

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

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

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

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

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

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

Joelie Kaernek
(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
Monday, June 4, 2018

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickey, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joelle Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and members, good afternoon.

Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

It's great that it's another workday. Those of you who just got back from hunting and came back home safely with a lot of nice food, I'm envious of you but happy for you.

Let's now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Acting Government House Leader, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 038 – 5(2): Minister Absent from the House

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform my colleagues that the (interpretation ends) Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation) will be absent from the House this week from June 4 to June 8. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 039 – 5(2): Annual Fisheries Research and Development Meeting

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform you about the Department of Environment's recent Nunavut fisheries research and development meeting that was held from April 23 to 27 in Ottawa. This meeting has been held annually since 2011 and provides an opportunity for researchers, communities, and collaborators to share their work, network with others working in Nunavut, and contribute to the ongoing implementation of the *Nunavut Fisheries Strategy*.

Mr. Speaker, the Fisheries and Sealing Division has made annual commitments to increase the level of participation of HTOs in these annual meetings. As you know, Mr. Speaker, HTOs are at the forefront of community fisheries and wildlife management, but there have been few opportunities that provide a forum for them to engage directly on fisheries issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that 22 of Nunavut's 25 HTOs were able to participate this year. HTOs were given the first day to themselves to share fisheries opportunities, as well as the capacity challenges that are impacting their ability to move their fisheries aspirations forward.

Mr. Speaker, by providing a forum for HTOs, researchers, funders, Inuit organizations, and government to come together and work on the implementation of fisheries in Nunavut, we are creating greater capacity to maintain and grow community-based fisheries. We are also creating a space for different types of knowledge and ways of knowing to shape the future priorities of Nunavut's fisheries and are delivering on the priorities identified in the renewed Fisheries Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, every community in Nunavut has the potential to benefit in some way, big or small, from their aquatic resources and I am proud that our work and our strategy is enabling communities to reach their potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 040 – 5(2): Reaffirmation of Blueprint for Action on Housing

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our government has reaffirmed the 2016 *Blueprint for Action on Housing* under the new mandate, *Turaaqtavut*. The Nunavut Housing Corporation and its interdepartmental partners will carry on in their work to address the housing needs in Nunavut

for Nunavummiut. The goals of the blueprint are the following: to remove existing barriers to developing housing, to reduce costs, to increase investments, and to define demand in the territory.

With the first year of implementation of the blueprint for action having been completed March 31, 2018, we have the opportunity to reflect on lessons learned to date. This spring the housing corporation will be meeting with all GN departments to hear feedback and share ideas for how the blueprint could be improved. Without a doubt, continued interdepartmental collaboration will be vital moving forward.

Already we have seen progress under this initiative. For example, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, with the support of other GN departments, has been working on a program that will allow homeowners who get a wind or solar power generator to get a discount on their power bill.

Mr. Speaker, under this program we are working towards the possibility of a resident who produces enough power getting a cheque in the mail instead of a bill.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, working toward the self-reliance of our people and communities is a priority and housing is a critical part of that work towards resilience. We must respond to the housing needs of all Nunavummiut through the development of a full continuum of housing options.

This includes developing purpose-built housing for our most vulnerable: elders, women and children who are escaping domestic violence, our friends and family members who require mental health supports, and Nunavummiut who finish correctional sentences and are looking to start a new chapter on the right footing.

Developing evidence-based business cases in partnership with Inuit organizations based on needs is essential as we lobby the federal government for the necessary support to address Nunavut's housing crisis.

All of these objectives are part of the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* and form the key to moving forward together, and I look forward to tabling the first Annual Status of Housing Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 041 – 5(2): The Launch of the QEC's Net Metering Program

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) has begun accepting applications for the net metering program as of April 10, 2018. Since launching the program, the QEC has

received interest from a number of potential net metering customers with the drive to bring Nunavut closer to clean energy.

Mr. Speaker, the new program will allow customers to connect their own renewable energy generators, such as solar panels, to the corporation's power grid in exchange for credits for the surplus power they produce. The program is open to residential customers and one municipal customer account per community.

I want to thank the QEC for their dedication in taking the necessary steps toward embracing innovative and clean technologies. The corporation is committed to exploring alternative and renewable sources of energy that will help to reduce our territory's [reliance] on diesel fuels and cut greenhouse gas emissions. The net metering program will be a key contributor to learning what small-scale renewable energy solutions can be effectively integrated in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the QEC's efforts also reaffirm Nunavut's commitment to the federal government's *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* and will allow Nunavummiut to take an active role in climate change mitigation.

Mr. Speaker, I myself will be applying for the net metering program. Those interested in the net metering program can find more information on the QEC's website, which is www.qec.nu.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 042 – 5(2): New Inuit Employee Education Leave Program

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to announce today that my department recently established a new Inuit employee education leave program entitled "Sivummuakpaallirutiksat" (to help you move forward) to provide Inuit employees in schools with an opportunity to develop professionally and advance in their careers.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtii*, it is a fact that Inuit representation is strongest in the paraprofessional and administrative support categories while Inuit representation in the senior management, middle management and professional categories remains low.

In fact it should be noted that a goal of my department has been to develop its paraprofessional and administrative Inuit employees, such as student support assistants and *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* (school community counsellors), and to fill more senior and professional positions, such as principals and teachers, which have largely been filled by non-Inuit employees.

(interpretation) Moreover, employees who qualify for the program will be granted leave to pursue full-time post-secondary studies at a recognized university, college, or technical institution and may request financial assistance to help cover costs related to tuition, travel, daycare, books, and registration.

(interpretation ends) Lastly, the new Inuit employee education leave program is a practical step toward the department achieving one of its goals outlined in the Inuit Employment Plan while reducing potential barriers to higher education and providing Inuit employees with an opportunity to develop professionally and advance their careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 043 – 5(2): Math and Science Awards Fund

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before this House and speak to the members about the Math and Science Awards Fund, which the Department of Economic Development and Transportation offers annually to Nunavut students in grades 8, 10, and 12 from each school across the territory.

This is a cash award program for students who excel in their studies of math and science. The department recognizes that a strong foundation in these disciplines provides an opportunity for students to pursue their interest in fields which could lead to professional and technical careers within Nunavut.

The individual award recipients are selected by the schools themselves with recommendations made by the teachers. Grade 8 recipients are awarded \$175; the grade 10 recipients will receive \$275; and the award for grade 12 students is \$350.

Mr. Speaker, in total \$21,000 will be awarded to approximately 80 students this year for their hard work and dedication to their studies. The award is also accompanied by a certificate from the department.

My department believes that these awards encourage our students to excel in their academic studies, and we are proud to continue offering this program annually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 067 – 5(2): Homelessness in Baker Lake

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue which is becoming more of a concern with each passing season: the increasing number of homeless people in the community of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the formal efforts being made by our government to assess the state of homelessness across Nunavut communities, I can tell you, through an informal survey conducted by my own constituency office in the community of Baker Lake, that the number is growing.

Mr. Speaker, just from face-to-face discussions and individuals informing my office of their circumstances, nearly a dozen names are already on our list. There are also families with children who have no place of their own to call home.

Mr. Speaker, there are no public housing units currently available nor do we have a shelter that can accommodate these people for any extended periods of time.

Mr. Speaker, something must be done. With the summer season approaching, we must not become complacent in seeking housing solutions for our community residents who have no permanent home.

Mr. Speaker, I fully recognize that we are working very hard with all the resources that are available to us to build additional housing units as fast as possible. In the meantime, however, I urge the government to reach out to such organizations as the Salvation Army to assist in the establishment of homeless shelters in those communities which struggle with the problem of homelessness.

At the appropriate time I will have questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 068 – 5(2): Recent Accomplishments in Constituency

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize some individuals in Chesterfield Inlet who have graduated from grade 12.

First of all, I would like to say “good day” to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North.

We are very pleased that we have graduates Qimmialuk Ipkarnerk, Kris Ippiak, Troy Qilak Issaluk, Tod Sammurtok-Walters, and Delilah Issaluk.

For Rankin Inlet we also have recognition of grade 12 graduates Qalujjaq Komaksiutiksak and Joy Angnetsiak.

When Troy Muckpah’s father, Bobby Muckpa, was convalescing in Winnipeg from an illness, he was able to look after his father and took care of his relatives, all the while taking of his courses to graduate. We are very proud of his accomplishment.

Kindergarten graduates moving onto grade 1 are: Embry Kijaana Unainuk Kaludjak, Sophia Qajaittuq Pameolik, Qajaittuq is the name she goes by, Terrence Amaujaq Kusugak, Annabella Therese Arnaujuq Natah, Alainna Sateanna Tulugaq, Jose Connor Arnaluaq Misiralaq, Ungaalak Connelly, Charlie Panigoniak Arviligjuk Tasiuq, and Lyta Ford.

Lastly, but what should have started my statement is a graduate from the Social Services Program, second year, Mary Lou Elizabeth Hinngaaq Aingilik from Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We congratulate them.

>>Applause

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

Member’s Statement 069 – 5(2): Education in Nunavut

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Premier, members, my colleagues, and those watching the proceedings on TV, good day.

I rise today to talk about the concern I have for the education system in Nunavut.

The 2015-16 annual report, which has been read, indicates that there are approximately 5,000 students attending school. As a government, I can’t tell you whether we’re doing the right thing or not in education. As my colleague indicated there are graduates, whom we are very proud as people from Nunavut, which have graduated from their studies. The parents are happy, and I’m very proud of the teachers who work very hard to keep them in school.

They have their Nunavut grade 12 diploma, but did they actually complete their education? That is a concern to the parents, and I’ve also heard some businesses say that. (interpretation ends) The issue, Mr. Speaker, is we are now in a situation where the value of a Nunavut grade 12 diploma is debatable in some cases. To what extent the practice of social promotion, which according to debates in this House and the last government, doesn’t exist; it may be under a

different term nowadays called peer placement, but this is a big concern to me, my constituents, and employers.

Although we are very proud of all the graduates across Nunavut and all the teachers and hard-working staff in the schools, it is very important for us to continue asking hard questions about the quality of education attained in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 070 – 5(2): Welcome Home to Daughter

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and the residents of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some good news. In the previous weekend, last Sunday actually, my daughter went for a course in Winnipeg based on her position in our local Co-op, where she works in the office as a finance officer.

Mr. Speaker, many of these positions are an integral part of our community's organizations. Mr. Speaker, I am also very pleased that my daughter is heading back from her course.

However, I do have one piece of information for her, "at the end of the day, money comes in and goes out, but ensure that the flow is slower going out." This applies to everyone working in the financial administration category, so this is my advice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to share in my celebration in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Member's Statement 071 – 5(2): 2018 Nattiq Frolics

Ms. Kamingoak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues, Kuglukturmiut and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many volunteers and community members who make Kugluktuk's Nattiq Frolics a wonderful event.

Mr. Speaker, the Nattiq Frolics is Kugluktuk's annual spring celebration. It is always held in April, and this year, the frolic committee chose the dates of April 16-22 to celebrate. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Nattiq Frolics committee members and volunteers. They are: Lashawna Taipana, Winter Blaze, Simon Kuliktana, Miranda

Atatahak, Millie Kuliktana, who has been a big part of the frolics committee for many years, Beverly Anablak, and Kugluktuk's recreation coordinator, Mathew Krada. I would also like to recognize the men's group and the wonderful musicians who keep our toes tapping throughout the frolics.

Mr. Speaker, the king and queen contestants compete to fund raise the most money for the Nattiq Frolics with various activities. The couple who fund raise the most money is crowned at the opening ceremonies. This year's 2018 Nattiq Frolics king was Adam Panioyak and the 2018 Nattiq Frolics queen was his lovely spouse, Nuka Bolt.

