

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

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(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

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

Hon. George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

Hon. David Joanasiq
(South Baffin)

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

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

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

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

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(Hudson Bay)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat South)
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responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates Review
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Immigration; Minister responsible for the
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickers, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:32*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. (interpretation ends) Premier, ministers, (interpretation) and members, good afternoon. My fellow residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

Prior to proceeding to our meeting, I would like to be given the opportunity to speak today, especially as I wish to commemorate and share with my colleagues the news that a young child was interred, and again today another burial shall take place to inter another deceased person in our community.

With respect to the deceased who shall be buried today, many residents were aware of this person and his name was Josie Pitseolak. He was a master carver able to create intricate and complete sets, as well as being an artist able to create beautiful drawings. He would create masterpieces as he could make every piece as part of the overall art, and he was able to carve and create anything you can imagine.

I would like to remind you that a copy of the Mace was presented in the Legislative Assembly to the previous Sergeant-at-Arms.

My fellow residents of Pond Inlet, I have you in my thoughts today.

Let us proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 093 – 5(2): 2018 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. Good afternoon to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I announce Ms. Jasmine Redfern as the recipient of Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2018 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship.

Ms. Redfern has been a leader and advocate for indigenous youth. She is a founder of the National Indigenous Young Women's Council, a member of the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal, and is a long-time volunteer with the Nunavut Kamatsiaqtut Help Line.

Currently enrolled in the first year of the Nunavut Law Program, Jasmine plans to become a bilingual Inuktitut and English-speaking lawyer to better represent all members of her community. As a mother, she realizes the immeasurable value of passing Inuit language and culture on to her children.

Her tireless efforts to create community initiatives while juggling ambitious academic goals make her a worthy recipient of this year's award. With this scholarship, we hope to support Ms. Redfern while she pursues her educational aspirations.

This inspiring young woman possesses many of the same leadership traits as Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier, for whom this scholarship is in memory of. Laura was instrumental in creating a made-in-Nunavut electrical utility and this scholarship celebrates her vision for leadership and personal excellence. Laura was known for her community work and giving spirit.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation and I are proud to support Nunavummiut in furthering their education. We admire all students who are determined to complete their studies and commend their efforts to meaningful employment within their communities across the territory. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Redfern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 094 – 5(2): Partnership for Mine Training Program

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, members and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a significant partnership between the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Agnico Eagle Mines, Centre De Formation Professionnelle College in Val-d'Or, Quebec, and Nunavut Arctic College. This

partnership has allowed the creation of a made-in-Nunavut Underground Miner Certificate Program. The pilot course for this program is now taking place right now with eight learners enrolled.

Mr. Speaker, I have directed Nunavut Arctic College to develop modular, career-oriented programs and this course is adaptable to any industry partner's specifications. An introductory program can be delivered at our community learning centres, though the program involves significant exposure to an underground mine in progressive stages.

Additionally, to support our guiding principle of *Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq*, Nunavut Arctic College now has a presence at Agnico Eagle's Meliadine gold mine outside of Rankin Inlet, where learners can get hands-on experience in an area set aside for college learners on familiar equipment to college learners.

(interpretation) Finally, I would like to note that this program and the partnership involved to make the program happen would not be possible without the support of our Kivalliq Inuit Association and I would like to thank them for their participation. One of the priorities of this government is *Katujjiqatigiinnivut* and specifically the creation of strategic partnerships with Inuit organizations, so I am pleased to report to the Legislative Assembly on this partnership for the benefit of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Minister's Statement 095 – 5(2): Meeting with Minister LeBlanc

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Arviat. My daughter, you have a bigger house now and I'm sure you're very happy.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update my colleagues on a meeting I had in August with federal Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade, Minister Dominic LeBlanc.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that Minister LeBlanc has committed to be Nunavut's voice in the federal cabinet. He was given direction by the Prime Minister to focus on three key areas: reaching a devolution agreement, working on economic opportunities for the north, and moving forward on the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework.

Minister LeBlanc knows the Nutrition North program needs substantial work. After visiting our local store and our discussion on the topic, he has directed his staff to examine the freight subsidy and find possible solutions to make the program effective.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke to Minister LeBlanc about our urgent need to support an elders facility in Nunavut. It was reassuring to hear that he felt this was not a high-cost project compared to other types of medical care.

