has been short-staffed since Christmas, and that's to the best of my knowledge. Since Christmas and now we're going into summer, so staffing is again going to be difficult, from my understanding. In terms of the agency nurse contract, I guess I'll get specific. How come we're not seeing any agency nurses come to Arviat? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at the list here for nursing PYs by community. Arviat is going to be receiving three more nurses; three have been hired. Just let me... .

You have eight and three are on their way. You will be getting three more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It makes me smile to hear those words, "You will get more," but just for clarification, are you referring to PYs or are you referring to agency nurses who are travelling in to help out on a short-term basis? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three are permanent. They're indeterminate. They're not agency. We also have two casuals on top of that that are already there, I believe, and that could be an agency nurse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister. In terms of that model of care review, just in terms of the scope, does that include an evaluation of the physical assets that exist? I know in Whale Cove the health centre is very old and cramped. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it doesn't go into that. That's a different process that happens. This one has more of a focus on the current state on staffing. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you and good morning, Madam Minister. I asked this during question period, Mr. Chairman. Our interpreters are very important, especially for the unilingual Inuit and the nurses who do not speak Inuktitut, of course. The interpreters are vital and they have to be competent. I am very pleased that there are courses available and they also teach them about the human anatomy over here in the Baffin. Is it possible to start a similar program in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Yes, of course, I would be concerned if I found out that there was an interpreter who is not competent in regard to the human anatomy and so on. If there is a course required for the interpreters, you can go through Nunavut Arctic College and the courses would focus on health issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does the Department of Health work with Nunavut Arctic College on courses such as that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with Arctic College when it comes to modules and we work together, to say, you know... . Even through our nursing program, we also work with Nunavut Arctic College.

Just to give you some examples of what kind of training opportunities there are for our clerk interpreters to take, we have to learn more about diseases in Inuktitut. We have mental health. We have ailments. We have physiology and anatomy. Those are the different ones that we have. There are different areas that a clerk interpreter can request to take if a clerk interpreter felt that their language skills are not up to where they should be or they wanted to learn more. That is something that they could request.

A total of 25 departmental employees attended medical terminology training during the 2017-18 fiscal year. There are opportunities there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the 25 who took those courses, where were they from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister for Nunavut Arctic College may be able to provide more of the specific details. We don't have that right down here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the interpreters at the health centres who work for us, do they have competency tests before they are hired? For example, how much they know about the body parts, the organs, the ailments and so on. Do they take competency tests before they're hired? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you. (interpretation) During the interview, very likely, they would check to see the competency rate of the individuals. It would probably be at the interview time. The interpreters ask if they require or would like to take courses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. As members of the Legislative Assembly, we get a lot of information from our constituents and what they're concerned about, and usually they would like to have their issues brought forward. I have heard of a couple leaving, for example, if the woman is going for medical, her escort would be her husband, and it works the other way around, the husband has to go and the woman escorts and so on. How can we correct this, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only way that we can look at the matter is if somebody tells us what needs correction or what can be changed for the better. If you have any issues or misuse of having an escort, please tell me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. I have one more name on my list, and when she is complete, we will move on. We've had just about three hours of debating this one-line item, and there are other avenues of asking questions. If members still ask questions, you can do a written question, you can ask a question in the House, or you can go directly see the minister. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and her officials.

In regard to the wellness office, they focus on suicide prevention. One thing I'm concerned about is young women producing. I get quite shocked when a very young girl gets pregnant or has two or three children already; becoming parents with no parenting skills. Another thing I'm concerned about and I've seen more of is a woman who is pregnant and drinks, and the child is affected with fetal alcohol syndrome. I'm seeing more and more of those cases.

(interpretation ends) Your department's Quality of Life Secretariat focuses primarily on suicide prevention initiatives, plans, and strategy. Has your department ever considered focusing primarily on, across Nunavut, on young children having kids, giving birth? And secondly, and it's increasing across Nunavut, young mothers or older mothers drinking while pregnant. I have not seen a plan or strategy under the Quality of Life for fetal alcohol syndrome. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could answer her question in different ways. It may not be specifically under Quality of Life, but through our sexual health education, we do work with communities. We have the age-appropriate sexual health promotional health messaging and that's incorporated through the "about me" portion of the Inuusiqsarniq literacy program. The topics include contraception, sexually transmitted infections, puberty, healthy relationship, consent, and things like that. That's through that.