Mr. Speaker, this year David Enogaloak and Ida-Jane Kapakatoak won the titles of Mr. and Ms. Coppermine respectively for their participation and success in the many games held by the Nattiq Frolics committee.

The Racing Association committee members made sure there was lots of excitement during the frolics. Mr. Speaker, they are: Ryan Nivingalok, Randy Hinanik, Tanis Bolt, Simon Koliktana. The volunteers on the race field made sure everything was safe and fair. They were: Larry Adjun, Quentin Norberg, who was instrumental in making the race track, Kevin Ongahak, Helen Tologanak, Jimmy Ross Maiyok, Eric Hikolok, Shannon Case, Kevin Klengenber, Calvin Peterson, Miles Peterson, Nigel Alukpik, and last, but not least, the Search and Rescue Committee.

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

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

Ms. Kamingoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This event is very much enjoyed by the whole community and the many people who travel to Kugluktuk. I thank the committee members and volunteers for making it all happen.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 072 – 5(2): 2018 High School Graduates of Igloolik

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the last month, in May, we were invited to Igloolik to attend the graduation ceremonies that were going to be held, and I do apologize that we weren't able to go here. A few of us were extended invitations, and the community was very proud of those graduates who completed grade 12. I will be saying the names of the graduates:

Reshina Airut;
Qummangaapik Angnatsiak;
Sakku Aqtuunniq Iqqittuq;

Nadine Kipanek;
Isaiah Qattalik; and
Edward Jr Tapardjuk.

They graduated from the Ataguttaaluk School. I am very proud of them and our community is very proud and we want them to continue their education. This is not the end, this is just the beginning. We will see more graduates. Please keep going. There are a few jobs available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 073 – 5(2): Traditional Midwifery in Nunavut

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I would just like to point to the House that I will be asking questions on midwifery. Just to let the minister know that I will be asking about this matter.

Now, we have to remember or rather we know our history, as midwifery has been practiced and is part of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, and based on our Premier's statement that indeed, he was born inside an igloo. Now, I want to point out here, that this showcases Inuit women's capabilities and we should highlight their skills as Nunavummiut.

I would like the minister to indicate her position, as I would like to make this a priority, primarily for the reason that when couples travel down for birthing their babies, it results in the boarding home becoming full with no space.

Sometimes it leads to some elders worrying about accommodations in that regard, or it would apply to anyone when it is full. I want to provide more background personally, as if I had to attend a child birth, I would most likely faint.

>> *Laughter*

I wanted to highlight the capabilities of our women by publicly stating this information to Nunavummiut. If we introduced midwifery to Nunavut, it would have several benefits such as the creation of jobs in our smaller communities.

I wanted to speak to this issue, Mr. Speaker, and if this initiative is brought forward, the government will also win, along with our smaller communities, and all of Nunavut would win. I believe we have to put forth our capabilities as Nunavummiut. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to this issue, Mr. Speaker. I will stop there.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I have further names on my list, but before we proceed, I wish to remind you that cellphones can be heard in the Chambers. Let me remind you if you

have a cellphone on you, please turn it off or put it on mute to vibration mode. I will proceed. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 074 – 5(2): Employment Opportunities at Baffinland

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good day to the

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a statement, since we were provided with some good news on Friday, regarding the Mary River mine and the changes to the listing of communities. Previously only the impacted communities could apply for positions.

Mr. Speaker, this has been modified to include all other communities, where the travel and accommodations will be paid from their community to the mine. This opens up opportunities for residents in the South Baffin, and I strongly encourage residents to apply for positions if they want gainful employment at the mine.

This mine is operating and accepting applicants from the region, and this will provide to economic benefits to residents who wish to be employed, and the size of the deposit means that the mine will operate for many years, as the listed mineral deposits are very large up at Mary River.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed good news for residents of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut, if you're looking for a job, you can approach the Qikiqtani Inuit Association or directly to the Baffinland Iron Mines. I encourage those who want to work that we have received some good news. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 075 – 5(2): Welcoming New Family Member

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague talked about midwifery. Yes, I would like to celebrate with you. My niece gave birth to a son and I love him. The nurses were very capable in delivering the baby. There was a doctor there, but the nurses were quite capable and I thank them for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed to the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to provide a correction to some figures I provided my colleague, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, on June 1 on his question on Justice of the Peace. At that time, I was thinking of Community Justice of the Peace. The question was:

“Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday’s *Nunavut Gazette* indicated the 10 new JPs have been appointed to the territory. For the record, can the minister confirm the total number of JPs currently serving in the territory?”

The response is:

Mr. Speaker, currently we have...I’m just trying to tally up my numbers here... Currently, there are nine Justices of the Peace in the territory. The correction is, Mr. Speaker, and I would like the following to be recorded as read in the *Hansard*, “In Nunavut, there are currently 37 active Justices of the Peace, community and full-time, and 12 Administrative Justices of the Peace, which are court service employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Let us proceed. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a colleague of mine from the Third Assembly. I would like to welcome Mr. Dan Shewchuk to the Assembly. The last time he was here, he was wearing a Canadiens tie, so I see he’s changed his outfit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, Mr. Shewchuk. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to welcome your fellow residents of Pond Inlet, Elijah and his wife. Please feel welcome here. I have known them from way back when I was younger and had no gray hair.

They have organized dancing contests in their community, and I want to briefly comment on their work. They organize big events in Pond Inlet and other places, with fundraising prizes for a big dancing contest, which elevates the celebratory mood during the dancing contest. I am quite proud of this work immensely.

Actually, I rarely square dance anywhere, but when I went to Pond Inlet, I took a turn on the square dancing. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them, as well as with Nunavummiut. This is to let you know that next year, they will organize a dancing contest, and they will welcome all contestants warmly. Please welcome Elijah and his wife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list.

Mr. Quassa, as the Speaker, I must treat everyone equally so I allowed you to go first. Now you have usurped the details I was going to speak to, so perhaps I can just add a bit more background.

I also wish to welcome the couple, and in particular I wish to welcome them and although I could mention their names, however, Mr. Quassa, as you already stated, in our community, the couple is held in great esteem during celebrations in the community, both during the Christmas and Easter holidays.

You may hear about Pond Inlet hosting dance-off competitions and the couple spends a lot of time fundraising. They fundraise until they reach their mark, then the funds are given away as prize money. Many of our residents who would have had no chance to win prizes are able to participate, and it provides many benefits locally, both to our lives and the community generally.

Due to that reason, I wanted to speak to that matter. Furthermore, I am very glad to mention that they are also close friends, as one is my brother-in-law and fellow resident, while his partner is my niece and fellow resident and I count them as friends. Welcome to the Assembly. Please welcome them.

>>Applause

Let's proceed. Oral Questions. We will start with the Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 095 – 5(2): Inviting Minister of Health to Visit Constituency

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say “good day” to my relatives.

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

Mr. Speaker, we all know that health care is a big issue across Nunavut. It is clear that not all of our health issues can be solved through the benefits we receive or the way health care programs are delivered by the departments.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that community residents will feel less stress over health issues if they could have the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Health and talk about their concerns face to face.

I note that the minister has made commitments to visit our neighbours in Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk. While she is in the Kitikmeot area, will the Minister of Health also agree to visit the communities in our constituency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, (interpretation ends) I can go and visit your constituency. I would like to do that. I have a potential month in mind where I was thinking about going to visit the communities in the Kitikmeot and that would be towards the end of August/beginning of September. I'm starting to plan that. I would be happy to include your constituency in my visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): I thank the minister for her proper response and we will be expecting the visit.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I hope that the minister will consider expanding her trip to visit my constituency. If the minister agrees to visit my communities, can she list some of the main topics that she would like to bring up while she is there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pretty open to any topics to talk about. Whatever the community feels is their priority or their greatest concern, I'm open to that. We could talk about medical travel because that's usually a big concern or boarding homes, things that we often hear about in the House here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, I believe that having a discussion on our health issues and concerns will help community residents to better understand our health care system. Will the minister commit to communicating with my office to inform me of the dates she will be visiting Taloyoak and Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, certainly I can commit to that. It's always best when we go visit communities that the MLA is there as well. I would like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 096 – 5(2): Homelessness

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

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I expressed my concern over the growing number of homeless people and families in our communities. Could the minister provide a summary of the results of the homelessness surveys that have been conducted to date in communities across Nunavut? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Homelessness, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The homelessness surveys were conducted beginning last spring and the last survey will be done in Gjoa Haven starting from May 24 until June 6. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my member's statement, my constituency office has undertaken a small informal survey of homelessness in the community and the number of individuals and families currently homeless in Baker Lake is a concern.

Can the minister advise me if there are any plans to conduct a homelessness survey in Baker Lake in the near future? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the homelessness survey, we requested funding from the federal government and we received these funds. Further, the employees who undertook this survey had other duties, but we changed their job descriptions to include the survey work. If we wish to include the other communities, we would have to apply for federal funding to complete the survey in the communities that didn't have this survey and we can try that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would really appreciate it if the federal government would provide more funding.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of homelessness is a serious one across many regions of Canada. Various organizations across the country can help to provide support in establishing shelters in communities which are experiencing problems in this area.

Can the minister clarify whether the Government of Nunavut works with such organizations as the Salvation Army to address the need for shelters in communities which are experiencing issues with homelessness? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my knowledge, we have not spoken with the Salvation Army or any kind of organization. If the communities submit an application to establish homeless shelters, we will listen to them and look at ways of how we can assist them. At this time we have no capital funding specifically for that. We only have funding for operations and maintenance of homeless shelters in the communities, but we don't have funding for infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 097 – 5(2): Issues with Medical Travel

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. The people of Pangnirtung are in my thoughts.

My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Health. I have written a letter of correspondence to you and I know this is not a new issue in regard to medical travel.

The concern of Pangnirtung residents, especially when they're coming up from down south, is they have to go through Clyde River in order to reach their destination in Pangnirtung. They have to fly all day. I know this is not a new concern that I'm bringing up. My colleagues have alluded to this.

I would like to ask the minister if they had considered this, where especially the patients with disabilities can have direct flights. I know that some flights go through Clyde River. I'm wondering if they can be put on a direct flight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't respond to that question at this time, as I have to look into it. I don't know whether the airline has met with our officials, but I can get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. When would you be able to get the information? This is a concern, especially when the patients fly out from here. Rather than going straight to

Pangnirtung, they go to Clyde River and, if they didn't land there, they go to Pond Inlet. This particular patient couldn't even walk. This has been brought up more than once. How often do you meet with the airlines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure my officials are watching the proceedings. Once we take a break, I'll have a better idea during that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>Laughter

Question 098 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Operations

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions follow up with Mr. Hicke's topic last week of prohibiting public servants with communicating with their MLAs, but this week my questions will be directed at the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Before I get into my questions, I would like to begin by thanking the minister for his recent invitation to attend next week's graduation ceremony here in Iqaluit for this year's NTEP and nursing graduates. Although the Legislative Assembly will be sitting at this time, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly graduate this year's grads.

Mr. Speaker, as one of the four MLAs who represents a constituency that is located here in the capital, it makes sense for our invitations to be issued from the college's head office. However, when it comes to Nunavut's other 24 communities, it makes more sense for the local college staff at the community learning centres to be inviting local guests, such as mayors and MLAs, to these ceremonies.

Can the minister confirm what policies or directives are currently in place with respect to how college staff in community learning centres are permitted to communicate with their community's residents and local leaders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Lightstone for his question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to the graduation that's coming up. Congratulations to all the graduates.