In our discussions on carbon pricing, the federal government said they understand that there are unique circumstances in Nunavut and any taxing needs to be done in a way specific to Nunavut with the possibility of rebates.

Mr. Speaker, I told Minister LeBlanc that a feasibility study on power transmission to Nunavut from Manitoba would be worthwhile. Such a power transmission line could take five communities and two mines off of diesel generated power. We hope the federal government will give us the financial support we need for that study.

I believe my meeting with Minister LeBlanc was very productive. Our discussions were very open and straightforward. I also had a follow-up phone call with the minister where we had an opportunity to talk again about Nutrition North, devolution, and carbon pricing.

Mr. Speaker, meeting here in the territory to share our realities and needs is vital to building a collaborative working relationship with the federal government. I look forward to more visits with the federal cabinet ministers, and encourage my colleagues to invite their counterparts to Nunavut to continue the dialogue on how to increase vital infrastructure and opportunities to the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 096 – 5(2): Nunavut Food Security Coalition Community Project Funding

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of your community are in my thoughts or rather our fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our families struggle daily to get enough to eat. Traditional and store-bought food remains unaffordable and inaccessible to many Nunavummiut. The impacts of food insecurity are far-reaching: increasing our risk to health problems, impacting our mental health, lowering our learning and working capacity, and placing stress on our families and communities.

In partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, my department co-chairs the Nunavut Food Security Coalition. It brings partners together to look at how policies and programs can make food more accessible and affordable and supports community efforts that improve access to food for those most vulnerable to hunger.

Uqaqtitsijii, I am pleased to share with you that the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is supporting nine community-based food security projects this year for a total of \$236,000. For the benefit of Mr. Main, the projects include:

- the Inukshuk High School Grown Lunches Program which mentors five grade 10 to 12 students to prepare and serve lunch three days per week to about 150 students;
- the Kimmirut Make and Take program that teaches 16 individuals food handling, food storage, cooking techniques, safe food handling practices, and budgeting skills; and
- the Qajuqturvik Food Centre's peer advocate program that will train and hire three individuals with lived experience of poverty to help community members access material and social supports in the wider community.

Now in its third year, the community food projects fund has supported 34 initiatives in 16 communities. Work is now underway to engage communities to understand how these initiatives can be strengthened and sustained from year to year.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and dedication of the community volunteers that make these initiatives possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 097 – 5(2): Fuel Price Changes

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update my colleagues and the public on the status of fuel prices in Nunavut.

Globally the price of oil has reached its highest level since 2014. There are many reasons for this, which include geopolitical factors such as US sanctions on Iran; supply disruptions in Venezuela; as well as continuing conflicts in the Middle East have caused oil prices to rise internationally.

Mr. Speaker, the following price adjustments will take effect on November 1, 2018:

- increases of 10 cents per litre on jet fuel throughout Nunavut, excluding Iqaluit;

- increase of 5 cents a litre to all diesel products respectively throughout Nunavut, excluding Iqaluit;
- increases of 15 cents a litre to both jet fuel and diesel heating in Iqaluit;

There will be no change to gasoline, naphtha or avgas prices throughout the territory.

Mr. Speaker, our government remains committed to supporting families and communities in being economically viable and resilient in the face of an ever-increasing cost of living. Since 2014 Nunavut has enjoyed some of the lowest and most stable fuel prices in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Moving on. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 157 – 5(2): Kamik-making Project in Pangnirtung

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, my colleagues and residents of my community.

I want to express my pride of some individuals in Pangnirtung, Sarah and Meeka Alivaktuk. They had made a proposal to do a kamik-making project in Pangnirtung. People from the ages of 16 to 30 are eligible and they requested 10 students according to their proposal, but 94 people signed up to make kamiks.

I am very proud of that and many residents clamour for courses that teach people how to make clothing out of sealskins. They started in October with 10 students and they're going to proceed until December. The sealskins were purchased from hunters and the Co-op has also supported the program.

I am proud of the three teachers: Meeka Alivaktuk, Jeannie Alivaktuk, and Debbie Dialla. One of them is not an elder, but I would like to express my pride in these women in Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Member's Statement 158 – 5(2): Recognition of the Hard-working Nurses in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say hello to my colleagues here and to all Gjoa Haven residents watching the televised proceedings along with my family and especially my grandchildren. I wish you a good morning, as it is still in the morning in the west.