Through the Quality of Life Secretariat indirectly, we also work with youth in the communities to talk about some of these things. We do have different areas. It might not be specific about one thing, but we do work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. We are reviewing the Department of Health's Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Branch. \$59,518,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch Summary. Public Health. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Under the annual report on the operation of the medical care plan for 2016-17, on the second page here, it mentions that there are two public health facilities, Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. I'm wondering if the department has any plans to open any further public health facilities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have public health in the other regions and communities too, but it's through the healthcare centres, it's not standalone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you. If Iqaluit and Rankin have the only standalone, what's the process if a community feels that a public health standalone public health facility might benefit their population? What's the process to go through? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They can come and talk to us, and then we can see if it can be incorporated into the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll express my interest now in terms of Arviat, a very large growing population. The health centre is a high traffic location. I'll just point out that there is existing real estate that may be available, so it may not be a case of we need to build something, but I'll just ask the minister if she could commit to looking into that possibility for Arviat given that we're talking about a community close to 3,000 people here. I'm not necessarily saying every community in Nunavut but just this one in particular, if she could look into it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of course, we could and I would ask you to put that in writing too, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you. We will put that in writing, of course.

In the business plan on page 142 it mentions the new Northern Wellness Agreement with Health Canada. In terms of the broad strokes, how much new money are we looking at from the federal government? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you. It's actually called the Nunavut Wellness Agreement now and we're looking at approximately \$19 million per year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you. What kinds of programs and initiatives are funded through this agreement? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money all goes into communities and it's through the community wellness programs, community capacity development, territorial health promotion initiatives, program management, home and community care, the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative, the children's oral health promotion initiative, and Public Health Agency of Canada nursing and tuberculosis prevention.

Some of the highlights are, for example, like I mentioned, the community wellness programs and that includes 26 multi-year community wellness plans, and then all plans include funding for school food programs and community capacity development. That includes seven new community wellness coordinators that are hired at the community level phased over a three-year pilot approach and it includes capacity building and support for these positions. Three of these positions are filled in Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, and Chesterfield Inlet. We are aiming to fill all seven by 2019.

Under the territorial health promotion initiatives, we provide consistent and comprehensive approaches for health promotions and public health programming in communities across Nunavut like smoking cessation activities and the baby bed program that I'm sure you have heard about that's part of this program and also, like I said before, home and community care. It's part of this continuum of care that provides an array of services in the home and community setting.

Under project management, we provide administrative structures that support the management and implementation of the Nunavut Wellness Agreement. That includes monitoring and evaluation activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you. I thank the minister for the detailed response. One of the other things listed in your business plan is regarding tuberculosis. The minister mentioned a lot of communities in Nunavut with active cases of tuberculosis. Specifically I know that Qikiqtarjuaq has gotten special attention. What other communities are being considered in terms of the next targeted intervention for tuberculosis? Basically I'm trying to understand where the biggest problems are with TB in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very sensitive issue and it's something that we're still working on. We know that we're going to be going into another community, but we're still assessing, looking at the whole picture and 17 out of 25 communities do have active TB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, *Ikhivautaaq*. In terms of what's happening in Qikiqtarjuaq, can you give us any further information in terms of the results of that project and what the next steps will be? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we're still really assessing that, it might be a better time to ask me in the fall, but approximately 25 percent of the community is now on active or latent treatment. I can tell you that, but to have more details, it's a little too early for us right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

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

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 4 of the main estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Going to the orders of the day. Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there are no meetings of committees this afternoon or tomorrow.

>>*Applause*

However, there is a meeting of the Regular Caucus on Monday at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 4:

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.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Before we adjourn for the weekend, let me thank all the staff of the Legislative Assembly. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be able to proceed.

>>*Applause*

Interpreters, thank you.

>>*Applause*

And our pages this week, thank you.

>>*Applause*

Further, to all Nunavummiut who will be going on the land this weekend, we feel envious, as they will be on the land hunting, egg collecting, geese hunting, seal pup hunting, and narwhal and beluga hunting.

>>*Laughter*

I hope you are safe while you are out on the land. We will be coming back and have a good weekend, Nunavummiut.

This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 4, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:57*