We recently hired a public affairs officer and one of the areas that they will be tackling is on protocol issues with the college. We're looking at also new ways. We want to continue to remain

open and any public servant, whether they're in the college, across the public service, can communicate openly with their MLA, with any one of you or any one of us.

We're working out some specific protocols to deal with, invitations and that sort of thing, through the college. We're looking forward to the ongoing progress in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister able to confirm that there have been no direct policies or directives given to the employees at the community learning centres not to express or invite local community leaders to these events? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for his follow-up. I have heard nothing out of the ordinary. What I can say too is that these events, whether they're graduations or celebratory events such as this, and I think across the government, when there are public events going on, yes, it's nice to get an invitation sometimes but also I think it kind of goes without saying that we want to have as many people participate. Sometimes you may not necessarily need to wait for an invitation.

To the best of my knowledge, I have no knowledge about a policy specific to what the member is asking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently visited the college's website and noticed that the calendar of programs, which is available for downloading, is now four years out of date. This illustrates the importance of empowering local college staff to communicate directly with their communities through such means as local radio and social media about the college's program and course offerings.

Can the minister confirm what policies or directives are currently in place regarding the extent to which college staff in community learning centres are allowed to keep their communities informed about the college's programs and course offerings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for his question. (interpretation ends) Every community is different, I mean the size, geography, and demographics, but at the college we're striving to standardize some of the student services that are present in our community learning centres. Hopefully we will have a much better process for not only students but staff on what information is being shared to the public.

Also, these learning centres, every year we go through an assessment process where we ask the public what sorts of programs or educational opportunities they might want to see that the college might be able to partner or provide.

These learning centres are hubs of information and we want to keep it that way. The college is in a transition with new leadership and new taxonomy. We are going through reorganization, so I think it's going to improve over the coming months and years ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 099 – 5(2): Rental Application Policy for Elders

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Coral Harbour and Naujaat. I now check online for our community weather and with the warming temperature, it makes me homesick, but it can't be helped.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Many of our elders are aging quite fast and when they reach a certain listed age, I believe that they no longer pay any rent for their public housing unit. I want to ask about whether this is true and, if so, what age is listed as being the threshold for when elders would no longer pay rent to public housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking about that issue. We do have a policy specific to this issue, but many people reach the listed age where they no longer pay rent and I believe that 63 is the threshold age. At that age many elders are still making good income and some elders continue to pay rent when they are employed. However, our elders with no income are eligible to no longer pay rent on their public unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. Can the minister elaborate further to this House on how this process works? Our communities are all different with respect to the cost of living. For example, in the High Arctic it is more expensive and smaller communities that are more remote, such as our non-decentralized communities, are more expensive to live in, as the cost of living is higher. Can the minister explain to this House exactly how the process is set up for elders who rent from our local public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our elders are also in different situations throughout Nunavut. We have elders still gainfully employed full time. The rent is set at a percentage of their income with an elders' discount, but the rents are based on a percentage of their monthly income and the cost of maintaining the unit.

However, the policies are written in English, which I will read from, as I have no idea how to say it properly in Inuktitut. I'm sure our interpreters will interpret it into Inuktitut. (interpretation ends) The elders are only charged rent on the portion of their income over the community income needs thresholds. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my last question and it relates to communities that have successfully run Co-ops where members receive a dividend or return based on their purchases over a calendar year. This fund can be quite large for some members at the end of the year.

Sometimes we hear of cases where this dividend from their Co-op purchases from the year is appropriated by the LHOs, who then add this income to their annual income and the rent increases based on the amount. This money came right from the customer's pockets and from income they had already provided to the housing association. I find it deplorable that they are categorizing this dividend as extra income. This is also visually unappealing.

Is that the case and, if so, why are they being penalized as renters when this dividend is from income that is already declared? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have never heard that before. When we are talking about public housing, I don't know if that ever happens. I will look into it, but I have never heard of it before, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 100 – 5(2): Minimum Wage Rate in Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the benefits of being back on this side of the House from the last Assembly is I can go back over my old questions and revisit some topics.

Early in the last session I brought up this topic that I'll be directing towards the Minister of Justice. Just to get started, for the benefit of the public record, can the minister confirm what the current minimum wage rate in Nunavut is and when was it last adjusted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Hickes, for your question. The current minimum wage for Nunavut is \$13, which was implemented on April 1, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The territorial *Labour Standards Act* requires that the government review the minimum wage in Nunavut on an annual basis. When I look on the national site, retailcouncil.org, it states on there that the updated minimum wage is to be adjusted annually on April 1. When was the last review of the minimum wage and when will it be tabled in this legislature? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have the date of the last review, but I can tell Mr. Hickes that the Department of Justice is currently reviewing and will be making a recommendation for a change in the minimum wage in the fall of 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I look at the national statistics on minimum wage, currently Alberta, Ontario, the NWT, and soon BC will have a higher minimum wage than we currently have right now.

The minister has just stated that they will have a review finished this fall. What type of feedback and what type of consultation will retailers in the territory have participation in that review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My department accepts any recommendations from businesses or private owners or employees. The way the department reviews minimum wage is that considerations for increases include for more frequent incremental increases by tying the minimum wage to the cost-of-living indicators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 101 – 5(2): Plans for New High School in Kugluktuk

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the minister may recall that back in March I had asked about the plans for a new high school in Kugluktuk. At the time the minister indicated that he would provide an update at a later date. I believe that the Kugluktuk DEA also wrote to the minister on this issue.

It is now a couple months later and I would like to ask the minister if the minister could now provide an update on the plans for a new high school for Kugluktuk. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Kugluktuk for her question. (interpretation ends) I did receive the letter from the DEA for the request about the school. Right now it's still through the capital planning. The Kugluktuk school is under preplanning studies for consideration. There's not much that has been done to date, but it's still in for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. When I asked my question in March, I noticed the presence of mould in the school had reduced the space available for classes. The minister indicated that he would look into the situation in greater detail and get back to me. Perhaps the minister could take this opportunity to advise me of what steps have been taken to address the mould issue at the Kugluktuk high School. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. The school, from what I have gathered, is in pretty decent shape. It's in good, fair condition. I think the overcrowding or the space requirements are one of the bigger issues that we're looking at. We try to address any deficiencies that any of our schools have as quickly as possible using our ongoing lifecycle funds. Those are looked at on a case-by-case basis, also considering health and safety factors are one of the number one priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that preplanning work needs to be done to identify new capital projects and prioritize them.

I have already noted that the Kugluktuk High School had been well above 85 percent utilization rate for some years now. In addition, the last time I visited the high school, I saw that they have also taken on the grade 6 classes from the elementary school. They also deliver classes in the library.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that his department's capital preplanning activities take into consideration the crowded conditions in Kugluktuk's schools when prioritizing the need for a new high school in the community? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. The utilization at the Kugluktuk High School right now is currently at 109 percent. Yes, it has necessitated our consideration for an addition to the school. My department is requesting for that to be included for the fiscal 2018-19 preplanning stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 102 – 5(2): Supporting Traditional Knowledge of Midwifery

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I already indicated which minister I will direct my question to.

Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the *Hansard* of May 30, I noted that in responding to a question from my colleague from Kugluktuk about incorporating Inuit culture and lifestyle in the delivery of health care, the minister indicated that midwifery was an area where this could be increased.

Could the minister elaborate further on how she would like to see midwifery in Nunavut be more accommodating and supportive of traditional Inuit lifestyle and culture? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, midwifery was used more in Nunavut in the past and I would like to see it used more again in Nunavut. The one in Rankin Inlet is what I really supported because they can provide midwifery services in that community. We're looking at the bigger communities to introduce midwifery. My officials and I have started talks on this to see how we can plan for it and to see how it can run in the communities.

I agree that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is always talked about in the government. How can we include *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in government operations? It's always in the forefront of my mind when we talk about things like midwifery. Midwifery has been around for a very long time and, as you said, our Premier was born in an igloo by a midwife. We will probably get back to that at some point, but we will have to look more into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. It has been of a concern and my constituents have noted how difficult it is for pregnant mothers to leave their homes and families, often leaving their other children behind, to travel to a regional centre in order to give birth. As I indicated earlier in my preamble, yes, the government would consider it. It would also be helpful as some jobs would be created in the communities.

Can the minister describe what consideration has been given to having local midwives in our communities to provide local support to expecting mothers so that they do not have to be away from home for such a long time for their pregnancy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't indicate today when we would have local midwives, but we're currently looking at it. I'm also thinking of going to Nunavik because they have a very strong midwifery program. I would like to go over there to see how they operate the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it becomes a reality and, as I indicated earlier, to include *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and to also include the elders, there's nothing in writing, but midwifery has been practised for many years. The Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk has indicated that his daughter has taken a midwifery program. I will also look at the services and how we can incorporate traditional and cultural knowledge in the delivery of health services, especially in the area of childbirth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are midwives among us now. We would like to start a midwifery program and it's in the initial stages of dialogue. We have to deal with it for quite some time. We have to go through the planning stages, then setting up the program and how we can include more Inuit traditional knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 103 – 5(2): Support for Establishing New Daycare Facility

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and the community of Gjoa Haven.

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall that I wrote to him in early May regarding the possibility of renovating a building in Gjoa Haven into a new daycare facility.

Mr. Speaker, while I appreciated the minister's response, it is disappointing that the Department of Education does not provide any funding for capital projects to establish daycares unless they are in schools or Nunavut Arctic College facilities.

Mr. Speaker, could the minister clarify what kinds of support his department will provide with respect to ensuring that any renovations undertaken to convert a stand-alone building into a

daycare can meet the necessary code requirements of the department's *Child Day Care Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Akoak for his question. When he wrote to me, I wanted to offer my services to him. In terms of any daycare space that falls outside of our buildings, whether it's a school building or Nunavut Arctic College facility, child care is run by non-profit societies and, as such, they either rent or have their own building to operate facilities out of. However, we look at what necessary building components they need in order to operate efficiently.

Of course, having children and infants in a child care centre, we have to make the utmost precautions and due diligence in order to have a safe space and environment for them to develop in. That's the number one thing that we look at in terms of issuing a licence. They need to have all the safety inspections and have everything in good, working order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response from the minister. The building that we're talking was a daycare centre at one time, but they boarded the building. They're ready to renovate it and they still need some funds.

Mr. Speaker, there are many young people in Gjoa Haven who would like to go to school or join the workforce but cannot because there is no daycare space for their children.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to reaching out to the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven and providing whatever assistance his department can offer to get this proposed daycare project off the ground? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Akoak. For daycares, our Early Childhood Education Division, we do try to provide as much support as we can to any community that might want to open a new daycare. There's a new one that just opened up in Igloolik. We're very happy with that and we're looking forward to other opportunities that might come up.

I did direct my staff to look into how best we can support Gjoa Haven in their endeavour. Like I said, they're run by non-profit societies. There's start-up support that they can apply to in order to get a fully functional daycare. I do hope that in the near future that there will be renovations that might be done, whether it's through a third party or through fundraising. Maybe that's another option that the community can look at.

The education department can do only so much, but I'm committing to do as much as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 104 – 5(2): Requirements for a High School Diploma

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's obvious that I will direct my question to the Minister of Education.

This was brought up previously in the House on June 7, 2017 and it was on the issue of education. I'll state in English what the minister at the time, Minister Quassa, said. (interpretation ends) This is from the education minister about a year ago here in the House regarding social promotion. "We as a government have maintained that we don't believe in that concept nor do we want to see such a practice."

My understanding of how the education system is working right now in Nunavut is that there is a big emphasis on keeping students with their peers. The practice today, again to quote the education minister about a year ago, "The practice today to ensure all of us understand is our students are taught at the grade level they are at, whether they pass or fail the grade."