Today I rise to acknowledge our nurses in Gjoa Haven, and if you don't understand my dialect word for nurse, I believe your term for a nurse is *Najannguat* and in my dialect, that particular word denotes in English and although today isn't a funny Friday, I want to outline the word *Najannguat* that to me, means "pretending sisters." That was my smile of the day.

I am thankful, but want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our nurses in Gjoa Haven, as they are dedicated and hardworking. Ever since this past winter, as our community underwent a difficult and stressful period for many of our residents, the nurses were kept busy as they worked to resolve the issues in the community of Gjoa Haven.

They have continued to provide invaluable services, and that applies to all of our nurses throughout Nunavut, as they provide health services to our residents, and to have healthy lives and a good life. I want to extend my appreciation to the nurses in Gjoa Haven, and share that recognition with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 159 – 5(2): Appreciation of the Igloolik Co-op

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and also to the people of my community.

I rise today to praise the Co-ops. I think all of the communities in Nunavut have a Co-op store or a business belonging to the Co-op. For almost two weeks now it was the Co-ops day, and usually dividends are paid out to the members of the Co-op around that time.

The Co-ops in our communities are owned by the community they are situated in. I would also like to recognize individuals who started the Co-op movement in the 1960s. That was the time that most of the Co-ops were established in the community. They were very profitable.

What they did was the community would work together in order to create or establish a cooperative. They were individuals who worked very hard a long time ago when we were

still using dog teams. That's when they started establishing the Co-ops. If I said it in English, (interpretation ends) "business," (interpretation) they were the ones who developed the cooperative movement. It's very beneficial for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Member's Statement 160 – 5(2): Tagalik Eccles – Prime Minister's Youth Advisor

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 13, 2018 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced 10 new members to his youth council, including our very own Tagalik Eccles, who has joined us here today. These young Canadians will continue to provide important non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on issues that matter to young people and all Canadians.

Recently Tagalik took advantage of her time with the Prime Minister to express a very important concern of hers. She wrote a letter and spoke on behalf of all those in the territory. The title was, "70 Percent of Inuit Households Do Not Have Enough to Eat While the Rest of Canada is at 8.5 percent." The letter states, "I used to think education was the way out of hardships. Although I do believe education is very important, I now have a different point of view. It sounds simple: wake up and go to school every day.

When you graduate, move out of your community to attend post-secondary and you're all set. Sounds ideal doesn't it? In a perfect world, yes. I was fortunate enough to get through high school and take this path. I had my fair share of difficulties but nothing I couldn't shake off with the support of my wonderful circle of friends.

Had my circumstances been different, I would not be where I am today. I'm privileged not with luxurious items but because of the fact that I had not one but two loving parents. Both have jobs, both are sober, no abuse, and both love me unconditionally. Are we perfect? Not at all, but my basic needs are met."

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

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The letter continues, "What are we doing for those whose basic needs are not met? Students are going through school without supports. What are we doing to support our

students who come from homes with single parents or no parents? There are students who go to school in the morning with little or no sleep.

If parents have substance abuse issues, it is the children who suffer. No one chooses to have substance issues. There are unresolved traumas that have occurred in our communities that are often left unsaid or are swept under the rug. Where is the support for children in these situations? Where is the support for the parents who struggle to raise children because they were not raised with parents who were present? If you were not raised with love, how do you show love?

There are students who go to school in the morning with no food in their stomachs, go home for lunch, and come back to school again without food. I don't know about you, but one skipped meal and I can't concentrate. What are we doing to support students who want an education but go through every obstacle? The point I'm getting at is: what can we do to support people in these situations? I'm done with turning a blind eye.

The only way there can be growth is if we rip off the Band-Aid. Band-Aid solutions are made, but if the wound is deep, no matter how many Band-Aids are put over it, there will be no healing until the deep wound is properly healed. We need to properly heal and get to the roots of our issues. It's time to find solutions that work because what we are doing is not working."

That concludes Ms. Eccles' statement to the Premier, but I would like to take an opportunity to congratulate Tagalik Eccles with her bravery and confidence to stand up to the Prime Minister and say exactly what needs to be said. Once again, I applaud Tagalik and thank her for everything that she has done.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 161 – 5(2): Appreciation of Kugluktuk's DEA

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Thank you for your letter, Tagalik.

Mr. Speaker, I raise today to express my appreciation for the hard work and effort made by the members of the Kugluktuk DEA.