My first question for the education minister is: when it comes to our grade 12 graduates, do they have to pass departmental exams in order to receive a grade 12 diploma in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Main for his question. Yes, the grade 12 students are required to take certain courses and also have departmental exams or technical exams. After they have completed their exams, because we use the Alberta curriculum, there is a requirement to have exams at the end of the year. They then decide whether or not the student will get a grade 12 diploma. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I didn't quite get his response. We use the departmental exams from Alberta. (interpretation ends) Do graduates have to pass the departmental exams in order to receive a diploma, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In order to obtain a High School Diploma, you need to get 100 high school credits and that's when you are able to obtain your diploma. I don't know if that answers your question, but that's as clear as I can get. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I didn't hear a yes or no, so I'm not sure what to read into that, but I guess I can check the *Hansard*.

When it comes to reading and writing comprehension, is there a minimum reading/writing level that must be attained in order to be given a grade 12 diploma in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our student assessment tools and there are student evaluation tools that the department has... . As students go grade by grade until grade 12, every student is assessed based on their grade. When they're progressing to the next phase, of course part of their requirements is that they need to have a certain level of comprehension. Yes, to be short. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 105 – 5(2): Oceans Protection Plan

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

Mr. Speaker, it is now June and sealift season is fast approaching.

On April 16 of 2018 the federal Minister of Transportation announced that his department is now accepting proposals from the Government of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories for projects to be funded from the Safety Equipment and Basic Marine Infrastructure in Northern Communities Initiative under the Oceans Protection Plan for the purpose of "making arctic re-supply operations faster, safer and more efficient for remote communities."

Can the minister describe what proposals the GN has submitted to date under this initiative?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot confirm what applications have been submitted. We're going to work with the hamlets to see what the hamlets' needs are in each community and prioritize it. It seems like a huge amount of money, \$94.3 million over five years, so it's roughly \$18 million a year divided by 25. We're grateful for it, but we want to make sure that we spend that resource as wisely and as well as possible and coming up with criteria as to which communities get funding. Just like any funding that's available, we generally get more applications than the funding can fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He answered part of my second question in his first, but I'll ask it anyway and see if he can add any more details.

The federal announcement indicated that "...the initiative is providing on-the-ground equipment and infrastructure, along with training on how to use and maintain it...territorial governments will work with local communities...to assess needs."

Can the minister confirm whether or not he has formally invited input from municipal councils and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to identify community priorities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can't confirm whether we have talked to the municipalities as of this date, but if we haven't, we will be talking with the communities and we will be talking with the shippers to come up with a plan as to which communities are in more urgent need of infrastructure upgrades to make it more efficient and safer to unload the resupplies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify if the equipment and/or infrastructure that is acquired under this initiative will be territorial assets or municipal assets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure which. I guess it depends on how the funding is laid out. I envision, if there's a contribution agreement, then the facility probably would be turned over to the municipalities and probably will be turned over to the municipalities at some point. I'm sorry I can't the member right now exactly owns it, but more than likely the municipalities will own the infrastructure. The infrastructure could be as simple as a breakwater, which they would maintain. There should be funding sources available to maintain whatever facilities that are put up by this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 106 – 5(2): Benefits for Nunavummiut Living in the South

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in many communities, residents have family members who live away from home in the south. Sometimes they were sent south for medical treatment and ended up staying away for a long time.

Can the minister clarify what kinds of benefits Nunavummiut have while they are living away from Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they are away under medical care, we provide for their accommodations, food, and health care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes Inuit who are originally from Nunavut move out of the territory to live with friends or partners in the south. Can the minister clarify whether these individuals can still access the health benefits that are available to other Nunavut Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When somebody decides that they want to now live in a different province or territory, it's something that we can't really control. If we send somebody down on medical travel, there's a return ticket for them at that time, but if they choose to refuse it and say, "We don't want to go back to Nunavut," there's not much that we can do. If you have decided that you don't want to come back to Nunavut and you want to live, let's say, in Ottawa, then there's a transfer of health care from Nunavut to OHIP. I'm just using it as an example if the person was in Ontario and it would be different if it was in Manitoba or in Alberta, as examples. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 107 – 5(2): Household Allowance

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Finance. I would like to revisit the household allowance that my colleague, Mr. Hickee, and I have brought up on several occasions.

The Department of Finance and the Nunavut Housing Corporation have been collaboratively reviewing the Staff Housing Program for quite some time. Once again the Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting another \$55 million for the Staff Housing Program.

In response to my written question, the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicated that as of March 31, 2018, there are currently 1,600 staff housing units. Now, with \$55 million being allocated to the 1,600 units, it comes out to approximately over \$34,000 per unit. When you compare that to

the Nunavut household allowance of \$4,800 a year, the NHC is spending seven times more than that allotted amount that is provided to the other GN employees.

My first question the Minister of Finance is: during this review, has the department identified the inequity between the Staff Housing Program and the household allowance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated, we will collaborate with the housing corporation this fall on the consideration of housing rental and the money we spend on homeownership. That is presently being worked on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a response to my question, so I will ask again. During the collaborative review between the Department of Finance and Nunavut Housing Corporation on the staff housing subsidy and household allowance, has the inequity between the two programs been identified? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue on staff housing and housing allowance is being looked at comprehensively. If there is an inequity, it is also part of the review. It's one that I have mentioned that is part of the blueprint for action. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like we keep hearing the same responses, and I will leave it be for now and hopefully we can hear more about it at a later date. In the meantime, since the household allowance was first incorporated in 2009, the cost of living has steadily increased and with it the cost of homeownership as well as market rent. When will the government address this and provide more assistance to our homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry if I sound like a broken record. For this session, we get the same question a number of times. I responded that this is part of the blueprint for action and that we should have the results in by this fall. If I'm not clear about it, I just hope that I could be any clearer to say that our staff are working very diligently to look at this issue as a whole. It's to ensure and provide us cabinet ministers some recommendations to consider. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 006 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Uqsuqtuuq, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended, maybe by a couple of more hours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and starting from now, question period is extended for another 30 minutes. Therefore we will proceed with the orders of the day. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Question 108 – 5(2): Transfer of Old Health Centre to the Municipality of Pangnirtung

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

Last week I had asked the minister to provide an update concerning his department's response to the Municipality of Pangnirtung's request to take possession of the old community health centre for the purpose of converting it into a safe shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's approach to this issue. In his replies to me, the minister indicated that he would know by the end of the month of May if any of the Government of Nunavut's departments had expressed interest in acquiring the building prior to offering it to the Municipality of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in the first week of June. Can the minister update the House today on the status of that issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Pangnirtung for working passionately in regard to this issue. That's understandable because we are able to use buildings that are surplus. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to be able to say today to the member that we had to ask various departments as to whether the old health centre can be used and we just heard that it is surplus. We are now working on transferring it over to the hamlet council and we are starting to prepare the documents for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. I'm sure that Pangnirtung residents will be very happy to hear that because the old facility has been sitting idle for quite some time. Can the minister outline what the next steps in this process will be? (interpretation ends) What are the next steps in the process for this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Last winter they had to inspect the building to find out where they need to do more work. They did an inspection and they looked at the facility, for example, the windows and doors. After that, perhaps along with the hamlet council, they will do investigative work to find out what requires more work. I'm very pleased that my officials will be able to meet with the hamlet council on June 11. That's the date we're looking at to meet with the hamlet council to discuss the building. This work is urgent if we want to do it properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You had stated that they will be looking at the old health centre and if they need to work on it. Which department will be looking at it or who will be doing the repair work? Will it be the Department of Community and Government Services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. On June 11...well, it's June now. I'm sure we will discuss this matter at that time, what is going to occur and who will be paying for what. We will discuss that at that time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 109 – 5(2): Addressing Social Promotions in Nunavut Schools

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll now direct my question to the Minister of Education in my second line of questioning.

Mr. Speaker, parts of the comments was attributed to the Department of Education by the Minister of Finance regarding the proposed amendments to the *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, when students graduate, in the smaller communities especially, they find their diploma isn't accepted at higher institutions. Further, what members have heard on many occasions relates to social promotion, which is the practice of allowing students to move up even though their grade levels are inadequate. When students are socially promoted, they usually join their next class, and this happens on occasion, Mr. Speaker.

Social promotion affects the rest of the students who would have been able to focus on their studies, but it causes distractions due to the socially promoted students' inabilities. The students who would have been focusing on their studies become distracted due to the requirement of the teacher needing to concentrate on the student with issues. It keeps the teacher from focusing on the entire class, as they have to try to get the student at the same level. This is causing students to lose out on the education they should be receiving.

Perhaps when the *Education Act* is in the process of being amended, the department can also deal with this contentious issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aivilik for his question. When the *Education Act* is being reviewed for possible amendments, as amendments have been recommended obviously, we have pertinent reasons for looking at increasing our student attendance and outcomes.

(interpretation ends) The goal of amending the *Education Act* is to improve student outcomes and the overall general delivery of our education system. I think, to his question, that's part of the quality of our education will be in our minds when we go through the amendment process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netsier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Regular members will keep monitoring this process based on the minister's comments pertaining to our students.

Now I wish to ask the minister about this matter. When can we expect the process to begin amending the legislation, as mentioned in the (interpretation ends) budget speech (interpretation) related to (interpretation ends) amending the *Education Act*? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for asking about that matter once again. We are aware that summertime is not a good time to consult with communities, although summer seems ideal. However, there is usually limited time available in the communities and many residents are on the land.

Due to that reason amongst others, we expect this process to begin in the fall when the DEAs and our partners, such as the Coalition of DEAs, Inuit organizations, and other stakeholders within the education system are available. This is also when the consultation tours would commence by visiting the communities. These comprise some of the areas that require amendments within the *Education Act*.

We anticipate after the fall consultations, in the upcoming winter session of 2019, we would then try to table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 110 – 5(2): Minister’s Statement Online and Videoconferencing Learning Options

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to the Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs’ minister’s statement that he made on Friday titled, “Online and Videoconference Learning Options for Public Servants.”

Mr. Speaker, it speaks to five courses offered. One of the five courses offered was employee and cultural orientations. How many of the 16 sessions and 96 participants were from the employee and cultural orientation program offered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different types of programs available for our employees, so I wonder which program he is referring to. Is it the Inuktitut language program? I had spoken to that issue earlier. I would ask if he is referring to that or the French or English programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his minister’s statement on Friday, June 1, he spoke to five courses offered online: Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel computer courses, Nunavut history and governance course, retirement planning courses, employee and cultural orientations, and mentorship information sessions. That was the minister’s statement that I was alluding to, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be referencing quite a number of figures which vary. As per my earlier comments and the question from the member, there are different courses available. For example, in Cambridge Bay there were three Inuit and seven non-beneficiaries taking the course.

There are quite a number of classes to list and, if he would like the figures or wants to see the figures, I can provide a listing of all the information of the attendees and courses, albeit it may take several minutes to list off the courses and figures if I were to state each and every list.

However, what I can speak to relates to the overall amounts in the regions. For Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, Qikiqtani as well as courses taken (interpretation ends) online (interpretation) in the

Kitikmeot total, perhaps they are also broken down based on whether they are Inuit or non-Inuit. Actually they are alive...

>>*Laughter*

...but not listed as being Inuit. There are different listings.

Perhaps what I can say here is that 52 percent of the students were Inuit while the non-Inuit component was at 48 percent of the course participants. For the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani regions, the number of online students and the students taking the Inuit language training are also broken down into different levels.

Just for employees here in Iqaluit, what I can state here without listing numbers is that the percentage of Inuit taking the courses was 37 percent and non-Inuit participants totalled 63 percent.

Further, in the regions for 2017-18, the decentralized communities of Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Igloodik, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Cape Dorset had about the same number of Inuit participants totalling 44 percent while non-Inuit comprised about 56 percent.

Here in Iqaluit, French training program participants online at 44 percent Inuit and 56 percent non-Inuit. In the 2017-18 fiscal year French course, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, Baffin in total was 69 percent Inuit and 31 percent non-Inuit. I can go on, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the member has additional questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate all that information, but all I had asked was how many of the 96 participants from the on-line and video conference options participated in the employee and cultural orientation.

Anyway, one of the things that we have dealt with, with retention within our public service has been the expectation of when people come here they know Nunavut, that they learn people in the communities, they make connections, and then they learn the culture that they are now surrounded with.

I'm not going to go into all the different regional stats and everything but as a percentage, how many new employees take the employee and cultural orientation programs offered as the Public Service Training Branch designs, develops and delivers training and development programs, including orientation, according to the business plan? How many of these new employees in the public service, as a percentage, take the employee and cultural orientation program offered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the (interpretation ends) public service training program, (interpretation) it is open to the entire public service sector who wish to take the training. What I can state here is that it applies to (interpretation ends) all GN employees, (interpretation) as it is open to anyone working in the public service. The programs are open to every employee and to anyone wishing to take the courses as part of orientation training for new employees or for people already working to take the (interpretation ends) public service training (interpretation) as it is open for all employees, and people are not told they cannot take a particular course, as it is wide open for all employees. Everyone is eligible, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The member for Arviat North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Main.

Question 111 – 5(2): Hunting for Caribou for Monetary Purposes

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of the Environment. I rise today because I have posed this question in the House a number of times about caribou management.

We all know here in the House that following the Nunavut Agreement, Inuit have certain rights under the Nunavut Agreement for wildlife, to be able to sell their catch to other Inuit. We all know that. The rights that Inuit have been properly recognized and they are not changeable. However, Mr. Speaker, my constituents, some of them are elders and some of them are hunters and they are very concerned about the caribou. These days, when people see caribou, they see cash.

They see money when people are selling them now on-line. I had asked the previous minister, Elisapee Sheutiapik, about this on March 28 and she stated that she would hold a meeting, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think, last week I committed to ensuring that the co-management team, Hunters and Trappers, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and our government get together to talk. They do have on-going discussions for the different caribou herds. (interpretation) I'd like to ask the minister: did that meeting occur or when is the caribou management meeting going to occur? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if they have met yet, but the HTOs and the KWB; we're in continual talks with them, trying to address their concerns. Yes, Inuit have been saying things about caribou, such as that too many of them are being sold, but I would never tell any HTOs to stop selling caribou.

It's the HTOs that should be the ones that say the selling of caribou meat should stop. We are the government, and if we try to deal with it on our own, we will not be able to. We would have to involve the HTOs and the Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board and the NTI as well. The member is aware that it's in the *Land Claims Agreement*, and we can't just change the fact that Inuit can sell their catch.

We hold meetings, but up to now, as to what we're actually going to do, no decision has been made yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been hearing that fact from my constituents. Is the government concerned about this as well? Do you share our concern? Does the Department of Environment share the concern? Have they heard about the concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we've heard that, that it's a concern just about everywhere, but we haven't heard any solutions to it yet. If there is any idea of solutions to that, we are open to it. Once the caribou diminish too much in numbers, the government can put in a total allowable harvest, we are able to do that. Up to now, we're not thinking of imposing a total allowable harvest, but know the caribou are decreasing in numbers. We have to figure out a number where once they get to a certain number, and then we'll have to impose a total allowable harvest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. It would not be good to see a quota imposed on caribou. It would be good if caribou can continue to be many in numbers. That's why I'm asking these questions. The previous minister, Elisapee Sheutiapik, when I was asking questions, she stated that she would be talking to the airlines to see how many caribou have been sent out from Nunavut communities. Has the Department of Environment heard from the airlines about that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my knowledge, the airlines don't want to tell us how many kilograms in caribou have been sent to the Baffin from the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 112 – 5(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Caribou Management

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question and comments will be directed to the Minister of the Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Now on March 20, I queried the minister about this matter and I made a statement that caribou harvesting has led to hunters purchasing snowmobiles. When I returned to Rankin Inlet, I went to

bank manager to ask about this matter, related to funds from caribou harvests and what they were being used towards.

At this time, he stated snowmobiles should not be a focal point, because some hunters are apparently putting their funds towards a down payment for home ownership. This seems quite dangerous. I can say that it is, as we all know Inuit have rights under the Nunavut Agreement, in particular sections 5.4 under Article 5 and section 8.6 under Article 8, which provide Inuit with the right to harvest and the right to sell, barter, exchange and give their harvested animals since it is a right.

However, if we turn this language over to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, it breaks the foundation of our cultural rules, as it destroys the foundation and the throwing away of edible meats to the dumps. What is the government's position on this? They're always saying they're going to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Agreement is the law. After that agreement was signed, it has to be followed. We've stated that the government will use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we will use it, but the Nunavut Agreement is an actual law. If we try and stop Inuit from selling their catch, we cannot. We have to follow the law, it was signed and we have no choice but to follow the law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That being the case, and it is the law under the Nunavut Agreement. There are laws about wildlife. The fact that anybody who throws away or wastes meat can be put in jail or fined. It can be dealt with that way. Has that been utilized by the Nunavut government when people throw away meat and it spoils? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that law that she's citing is the Nunavut government law, and if anybody throws away country food and spoils it and we find out about it, then the renewable resource officer would investigate to see if that actually happened, and if meat was thrown away and it spoiled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, and I thank the minister. We have to consider the special selling of caribou if we want to protect our caribou. Right now, they're just killing caribou, some of them are doing it the proper way, some of them are not doing it the proper way. Some people are ordering caribou and not receiving anything. If it's under trade, then it should be administered by the government.

We hear about HTOs themselves selling caribou meat. In the Kivalliq region, HTOs are selling caribou meat. Why aren't they saying anything? Us, as elected representatives, if we just watch this happen and do nothing, we hear Kivalliq caribou are of the last healthy caribou herds in Canada. What are the minister's thoughts on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I don't really understand what the member is asking. Can the member clarify her question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister of Environment, it's widely known that the hunters and trappers association board members themselves sell caribou. It's also widely known that the Kivalliq Wildlife Board members sell caribou. Some of them advertise it on social media. If those members that we represent do not speak on behalf of the caribou, then who will? We do know that the Beverly Qamanirjuaq herd is one of the last healthy herds in the Kivalliq, if not in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for that clarification. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Minister Speaker...sorry. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

>>*Laughter*

I'm sorry, but I have a hard time understanding. If you're asking who speaks for the caribou, then we are here to manage wildlife in Nunavut as a government, all animals, including caribou.

As for the HTO members and KW members that sell caribou, it's their right to do so. It's under the land claims. They are entitled to sell their caribou. Any beneficiary has the right to buy, sell, trade, or barter their legally harvested wildlife. They're allowed to do that.

The Qamanirjuaq herd is one of the herds that are still... It is in a slight decline, but it's one of the healthiest herds and we don't want it to decline so much that there has to be a total allowable harvest. We would like to manage it, but we can't do it alone. We have to do it with the help of the HTOs, the RWOs, and the people who sell the caribou. We have to work with everyone and come up with a suitable solution. That is within the Nunavut land claims. The Nunavut land claims is the law and we have to work within the law that we were given. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired and it can't be extended again today. Mr. Kaerner.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues, for your consent.

I rise to recognize three individuals. The first one is my sister, Asena Kaernerk, who is visiting Iqaluit.

>>*Applause*

My nephew, Ian Kaernerk, is also visiting Iqaluit.

>>*Applause*

My nephew's spouse, Beatrice Morgan, is also here.

>>*Applause*

Welcome them to the House. Thank you for allowing me to go back to this item. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to welcome to the gallery my wife, Mona Netser. She just came back with the vest I'm wearing right now. Mr. Speaker, she is very knowledgeable in working with furs and how to treat them. She usually gets a call about bleaching furs or how to prepare country foods to make it even more delicious.

Mr. Speaker, I have an extremely capable wife, and we have been married for 38 years and when we first got married we weighed differently but over the years we both now weigh a little over 200lbs.

>>*Laughter*

She feeds me very, very well so I am much heavier than 200lbs. now. I would like to welcome my wife to the House, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House. Please, always feel welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no other names. I will return to the Orders of the Day. 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. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeegok.

Item 19: Second Reading

Bill 07 – Cannabis Act – Second Reading

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move and seconded by the honourable member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 7, *Cannabis Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principal of the bill. Minister of Finance.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Bill proposes to create a new territorial law; *The Cannabis Act*, and amend other Acts. Together with Bill 3, which the Minister of Justice introduced in March, these proposed changes are the territory's approach to controlling cannabis in Nunavut, given the federal government's plan to legalize it this summer. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our government's objectives respecting cannabis are broad and important. We want to protect the health and safety of *Nunavummiut*, especially minors.

We want to provide safe distribution of cannabis to adults. We want to combat the illegal market for cannabis. We want to increase awareness of risks associated with cannabis. Bill 7 sets out a reasonable made-in-Nunavut because we drafted this Bill to reflect in a balanced way what we heard from *Nunavummiut* during our consultations.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 7 is substantial, and I look forward to reviewing it with members in detail. Here are some of the examples it proposes: set up licencing systems for cannabis stores; creating, in time, opportunities for responsible local development and jobs; requires community consultations before opening a store; prohibiting smoking in common areas of apartments or elsewhere where it could bother others in their dwelling; prohibit growing cannabis plants at home; prohibit consumption of cannabis near schools, health centres, playgrounds and any other place where minors frequently are, and allows the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission to sell cannabis, including through an online agent, and to use proceeds to fund education and information campaigns related to cannabis.

Mr. Speaker, while not contained in Bill 7, an important part of our wider approach to cannabis is to join Canada's coordinated cannabis taxation framework. It is too early to accurately forecast tax revenues, which will depend on how much *Nunavummiut* legally purchase. Our Assembly will be able to choose how best to invest tax revenues through future budgets. Supporting Bill 7

is about recognizing that our government should have a say on how cannabis is controlled in our territory.

Bill 7 is a result of federal legislation and allowing us to create our own legislation is the right approach. We all have differing views of cannabis. I am honoured that we are able to create our own legislation that reflects our territory and ability to make further regulations in the future, which will require consultations on specific matters.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close my remarks by sincerely thanking all those who share their views during consultation, whether raising strong concerns or making specific suggestions for offering broad support. It is clear that Nunavummiut care about their communities. We will continue to listen to Nunavummiut as we move forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, I wanted to speak further to the matter related to the Minister of Finance's statement. I wish to reiterate that this legislation is being drafted in Nunavut, and will be reviewed in this House as a Bill. Made for Nunavut by Nunavummiut, and I believe in this process as was mentioned.

Further, with the legislation passing through this House...since we are Nunavummiut, and are proud of the residents of our territory...and to return to the part of the statement which I wish to reiterate relates to the earlier consultation tour conducted in many communities. Although it was comprehensive, but, since this needs to be in the public domain, we had to hear the views of residents on this matter.

They listened to the many concerns and comments heard from the communities as concerns were also noted. Following the list of concerns, the legislation was then drafted as a Bill to be tabled for review in the House. As well, this legislation will be specific towards Nunavummiut, and throughout Canada, all provinces are drafting legislation to comply, and I believe Nunavut is the last jurisdiction that is dealing with this legislation drafting.