Mr. Speaker the DEA has been brainstorming for ways to increase school attendance and finding incentives for students to stay in school. I would like to commend the DEA for their amazing idea of having a draw at the end of the school year for a mini 4-wheeler in the elementary school.

All students who have had perfect or excellent attendance will get their names put into the pot at the end of each year then at the end of the year they will have a chance for their name to be drawn to win this big amazing prize. The better their attendance throughout the year the better chances of winning.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to say that we have seen an increase in attendance since this initiative was started. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 162 – 5(2): Shelter Needed for the Homeless

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this moment to think of my constituents as they have suffer difficult times as many communities do. I want to speak to the homeless and those that end up kicked out of their homes.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring up a concern from my constituents. This concern is not just one that affects constituency of Netsilik, but is shared through Nunavut. It is a concern that men who have been evicted from their house where they were living have very little choices of a place to stay for the night or a few days.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who stayed in sheds, in warehouses, or even garages.

Mr. Speaker these are not places where anyone would choose to stay. These are cold, uncomfortable places not suited for sleeping or living in.

Mr. Speaker, we must provide a place where people can stay warm for the night. If we cannot even find a warm place for people to go then it is obvious that we are doing nothing at all to help.

Mr. Speaker, let us do something. We must ensure that there is shelter available for all of our constituents in every community in every region and across our territory in Nunavut. At the appropriate time I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 163 – 5(2): The Need for Basic Infrastructure in All Communities

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon my fellow members, Premier, ministers, and my constituents of Whale Cove and Arviat if they are watching.

Mr. Speaker, I have a brief comment to make at this time. I want it known and for you to be aware that when we're talking about expensive capital items that we discuss, in English (interpretation ends) it is called basic infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need for basic infrastructure across Nunavut, and by basic infrastructure, I'm talking about the kind of things that are taken for granted all across Canada, southern Canada, roads and ports.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Main: Mr. Speaker it is extremely frustrating for the members of smaller communities across Nunavut when they come to a larger centre and they see infrastructure all over.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Main: They see the basics that they are looking for in their own lives and the message that our government is currently sending to the people in those communities is "Well, if you don't like, if you want infrastructure like that, you're going to have to leave your home."

We don't seem to be making progress in the areas of roads and ports and when I'm talking roads and ports, you look at the economic spinoffs that happen from construction and operations, you look at the cultural and social benefits from that type of infrastructure, those benefits flow to everyone. They flow to governments, they flow to families, they flow to elders, and youth.

Mr. Speaker, in this statement, I'm trying to bring attention to the inequality when it comes to the allocation of capital items in this territory. We see the rich get richer, and the poor stay poor.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this is extremely frustrating for many across Nunavut, and I believe that we need to look after the poorest communities, just like we look after the poorest people in our communities.

We as a government, we need to look after the poorest communities and I feel that building and planning for basic infrastructure such as roads and ports is a big part of addressing that poverty. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 164 – 5(2): Successful Bowhead Hunts in Coral Harbour and Naujaat

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon.

(interpretation) I would like to congratulate the people of both of my two communities. Coral Harbour and Naujaat both harvested bowheads.

>> *Applause*

My nephew, Aaron Emiktowt, even though a young person, was the captain of the younger team. I think they started going to the flow edge in April and caught a bowhead on June 30.

If we keep trying we will eventually get it and we'll keep trying for our community's needs. The one caught in Coral Harbour was 27 feet. In English it's (interpretation ends) 27 feet.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) And, Mr. Speaker, the people of Naujaat, a day after I left, caught a 52 foot whale, and that's 52 feet in English.

Michel Akkuardjuk was the captain and I was an extremely happy that both my communities caught a bowhead and, we would like to congratulate people. Inuit are very capable now. It was our ancestors who caught these things and we do that now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 165 – 5(2): Appreciation of Volunteers in Constituency

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day colleagues and ministers, and especially the people of Nunavut, and my fellow Amitturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of the communities. First of all, somebody from Igloolik who is my constituency assistant is always helping residents even after hours when people are in need. She helps people with food, at the Igloolik Foodbank.

Before and after working hours she volunteers to help prevent hunger by her fellow residents. Last month she was given donations for what she started. I appreciate her. Due to my feelings of pride for her hard work, I acknowledge Akittiq Angutiqjuaq, who is a

resident of Igloolik, and to show my pride, I rose to speak to her efforts to prevent hunger. As she said, “When one’s stomach is full, your mind can think more clearly,” and that is quite truthful.