That is how this process is setup, and I want to express my gratitude again to the residents who took the time to provide comments to the consultation tour and voiced their concerns, or who wanted specific sections in the legislation. Again, I submit my appreciation for submitting their thoughts on our proposed legislation. The people of Nunavut have helped us greatly, and we had to hear what the concerns of Nunavummiut were. I will be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the bill. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, before I make my comment, I asked my constituents about what kind of concerns they have about this proposal. They have called or written to me.

For the people of Baker Lake and for the people of Nunavut, I will try to talk about this issue. This is spearheaded by the federal government and we have heard it on the news. This bill, *Bill C-45*, was brought up by the federal government.

In Nunavut, since we started talking about our own legislation, *Bill 7 and Bill 3*, we all know and understand, as people of Nunavut, that the federal government legislation, once passed, is enacted immediately.

If we don't have our own legislation in Nunavut then federal legislation would be imposed on us. It's also clear listening to the news and the federal government announcements that it will be provide economic benefits to the governments, which seems to be their focus.

In the Kivalliq dialects, we call the substance *Puluatsijarlak* (stinky cigarette); I wanted to clarify that. Our government has also announced that it will introduce online ordering, which will be developed and set up for implementation, including how the ordering process will be setup for online orders.

Nonetheless, I want to reiterate previous statements I made on this issue when I was a Member of the Fourth Assembly and we passed a *Forfeiture Act* that, to date has yet to be implemented. There is not even an office or position identified for this legislation, which was passed by the Fourth Assembly.

Now, as Members of the Fifth Assembly, part of our duties require, if the Bill is passed since it will apply to all of Nunavut, the review of legislation requiring amendment or that breaks the proposed legislation. The legislation that will be impacted by the *Cannabis Bill* includes the *Tobacco Act*, *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act*, and particularly how it would apply in apartment buildings, so it would affect the *Tenants Act*.

It is obvious that today here in Nunavut, cannabis is being imported illegally into many of our communities in Nunavut. Many communities have expressed concerns and tried to prohibit the substance, but as of yet although it is illegal, prohibition and trying to lessen usage is not working as they are breaking the law.

Nonetheless, on the other hand, prohibition has been shown to not work, and it will be almost impossible to enact prohibition. It seems people will do the opposite thing, and many Inuit have expressed their concerns about how it would affect their local governance related to enforcing the legislation in their communities.

Now, the federal government is pushing for this legislation to be passed to comply with their legislation. For example, to look at the transportation system in the south where people have to cross borders, they have security equipment that tests the products to check for illegal substances.

However, since Nunavut is within Canada and is serviced primarily by air flights, why don't we have this testing equipment available at the hubs? There is equipment that checks for dangerous and illegal substances, such as cannabis as currently it is shipped up illegally. There are other

more dangerous substances as well, and we should have equipment to check for these harder drugs at airports, as this would stop many shipments currently.

This would also lead to more charges being laid. But, I am unsure if these are priorities of this government. Another issue that has been in the news relates to second-hand smoke health effects of cannabis, many people are supporting the idea of medical marijuana, but if the patient was given an overdose, how would they determine the strength of the substance? Is it dangerous? Cannabis has several different strains which I will speak to, in English.

(interpretation ends) Cannabis indica and Cannabis sativa are the two main varieties of the cannabis plant used as medicine. Within each of those varieties, there are a huge number of individual strains each with a different cannaboid profile and medicinal effect.

As indica strains have more chlorophyll than sativa strains, they grow and mature faster and differ medically in relationship to the indica/sativa percentages each phenotype contains. Hybrid strains dominate the market.

(interpretation) This seems quite obvious that we have a lot of items to work on, as it will have an impact on Nunavut, and noticeably will have an impact on our government. As an example, the Department of Health, Family Services, the Department of Justice and perhaps the federal cabinet and these are just a few examples.

Mr. Speaker, clearly in our role as MLAs, we will have to work on this legislation as elected representatives of our constituents. Now, whether I will support it, or will vote against it is something I am not willing to divulge now. However, once we start dealing with the draft legislation, then I will speak about issues needing consideration.

Another matter requiring some forethought, in all of Canada, a day is set aside for this substance throughout the country, and it is amongst the most popular, especially amongst the younger crowds. When the day arrives and the legislation is passed in this House, I can imagine a child somewhere who we do not wish to be hungry ending up that way.

As the territory of Nunavut, and as MLAs, we understand the debates surrounding this issue as we have read materials on this subject, and there is abundant material related to the substance that one can read up on. This is clearly something we will have to deal with.

The purpose of the legislation is to cut down on criminal activity related to importing cannabis into Nunavut, and that is part of the thinking on this legislation. For this reason, I wanted to provide some comments on this important issue as we need to carefully consider the impacts, both when the regular members review it and when we review the Bill in Committee of the Whole.

I will have questions quite obviously, and I am clearly outlining that for your information related to the federal government Bill C-45, Bill C-46 and also in the Nunavut Legislature, Bill 7 and Bill 3. As well, I will have questions on the various televised statements, as many legislators seem to be promoting it as “green gold”. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Comments on the Motion. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rankin Inlet was consulted on what their opinion is on cannabis. I went on the radio stating that it is going to be approved by the federal government.

I believe that this is late. We all know, as MLAs, that it is used all over Nunavut. I was called by the school principal saying that young people under the age of 16 use cannabis in the washroom.

Now, if we don't make preparations, the federal legislation will govern the substance as it hasn't been delayed yet. The legislation also lists the minimum age set at 18, which also applies to Nunavut, and it also doesn't stop the growing of the plants so I will be supporting the Bill.

If we didn't support the Bill as MLAs, we have to ensure we draft very tight legislation in Nunavut, otherwise the federal legislation will apply and we will have to adhere to the legislation. Many residents of Nunavut are totally opposed to this substance, especially some of our elders.

I was advised by an elder that they want to prohibit this substance. However, to this date and age, we are trying to draft legislation that legalizes the substance, which is underground now, and we have to place it in the open. Now, in saying that, addictions can occur with any substance, and one question came immediately to mind:

When cannabis is going to be sold, how will the people who buy it finance their purchases? Where would they get income from? I have thought about this as I have seen certain elders who are being bullied by drug users. We have to have more control over that to ensure this doesn't occur.

The price will drop substantially when the substance is available openly. I know today, in some communities, it is sold for \$50 per unit and sometimes higher. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Comments to the motion. I have no more names on my list. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and the Bill... I apologize. I went ahead of myself. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 67(2), I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay that Bill 7, *Cannabis Act*, be ordered into the Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I again apologize. Let's try this again. To the motion. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 7 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

Going to the orders of the day. Third Reading of Bills. Moving on. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other matters. Bills 4, 5, and 7 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:17 and Committee resumed at 16:41*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 4, 5, and 7. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 4 and the Department of Health and, if time permits, we will commence with the review of the Department of Education. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Does the committee agree that we first start 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 invite to the witness table. Minister Angnakak.

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

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

Thank you. I understand that the minister has some information that she wants to share with us based on the meeting from Friday. I will ask her to introduce her witnesses and then go into her remarks. Minister Angnakak.

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

There were three questions that were asked of us on Friday that I would like to get back to the members on.

We were asked about training of interpreters, where they came from, which home communities of interpreters. There were 17 out of 18 individuals were from the following: Iqaluit, 10 and the rest were Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset, Arctic Bay, Kimmirut, and Igloolik. That's one question that was asked of us.

We had a question regarding Gjoa Haven, to see if Gjoa Haven has asked for any funding. We have been through the BNs for the last six years and there's no mention of Gjoa Haven receiving specific funding of note. More communities are receiving it than previously and this was to do with alcohol and drug treatment services that the member asked on Friday.

This is from MLA Lightstone. He was wondering how many staff from Health took language courses; 26 participants. This list does not include health staff who registered for training but withdrew and the list does not include health staff who were on the wait-list for a course, if any.

Then you also asked what each employee on education leave is studying. Six are on education leave: three are doing nurses, one is in finance studies, and two are doing business admin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. When we left on Friday, we were dealing with the Department of Health and we were on page H-5. Public Health. The next person on the list for questions was Mr. Mikkungwak. Go ahead.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and her officials. On your business plan, page 142, implement a new northern wellness agreement with Health Canada. Can the minister elaborate what this entails? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Nunavut Wellness Agreement* is a 10-year contribution agreement that we have with the federal government, and the Department of Health, under this initiative, has developed a 10-year territorial health plan with Health Canada that will provide funding through a single contribution agreement for community-based health promotion and disease prevention programs in Nunavut.

This was effective April 1, 2017, and it will go until March 2027. We have collaborated with key stakeholders, including, of course, NTI, the communities, and other partners in the development of these Nunavut wellness agreement plans. All 25 communities have designed new multi-year community wellness plans, and they meet the unique health and wellness programming needs for the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. When we look at this northern wellness agreement, which is going to be, in listening to your response, rolled out to all 25 communities, when will the initial funding take place and start disseminating to all the communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are already programs in place where we've started to work with the communities. This agreement has already been implemented and we're on our way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the wellness agreement for Nunavut with the federal government, thank you for explaining that to me. What does the wellness agreement entail? Is it preventative work? Can you explain further so that Nunavummiut can have a better understanding of what it entails? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just state some of the programs that we do so the member can be more familiar. We have community wellness programs, which includes 26 multi-year community wellness plans. All plans include funding for school programs, as an example, and just to note that when we work with community wellness committees, the community themselves have identified what priorities they want to work on within their community.

We also have community capacity development that includes seven new community wellness coordinators which are going to be phased over a three-year pilot approach, including capacity building and support for these positions. Three of these positions are filled in Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset and Chesterfield Inlet. We're aiming to fill all seven by 2019.

Under this program, we also have the territory health promotion initiatives. They provide consistent and comprehensive approaches for health promotion and public health programming in communities across Nunavut. For example, what the member might be really interested to know about is the smoking cessation activities that the communities are doing, and the baby bed program. I thought I'd throw that one in while I can.

The other thing that we are doing is home and community care. Home and community care is part of the continuum care that we give in the community, and it provides an array of services in the home and community setting based on assessed needs for Nunavummiut of all ages. Home and community care is a very important part.

We also have program management. This element provides admin structure that supports the management and implementation of the *Nunavut Wellness Agreement*. It also includes monitoring and evaluation of the agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister might have to do a little bit more research on one of the comments that she made, which reflects another community in Nunavut, on a humorous note.

The question I have...when you are talking about you already have three employees in place in smaller communities, the other four remaining employees that are currently vacant; are there any considerations for larger communities such as Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, we are doing an assessment and we hope to finalize that by August. This assessment will tell us which communities we need to select for the next four to go into. I know that probably does make any sense, but that assessment will tell us which communities need these four PYs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to your 2018-2021 draft business plan, the educational upgrade program will help to increase the local health workforce across Nunavut. Can you provide further details on this initiative and explain how it will improve employment opportunities for frontline health workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the educational upgrade program for Nunavut Inuit Public Health staff. We have developed the educational upgrade program to support Nunavut Inuit in health positions, which is a direct response to Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement.

15 health employees are enrolled in the diploma program in Community Health Promotion at the Native Education and Training College in Ontario. 10 students have completed the first year certificate in Community Health Promotion, and 8 of the 15 students are working toward obtaining a two-year diploma in Community Health Promotion. Tutors will continue to provide comprehensive academic support to students three times a year. There are actually 12 students taking this.

All existing funding for the educational upgrade program is through vote four funding. In the 2016-17 fiscal year, health received \$330,000 for the education upgrade program via Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative. That's a big, long title, and \$110,000 in 2017-18 fiscal year.

Health is considering the reallocation of vote four funding to continue to support the program. Health is also exploring funding options through the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Training Fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak, and I am not the Speaker. Mr. Mikkungwak, please go ahead.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's response, I heard a number of things. I clearly heard that there are individuals that are currently in training courses under that particular branch.

At the same time, I asked a question. So, these individuals that are currently taking the training courses, are they actually employees of the Department of Health, and are they covering all communities of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are all employees of health, and their positions include community health development coordinators, regional wellness program coordinators, community health representatives, and community wellness coordinators. This training is taken online, and, in fact, one of these students is from Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. I'll move on to your business plan, page 143. Priorities 2018-19. Fourth bullet. Continue to support the coalition in the renewal of the strategy and development of the food security action plan. What is the Department of Health really doing in regard to that when it's overseen by another government department in the Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that question. The Department of Health is a member of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition and Secretariat, co-chaired by the Department of Family Services and NTI. Effective April 1, 2016, Cabinet approved the transfer of the food security file and associate budget from health to the Department of Family Services, and this also included its associate position, the Territorial Food Security Coordinator. As a coalition member, health continues to support monitoring of funding and leading departmental-specific projects to achieve the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan items.

An additional \$19,000 was provided to each school breakfast program across the territory through amendments to the community wellness plans that I just spoke of earlier. In January, 2018, through the use of vote 4 carry-forward funding is how we're involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. I heard a positive thing in her response, which is the breakfast program. In some communities, they already provide lunch programs in various schools. Will that also be taken into consideration where other communities that currently don't have any operating lunch programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this file.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that's the beauty of the Nunavut Wellness Program. The community will decide how they want to spend their money. If they want to spend additional money on food programs, such as a lunch program, then they are able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's nice to hear we're giving some community empowerment back to communities. On another note, on the same page, priorities 2019-20, bullet number two. Proceed with the legislative process to amend the *Tobacco Control Act*. What do you plan to amend in the *Tobacco Control Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are several areas that we're looking at for amending, predominately where you can smoke...we don't want cigarettes in common areas... and how many metres away you have to be.

We're looking at exploring legislative options to update the *Tobacco Act*. Amendments are needed to adequately address current Nunavut-specific needs. Health is in the preliminary stages of drafting the legislative proposal. We're assessing options to amend the *Tobacco Control Act* by including provision to protect public from the use of tobacco, cannabis, and vaporizers, similar to other jurisdictions. I gave you some examples of some of the areas that we're looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other question I have is: recent media reports have noted that tobacco sales have declined across Nunavut in the past year. How does your department and measure the success of the Tobacco Reduction Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the tobacco reduction framework for action ended in 2016, the work outlined in the framework continues. Changing social norms

around tobacco use can take years, especially considering the social determinants of Inuit health, such as food security, overcrowded housing, poverty, and rapid cultural and linguistic change to name a few.

Monitoring and evaluation activities include the following: tobacco sales in Nunavut, tracking nicotine replacement therapy distribution from all pharmacists, recording quit line statistics, monitoring Facebook analytics, reviewing training session attendance and effectiveness, such as their confidence, knowledge, and capacity of health and wellness.

We also monitor the number and type of community tobacco reduction events, the number of brief tobacco interventions by healthcare providers, we visit health centres for tobacco-related reasons and tobacco use prevalence, and quit attempts using lot quality assurance sampling. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On your business plan, page 144, Mental Health and Addictions, I see a substantial increase, but at the same time, it's trying to help our people in Nunavut. The question I have is how many established treatment facilities can currently provide services to people within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's more of a health delivery question, not public health, but we do have seven communities that can currently provide addictions training at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Next on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the business plan, page 146, Oral Health. I grew up with a traditional mother, and she told all of us never to lose our front teeth. A, we worked with them on kamik soles, and B, if we lose them, we would age 10 years.

Today in Nunavut, I see a lot of young women and men with no front teeth or a gaping hole and they all have dentures. Why is that? Is there not an educational promotion? If a dentist takes out your teeth, is there a cost to the contractor? The dentist, the more teeth that you take out, the more money you make?

In saying that, the other question I have is related to oral health. I do know that whole plane loads of little children from Baffin and Keewatin go to Churchill for cavity fillings and operations. Of the \$2.7 million, what part is used for prevention? What part is used for information? What part is used for hygiene?

In Greenland, the schools partake in the oral hygiene of the kids, and none of the kids have cavities. In Canada, come back to Nunavut, our children have cavities. What's the situation with regard to oral health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is an area I am sure a lot of people have struggled with. You know, we want to ensure that proper dental care is being provided to all children by their parents.

We want to promote good oral health. We try to do it through ongoing development and distribution of oral health promotional and educational materials. We give out toothbrushes so we have a tooth-brushing campaign. We have an oral health promotion campaign in April of every year. April is traditionally Oral Health Month in Canada, so we have posters, public service announcements, and contests to promote good oral health. An oral health website was created to provide information on community dental schedules, as well as topical information on oral health.

We try to promote a school fluoride mouth rinse program that's a preventative measure to reduce dental cavities, and funding and employing a full-time oral health promotion specialist to oversee all of oral health promotion activities. Just to go on a little bit, we have a children's oral health project and we help all children from birth to nine years old.

All of our community oral health coordinators are all Nunavut Inuit and they have been hired in their own home communities to provide basic preventative services and activities as part of the children's oral health project. Approximately 85 percent of people under this program who have been hired are Inuit. Funding for this project has been extended for at least three more years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie: I checked into Non-Insured Health Benefits for oral hygiene. We have only the basics so I don't use Non-Insured Health Benefits. I provide for my own dental care out of Manitoba because I want to keep my teeth. I work with my teeth, but the question to my mind: has there been any consideration such as the *Tobacco Control Act*? On TV you see people with tobacco stop smoking. Is there any way of advertising keep your teeth or oral health is important?

The cost of getting dentures that we have seen across Nunavut must be expensive. A. The basic care that we get for oral health under the non-insurance health program...if I went to a proper, I forgot my dentist's name, but you know what I am getting at... are there any plans to advertise oral health so young women, young men, and children will stop losing their front teeth and getting dentures? That's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go over again, I did say that the oral health promotion campaign is in April of every year and during that time, not only in Nunavut but across Canada, we really promote oral health. We do posters, public service announcements,

and contests. We do different things to try to educate people about the importance of looking after their teeth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Next on my list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you can allow me to go back to the response she gave for one of my questions on the training or translation aspects of our translators. (interpretation) If it's okay, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I'll go ahead? Okay.

I thank the minister for the response. She said that there were a lot of communities attending the courses. Was this course provided by the Department of Health? That's my question. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My staff said that it was funded through Culture and Heritage. When I gave the numbers, it was from 2017-18, the people who took the course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The current course is being held here in Iqaluit; I have a friend who is attending it. Is this course being held by the Department of Health? That's my next question. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We coordinate our courses. We're working with Arctic College and we're working with Culture and Heritage and Health. That's the three that we're working with. Medical interpreting courses are open to the department's clerk interpreters and other health staff members. Like I say, we're working with Nunavut Arctic College on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for the response. Now my next question is on page 143 of the business plan, fifth bullet, to "Evaluate Tuberculosis programs' effectiveness and analyze outcomes."

Now, in her opening statement presentation, the minister says that she has \$1,583,000 in fiscal year 2018-19 to take the next steps forward towards eliminating TB in the territory. I note recently that ITK received millions of dollars into addressing the TB in Inuit Nunangat. Has ITK come forward to the department and say, "I have a lot of money and would like to help you eliminate TB"? Have they come to your office in terms of wanting to provide some funds? ITK

can't address TB anywhere in Nunavut or anywhere in Inuit Nunangat for that matter. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it's kind of a mystery to us yet. We do have a working group with NTI, ITK, and our department staff. There's a working group that has been put together to address this, but I think it's very unclear yet as to how this is all going to work. I haven't heard from the president or it's not at that level anyway, I don't think. We don't know yet. I think it's going to be a few months before we begin to really understand how this is all going to be carried out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. You're done, Mr. Netser? Okay. Moving on. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to everyone. I would like to just pick up where Mr. Netser just left off with TB. Going back to the budget address, it speaks to working in partnership with the Government of Canada and Inuit leadership in the country to eliminate TB, and says our government is investing an initial \$5.8 million over three years to expand Nunavut's TB prevention and control program.

My first question is:

Out of the \$5.8 million over 3 years, if it's worked in partnership is there a split? Is some of that money coming from the Government of Canada, some from ITK, some from the Government of Nunavut? Out of those dollars, how much is actual Nunavut's expenditure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted clarification. Each year, what we have approved is \$1,583,000, and we know that that's not enough. We anticipate that we're going to be receiving additional dollars to be able to address this big problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Just to clarify that response:

So right now, out of the \$5.8 million over the three years that was spoken of in the budget address, you're speaking to a little over \$4.5 million over that 3-year period. So this is just hopeful that there is going to be other monies coming in to bring it up to the \$5.8 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to make sense of what I'm reading here. Through a successful 2014-15 business case, health received a little over \$4 million. \$4,168,626 over three years. This funding included a new term and an intermediate PYs, orientation and professional development for staff, public education initiatives and materials, evaluating and analyzing the effectiveness of the TB program, and computer software. That's what we used it for. TB funding for 2018-19 is \$1,230,000, which is a vote four. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: I'm just still a little confused and caught up in this \$5.8 million. Maybe I'll paraphrase it this way. When you're talking about \$5.8 million over 3 years to expand Nunavut's TB prevention and control program, the first question where I should've led off with is what is meant by initial investment in a three-year commitment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We actually asked for a lot more than this, but this is the funding that we got and the reason being is because we don't know yet how working with ITK is going to look like, including the funding that we're going to get. This is more of an initial first start of what we're actually going to need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you for that clarification. So, then I'll try and drop this one topic if the minister can give me a breakdown. Like it states in the budget address, our government is investing an additional \$5.8 million over 3 years to expand the TB prevention and control program.

Where are those funds coming from and how will they be used to expand the TB prevention and control program? Does it total \$5.8 million? I have been kind of questioning a couple of other numbers in here since the address. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2018-19, we got an increase, like I said, of \$1,583,000, for 2019-2020, we're going to get an increase of \$2,111,000, and then in 2020-21 another \$2,111,000 increase, and that equals the \$5 million that was referenced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'm going to delve into a little bit... I know the model of care was probably covered under the Directorate, but I believe it has a direct relation to public health with access to staffing levels and service delivery in the community.

One of the things that I was trying to get at in my questioning to the Premier earlier today is how important orientation and cultural training and education is. I don't think it's any surprise that it's even more so important in the health care field, who are health care professionals that are dealing with day-to-day instances, working with the public on all different levels and at a very intimate level of understanding the importance of different beliefs.

Ms. Towtongie has brought up a number of different historical beliefs and practices. If you're trying to be a health care professional in this territory, knowing that information going in sets you up for success. Like the minister had mentioned and I know very well, we don't have a problem recruiting health care staff; we have a problem keeping them. To me, an orientation and education is a key component in setting up somebody for success.

My question would be: what advancements and what uptake are there with new employees, including contract nurses, in their ability to access these training and education programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree more with the member. I think orientations and proper orientations are vital. We want somebody to know about the community they're going into, who the families are, and what Nunavut is all about and to feel part of the community. Our challenge is that we have shortages across Nunavut when it comes to nurses. It means that they're working extra hours. It means that we have burnout. It means that we're operating at emergency basis.