I wanted to voice my pride in her efforts, and to now turn to one of my fellow residents of Hall Beach. In our community, we have a women’s group called the Women’s Healing Group. They offer courses to teach young people traditional skills such as seamstress work for hunters. If they have a spouse, the partners make mitts, or sealskin pants, and other articles of warm clothing.

It was through that program that my spouse was able to make mitts that I wear today. As I have stated previously, women are very capable. I have also made statements about midwifery, and if we were to initiate that, we already have experienced trainers available.

And I would to congratulate Akittiq Angutiqjuaq of Igloolik, and Meeka Innuksuk of Hall Beach, who started this program, Women’s Healing Group, and they created that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member’s Statement 166 – 5(2): Recognition of Long-term Service Award Recipients

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are thinking of your fellow residents for what happened. To the people of the High Arctic, please be careful as there are polar bears coming into communities.

Today I would like to recognize people that we congratulated on Friday and joined them for dinner. These employees that have worked for an extremely long time, and they have dedicated their lives to serve us. There are five from the High Arctic, and three of them have worked for 25 years.

My uncle, Imoosie Nutaraqjuk, works for Qulliq Energy Corporation, and retired at the end of September to rest. Two nurses from Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord; they are Daphne Covernton, and Joanne Dignard. I appreciate and thank them, and we know them very well now and they stay in our communities and care for the ill.

The 30 year awards went to Claudette Girouard-Qammaniq, my sister-in-law, who has been a dental therapist and we appreciate her for staying there and she’s taking care of her in-laws when she is there.

Mr. Speaker, for 40 years; this person has been a teacher and is still a teacher today. Unfortunately the person was not able to attend, Piuyuq Enoogoo who does everything

else, and has been a teacher for 40 years in her community of Arctic Bay, and has always been a teacher and I appreciate her for that. And they have dedicated themselves to their jobs and I thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Returns to Oral Questions. 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. Allow me to recognize my niece, Tagalik Eccles. I'm very proud of you and welcome to your House, Tagalik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa. I'm sorry. I think you were agreeing to the next item. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would once again like to take the opportunity to recognize Ms. Tagalik Eccles from Rankin Inlet. As I had mentioned, Tagalik is part of the Prime Minister's Youth Council, which meets with the Prime Minister every three months to personally give their own input on government policies.

Now, Tagalik is in her second year of Nunavut's Law Program, so she's an aspiring next generation of arctic lawyers or Nunavut-specific lawyers. I congratulate Tagalik on that as well.

Tagalik wishes to support youth and educate them about self-care. Tagalik has worked with Kivalliq Consulting and Support Services. She takes pride in her community and works to inspire civic engagement and recently led a campaign to clean up public spaces. Her vision for Canada is one of a country without food scarcity, where the gap has closed between those living in the north and those living farther south.

Once again I applaud Ms. Eccles on her dreams and aspirations and her dreams of the territory as a whole. I hope that we all help her to achieve those dreams. Once again thank you very much and welcome to the House.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Welcome to all the visitors in the gallery and the viewing and listening audience.

Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 212 – 5(2): Airline Schedules and Services

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

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation may recall, I have raised a number of concerns regarding airline schedules and services to the smaller communities. For example, although Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq are only a few hundred kilometres apart in distance, the current airline schedules are such that it takes residents at least two days to travel between the communities.

The Minister of Economic Development and Transportation recently provided all Members of the Legislative Assembly with copies of the government's request for input concerning the development of its airline procurement strategy. They wanted suggestions to submit towards this airline strategy. Section 4.0 of this document indicates that one of the government's goals is to "reduce the cost of air travel to better connect Nunavummiut to one another and to the rest of Canada."

Can the minister describe some of the specific actions that the government is taking to achieve this goal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. The quotation he read, specifically within 6.0 of the plan, how the contract will be awarded for the procurement strategy is outlined here.

Part of what my colleague read speaks to our request to the airlines on how we can improve airline schedules and to work with the Department of Community and Government Services along with the Department of Health. Due to the importance placed on this area, we are requesting this information. At this time we anticipate that we will receive submissions from the airlines on the travel costs for passengers who need to travel within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate how often he or his department meets with representatives from the airlines to discuss ways to improve schedules and services to our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are set days within our calendar year, but in terms of the actual information, I don't have that in front of me. At this time, we will be requesting submissions from the airlines on a procurement strategy as well as potential contracts where we have tasked employees familiar with contracts to oversee this work. We have requested that another department that deals with contracts be given the lead, for which I am grateful for, as they are dealing with that aspect of the strategy.