Trying to fit that in, I don't know. Maybe it's something that we can look at doing before they actually go to a community or something like that, but it's hard to balance it all, even though I agree with you. It's an important thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that back in the day, there used to be a remote nursing education part of the nursing education system that seems to have gone by the wayside across Canada. When we're looking at having our own nurses trained here in the territory, what type of training are they provided through our own education system to give them a better advantage in working in remote locations and, again, looking at ways of enhancing their educational opportunity and potential for staying in the territory after? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I would like to provide great detail on what kind of topics are provided during the training when it comes to cultural orientation, but because I am not there and I haven't been to one of these, I cannot say what the nursing course offers when it comes to cultural orientation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Research Institute, in the last couple of years, did a study mainly directed toward physicians, but there is a lot of information there that covers a lot of bases with a lot of health care fields. What type of coordination with NRI or with their app that they put out, is there to help new public health workers in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you are referring to the Qaujigiaqtiit app? It's shared with all staff. In fact, I spoke to one nurse that had it and she thought it was very good. It's shared amongst staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I 'm just going to go back a little bit into the model of care review and I know it's not quite ready to sit up on our tables just yet. In the business plan it spoke to in the directorate side that it's being reviewed right now.

When we look at, obviously, the health care gap analysis and optimizing staff levels and creating consistent service delivery across the communities, the model of care is going to play an important role in that.

When you are looking at staffing in particular, I know there seems to almost be luck of the draw when you are setting the staffing levels of a community health centre and there is no set formula, *per se*, on a population base. It seems to be like a knee-driven or sometimes impulsive...there's a number of different issues going on so we add a nurse to the rotation of a set community.

From the initial review of the model of care delivery, what are our real, and I'm going to say nursing just as one example of a health care provider: what kind of numbers are we looking at? Do we have sufficient PYs to provide the level of care and we are just not being able to fill them, or is it a swing and a miss type thing and we don't even have the PYs in place and we are drastically short in our health care provision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right, we are short, and much of the implementation of the model of care redesign will depend on the business cases that are currently being prepared for the 2019-20 budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I just have one final question. I will save the rest for the next session.

When I'm also going back to the budget address, it speaks to \$1.6 million over three years to enhance hearing assessment services. I know there has been a lot of work in putting speaker systems in the schools and a lot more focus on the kindergarten tests to when kids are going to school from public health on early intervention.

My question is how will these dollars; I guess my first question is are these new dollars in addition to existing hearing assessment services, and how will these dollars be used to enhance services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are new dollars. Currently, there is only one audiologist that provides services to the entire Qikiqtaaluk region, and that does not adequately serve us. One additional PY in contracted service will be added to the program, and that's similar to the dental teams currently being used in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Mr. Hickes, you were done? No? Mr. Hickes, go ahead.

Mr. Hickes: I thought I was done, Mr. Chairman. For just a little bit further clarification. So, you say there's one PY for an audiologist in this region who is responsible for the entire region. Have there been contract services to assist that person? Is that position filled indeterminately? Is that the only PY that's funded as an audiologist? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is adding another PY. So that means we're going to have two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Just to clarify, has the current audiologist PY been filled indeterminately? Have there been any other support services brought in to assist him to go through the list? I know there's a very long waiting list.

I believe a letter a couple weeks ago from one of my constituents on this topic, and the office moved and stuff..When we're looking at providing the services across the whole region with one person for getting all the adequate testing and identification of what the needs are, I know its complex. I'm not going to deny that and I know that very well.

Has there been any other support services brought in on a short-term basis to try and deal with this which has led up to the identified need of a second PY? How did you substantiate your business case to the Department of Finance? Thank you.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to see if there are additional services that led up to this, but I don't believe so. We were going to say we have to get back to you on that. Right in the briefing note, we have that the actual staffing structure and service delivery model will be determined once the funding and everything has been approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. Next person up for questions, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I begin my scrutinization, I believe I should give some credit where credit is due. First off, I would like to begin with your Tobacco Reduction Program. I was glad to hear about the World Tobacco Quitting Day, or whatever it was, last week and I spoke to your staff that you had outside. I was very surprised to hear that you can now pick up smoking cessation products free-of-charge at our local pharmacies.

I think that's great news, and I also agree that some additional advertising in the form of a big billboard right next to our pharmacies would be great. More people should be aware of the free products that the Department of Health is funding.

Possibly, another good idea is a big billboard right next to the cigarette shelves or containers that retailers hold them in. The other area that I definitely have to provide kudos to is the Department of Health's finance staff, Mr. Babstock, Mr. Vanderperk, and Mr. Tella. Your finance and budget staff have an immense workload, and they definitely deserve some recognition there.

My first question is going to be related to the *Public Health Act*. I believe it was about two years ago that there was a big media story about one of our local delis in town and their many, many health infractions that they incurred over a lengthy time period, and it wasn't disclosed until the media had put out an ATIPP, I believe. I was wondering if the new legislation is going to include any areas pertaining to restaurants having to display their most recent health inspection results publicly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's going to be addressed in the regulations that are going to be drafted. We have food safety under the regulations so I think it would fall under that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for that response. Will these regulations be updated in this current fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 14 will be brought into force on the day set by the Order of the Commissioner. Once health has the regulations, we're going to develop the

approval of two regulations that are required before the legislation can come into force, and they are cemeteries and burials, and administrative processes. So, we are going to do that first and then we are going to go on to the other things, such as the food safety, that I spoke about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad it's on the radar, but I just have to state that the safety inspections of kitchens are of utmost importance. People can get very sick if health code regulations aren't adhered to. I definitely would appreciate it if the department would make it a little bit of a higher priority, and try to create the regulations for the health inspections as soon as possible. I was wondering if the minister would like to set a target date to have those regulations implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to say that I don't want anybody to think that we don't do inspections because we do, but we don't publish them. We have environmental health officers that go into public places, including restaurants, unannounced to make sure that safety measures are being adhered to.

We are in the process of adapting Hedgehog Software for all environmental health programs to support digital health inspections and reporting by environmental health officers. All environmental health programs will be adapted dependant on the development of regulations for each program. It is anticipated that by the end of 2018 adaptation for the food safety, rabies and drinking water safety programming will be complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I didn't properly word my question. Would it be possible for the Department of Health to enforce restaurants to openly display their most recent health inspection results? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something that we can consider in our regulations. The target date for completion of legal text that is required to bring the Act into force is the fall of 2018, so coming up, and this includes the completion of an RFD to request cabinet approval once the required regulations are complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. I'll move on to my next line of questioning. I was wondering if you would be able to tell us a little bit more about the community wellness funding program that creates funding for schools to apply for their food

programs. I was wondering if the minister might be able to tell us a little bit more about this funding that's available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a bunch of papers in front of me.

You were specifically looking for the food program. Every school is provided this funding through the Nunavut wellness program. Like I said to Member Mikkungwak, it's something that the community can decide if they want to put more money towards it, like having additional food programs. They can do that. Every school currently has a food program in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that it's available for every school, but I was wondering: what is the basic amount that is offered to each school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: I have a list, if you would like, per year. Arctic Bay, \$55,000 plus an enhancement of a little over \$27,000; Cape Dorset, \$80,000...and these are divided by schools in the community...\$80,000 with an enhancement of a little over \$45,000; Clyde River has \$69,424 with an enhancement of a little over \$24,000; Grise Fiord has \$25,300 with an enhancement of a little over \$27,000; Hall Beach has \$34,817 and an enhancement of a little over \$22,000; Igloolik has \$103,205 with an enhancement of a little over \$46,000; Iqaluit has \$111,941 with an enhancement of \$126,758; Kimmirut has a budget of \$25,000 and their enhancement is \$24,485; Pangnirtung, \$102,00 and their enhancement is \$44,725; Pond Inlet has \$63,405 with an enhancement of \$49,465; Qikiqtarjuaq has a budget of \$21,500 with an enhancement of \$22,977; Resolute Bay has \$42,000 with an enhancement of \$27,402; Cambridge Bay has a budget of \$54,957...I'm just not doing the cents by the way...with an enhancement of \$42,340; Gjoa Haven has \$40,000 and their enhancement is \$45,865; Kugaaruk is \$95,602 with an enhancement of \$23,502; Kugluktuk is \$71,000 with an enhancement of \$44,155; Taloyoak, \$57,347 with an enhancement of \$23,165; Arviat has \$20,000 with an enhancement of \$67,717; Baker Lake, \$97,500 with an enhancement of \$47,245; Chesterfield is \$31,269, with an enhancement of \$23,120; Coral Harbour, \$29,650, with an enhancement of \$24,395; Nauyasat, \$55,000, with an enhancement of \$48,790; Rankin Inlet, \$95,676, with an enhancement of \$65,220; Sanikiluaq, \$80,948, with an enhancement of \$45,685; and, Whale Cove, \$40,000, with an enhancement of \$24,117.

In total, the school food programming budget is \$450,043, with an enhancement of an additional \$346,342, for the combined grand total of \$2,517,282.31. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Angnakak. I know Mr. Lightstone asked for a base amount for community, but it's obvious, it varies from community to community so we appreciate the details. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you for that information. I was wondering how the Department of Health comes up with how it determines the distribution of these funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The programs vary based on the needs of students and funding allocated in the school resources, such as teachers, volunteers, kitchen facilities, and etcetera.

The programs are required to be universal, such as to be open to all students and to provide nutritious food. The majority of the schools provide breakfast and snacks or midmorning meals. Some schools provide lunches, and many have food cupboards or other safety nets in place for students who don't have access to food at home for lunch or dinner. Most school programs have multiple funders in addition to the Community Wellness Program allocation.

There are two main ways that the funding flows to these programs through the Community Wellness Plans, the ones I talked about previously through surplus Nunavut wellness agreement funds. Since 2017, there have been no requirements for schools to submit an individual program or annual proposal for school food programming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe these school food programs are extremely important. The amount of children that are going hungry in our territory daily is unacceptable. I'm grateful that the department makes this funding available for schools to apply for. I was wondering does the Department of Health have any idea of how much it would actually cost to provide fully funded school programs across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't know. Just for the record, it's not proposal-based anymore. We provide the money to the schools without a proposal and that school food programs will remain mandatory. The only thing that the communities do is submit a budget breakdown for the different programs that make up the Community Wellness Plan; part of that is the food programs. It's not proposal-based at all. That breaks down their program's allocated budget based on specific program operations. For example, salary and equipment.

With the enhancement part of what I said, the budget for enhancement, you can purchase equipment through that portion of the budget. If you want something for food preparation, maybe you can buy a new stove or something. You can buy that kind of equipment through the enhancement program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned, the amount of children who are going hungry daily is a major issue and I really think that our government needs to make it a priority and make sure that all of the children are receiving adequate meals. As we're currently sending children home to empty fridges during lunch hour, I was wondering: does the department ever foresee a day where the territory will ever be able to fully fund these food programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, the majority of schools do provide breakfast or snack or mid-morning. Some provide lunches and other kinds of safety net in place for students who don't have food at home. It could even include a dinner. Like I said, most school food programs have multiple funders. The school can create something, working with the Community Wellness Committee that has some of the money too. They can create if it needs to be and the community wants breakfast, lunch, and supper, then that's something that could be worked out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are done, but I just want to make one final comment. It's just that our schools are doing what they can with what they have. We are indebted to the volunteer effort that our teachers put in to ensure that these food programs are available for the very hungry children. I really do hope that our government will give these teachers more support and be able to assist them in their efforts to keep our children fed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make sure that the member knows that through this funding, you can hire a PY. It's not all on the teachers to go and buy the stuff or to make the food or to distribute it to the kids. Actually PYs could be funded through this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recognize the clock and report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Going back to the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. 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? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Main. (interpretation) All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. 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 the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 5:

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

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

- Bill 4
- Bill 5
- Bill 7

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 5, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:57*