I think we should also be aware that during any RFP process, negotiations generally accrue back and forth over certain items and to ensure that the services are consistent. They will be asked to submit this level of detail in their (interpretation ends) proposals (interpretation) for which I can't recall the term. I suppose they would fill out the paperwork. They will have to submit them to the department, which will result in due diligence by our contract specialists.

This review may take some time to award the contract and there will be an opportunity to review the contract with the successful airline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's request for input into the development of its new airline procurement strategy closed on August 31, 2018. As of today, how many responses has the government received? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information in front of me at this time as to how many responses were given. I still don't have that information. We had deferred to the middle of September. The procurement strategy closed in September and we will get more applications from the airlines. They're working on that as of now. Once I get that information, I will relay it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 213 – 5(2): Shelter Needed for the Homeless

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

Mr. Speaker, in my statement earlier today I noted that we desperately need a shelter where men who have been evicted from their homes can stay warm for the night or possibly for a few days.

Can the minister provide an update on what plans her department has in place to ensure that men's shelters will be established in all of Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. It's evident that it has an impact on us. I can tell you that in the city of Iqaluit, homeless men have been most numerous. I know that this kind of a shelter is going to be very useful.

The Department of Family Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the federal government can work together. After our meeting in Rankin Inlet, they were going to do research on what is not being utilized in the community, like the Cambridge Bay program that was established can be used so that they can start their own program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She responded to my next question, but I'll ask it for more clarification.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are people coming and going across all of Nunavut's communities. Some of them are moving on because of recurring lifestyle issues or because of misunderstandings within the family. There needs to be something in place to ensure that these people have shelter.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps her department is taking to ensure that the homeless individuals in each of Nunavut's communities have a place to go? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your follow-up question. As I stated, we lack funding, even though all the communities need these kinds of shelters. Who has the direst need? We cannot establish these kinds of programs or projects in all the communities at the same time. I cannot respond to the member as to which community will get the shelters. At this time we're now discussing and reviewing the Iqaluit men's shelter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask my final question so that I can get a full response.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as a government, we cannot leave our citizens out in the cold. We must ensure that shelter is available to everyone.

Will the minister commit to assessing the rate of homelessness across Nunavut's communities and tabling the results of her assessment in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for listening. (interpretation ends) We did do two different surveys of homelessness over the summer and I will provide that detail of where is the homeless numbers within our communities, both federally funded and we also did a survey funded by the government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 214 – 5(2): New Air Terminal Building for Chesterfield Inlet

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister for Economic Development and Transportation.

Now, my constituency community of Chesterfield Inlet is seemingly forgotten by the Government of Nunavut, which seems rather obvious. As a matter of fact, a building in use today is over 100 years old, but still in use by an organization. Further, many buildings are aging rapidly, such as the hamlet offices.

It doesn't have a fire extinguisher so it could potentially burn down at any time, and the local adult education centre has severe space shortages, and the local daycare centre is so antiquated that whenever the weather dips past a certain point, they close it.

All of these buildings are located in Chesterfield Inlet, and since Nunavut was created, they haven't received any new buildings or haven't been allocated any infrastructure. However, it is one of the most important communities as airlines still fly into the community.

In the entire Kivalliq region, Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet receive the fewest number of scheduled flights, so my question is: the Chesterfield Inlet terminal is so antiquated, that luggage has to be stored outside. Can the minister indicate when his department will study this terminal situation at the airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for her question.

With respect to the terminal issues, our department identified five communities where we requested five terminal renovation or upgrade funding from the federal government. They have approved it and will pay 75 percent, while the Government of Nunavut pays the remaining 25 percent.

Now, with respect to your constituency community, it was identified for inclusion into this upgrade work, and further, I am pleased to note that we will be reviewing Bill 9 in the House, when we are dealing with the capital estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

When the review commences, the community is listed within the plans for the community terminal, and planning will commence in this fiscal year, if the House can approve the capital estimates for fiscal year 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, the residents of Chesterfield Inlet have heard that same message for many years that construction will commence. They have expected this improvement for a number of years, where a new terminal would be constructed at the airport.

However, to date, can the minister indicate what stage the lands are at, in terms of planning and design for the airport terminal planned for Chesterfield Inlet? I would like to get that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. If we can approve the budget or capital estimates, the funding will be set aside to be used for the planning, design, and survey of the land. During fiscal year 2018-19 these plans will be worked on. We have been discussing this for a very long time and we have been talking about many projects for many communities.

I was very pleased to say that we will be working on five communities for airport terminals after the approval of the capital estimates in the House and for two of the communities we want to initiate the work right away. The community of Chesterfield Inlet is included with the other four communities that we had mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 215 – 5(2): Support for Students to Continue Higher Education

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I was going to direct my question to the Hon. Minister of Environment, but I'm directing it to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, but before I do I would just like to recognize my precious daughter behind me. (interpretation) She acts older than me. I would like to welcome her. She is my oldest daughter. I would like to welcome her.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) One of my constituents was a learner at the Nunavut Arctic College when her program was abruptly cancelled due to a lack of other students. She was asked to enrol in another program but as this would require catching up on a full semester of work, while beginning a new semester's work, she declined, understandably so.

(interpretation) She was going to take the program but it was cancelled. She was asked to take another program so she had to stop. It's not very good to treat our students that way, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Somehow the college registered her anyway, and because she did not follow the course of learning that the college determined she should, she is now being penalized. She's prevented from returning to the Nunavut Arctic College by a three year suspension from FANS.

By the way, (interpretation) when they apply to Nunavut Arctic College, once they get approval, they have to apply to Family Services for funding. If they were in one office there would be less confusion.

(interpretation ends) When I contacted the minister's office in August of this year he informed me that the situation would be addressed.

Can the minister please advise me of what steps have been taken to ensure that this student will not continue being penalized for a situation that was completely not her fault? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. First of all, for Nunavut Arctic College and university students to get financial assistance for a program outside of arctic college through Family Services, they handle the finances. We have been looking into that to see what we could do to improve it and we are expecting that to be completed. We want to fully support the students that go to

colleges, and we always want to have different options. If they hit a roadblock, then we want them to have a contingency plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a response to my question. I was asking about the young student who was stopped from going to one course and told to go to another course. Because she didn't do that, she was suspended for three years. That's what I was asking about.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, currently the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students, the FANS program, operates under the jurisdiction of the Department of Family Services. However, it is Nunavut Arctic College which registers learners in courses and has a say in their eligibility.

Can the minister clearly describe how his officials at Nunavut Arctic College work with the FANS Division of Family Services to ensure that Nunavut's learners are not being deprived of learning opportunities by the lack of communication and coordination between these two entities? I know he alluded to that earlier, but when you have a problem, it's a simple fix. Let's fix it. Is the minister willing to fix this problem?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. We work with the other departments like Family Services to see what else we can do because they administer FANS. Once the people who apply to programs available at Arctic College are approved, we try to inform Family Services right away and we work with them.

Perhaps my colleague can give me more information. Maybe we can look for other solutions outside of this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Are you done? Thank you. (interpretation ends) I want to take a moment to just remind, especially the people in the media booth, to respect all members, please do not use flash when you use your camera. Thank you.

(interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 216 – 5(2): School Breakfast Programs

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education.

What Ms. Eccles had stated to the Premier is a very serious situation with 70 percent of Inuit households not having enough to eat. Further to that, two-thirds of individuals in Nunavut under 18 are living in households that are food insecure.

I agree with the Minister of Family Services that the impacts of food insecurity are far-reaching. Worst off, Nunavut is far more affected than any other jurisdiction in Canada by food insecurity.

My first question to the Minister of Education is: what is the department doing to ensure that these hungry children are being fed, and specifically how many schools in Nunavut have breakfast programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we agree that food insecurity in Nunavut is a public health challenge and we're very aware that a lot of students in our schools need some nutritional value in their bodies. We strive to look at how best to address those needs.

As far as I'm aware, I think pretty well all schools have a breakfast program and these are community-based food programs and are largely run out of either one or both of the schools and they serve all the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the summer I had an opportunity to meet with many of our school faculty members here in Iqaluit and got to learn more about how their food programs operate and came to learn that it basically relies on the faculty members that volunteer their time and effort to coordinate these food programs and put together business cases and funding requests to outside organizations to ensure that their students are being fed.

I thank the Minister of Family Services for creating some funding available for school programs, but I am afraid that it is just another Band-Aid solution; it is not a longer-term solution.

Although the Minister of Education said that it is public health issue, I disagree. I think this is a Department of Education issue. These starving students are being fed in the schools and not at the community learning centres or the hospitals. I don't understand why the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services is providing money upon request to these hardworking teachers when really it should be the Department of Education's responsibility.

I would like to ask the Minister of Education what his department is doing to ensure that our hard work and volunteer hours that our teachers are putting in to feed our hungry students are getting support from the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing this question up. I agree that we need to take care of our children and feed them as best as we can, not just as parents but wherever we can with any government agency or service. I think we can wrap up our food programs in all different areas.

We find it better when the community as a whole runs programs than for the school to do it alone. I think this allows teachers to focus on learning, but also, often school staff and community members, they do volunteer their time to bring these breakfast programs together.

Funding is largely through third-party organizations and there is some GN funded community health budget, but there is also a budget provided for hiring staff to prepare breakfast. That is there too and we look forward to continuing to improve our food programs not just within the schools. I would like to work with my colleagues on this further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Department of Education has provided funding for positions to assist with breakfast programs but I disagree with the decision to make it a community effort because the way I see it is here in Iqaluit, we are lucky that we have a lot of devoted teachers to ensure that the food programs do continue.

I'm afraid that not all communities might have that opportunity and there is a lack of standardization. I'm sure that not every student across the territory receives a healthy breakfast in their schools, which is my concern.

I would like to expand on the food programs to discuss lunch programming. When I was meeting with school faculty over the summer, I heard something that sort of caught my attention. They had stated that with so many of their students going home for lunch to empty fridges, they weren't really going home for lunch. They were going home during lunch hour because they weren't eating.

Once again, I would like to call on our government to ensure that more support and more effort is being given to our school faculty to ensure that they have the financial support and any other sort of means of support necessary to ensure that our children are receiving healthy, nutritious, and regular breakfast and lunch meals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member Lightstone, for his supplementary. We will explore the options of what the member has asked on lunch programming. I think there is quite a bit goes into a breakfast programs already and this would be another level I think, but we will take his thoughts into consideration and see if we can move on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 217 – 5(2): Planning for Long-term Care in Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, the desperate need for long-term continuous care for elders in Nunavut has been raised many times in this House. I myself have lobbied hard on behalf of the community of Kugluktuk which has been ready to build a long-term care facility for quite some time now.

Mr. Speaker, the ongoing delays in the addressing this need is frustrating on many levels. As the minister will recall, on June 14 of this year, I tabled a petition signed by over 300 residents in support of this development of a 24-hour elder care facility in the community of Kugluktuk.

I understand that the minister has requested an extension until December to respond to this petition. Can the minister explain why he needs so much time to respond to this petition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sincerely thank the member for bringing up her concern with the timeline for a number of reasons, one for her to continue on her dialogue and train of thought to bring long-term care to her community. It's a very simple answer. I could give a response today that we are working on a number of different options to provide long-term care in the territory or I can wait until December and be able to provide a result of what our plans will be to provide long-term care in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that it is important to evaluate all possible options and possibilities and to make sure that good decisions are made. However, it is also important that reviews,

studies, and decisions occur in a timely manner so that we do not miss critical opportunities to proceed.

Can the minister provide a timeline for when the government's long-term plan for elder care in Nunavut will be finalized and made public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Premier, one of the first discussions he had with me when I took over the Health portfolio was to make sure that there is some action behind the progress of providing long-term care in the territory. I can assure the member that this has been a very early discussion I had on in my mandate as the health minister and it's ongoing. I don't have specific timeline.

I do have the department currently going over some of the details from the report and when it gets evaluated then I will have an opportunity to look over the information, and then I will sit down with cabinet colleagues and we will come to a plan of action. I don't have a definite timeline, but I can assure the member that not only is it my desire to move forward in this progress; I have been given some pretty clear direction from the Premier to move forward on it as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have noted on a number of occasions in this House, the Hamlet of Kugluktuk was all set to build a long-term care facility in Kugluktuk. Unfortunately they were unable to proceed due to the lack of commitment from the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister indicate whether the Hamlet of Kugluktuk's proposal to build a long-term care facility will finally be given consideration and response that it deserves when his department's studies and reviews are complete? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever we get an unsolicited proposal, we always take a look at it to make sure that if there are ways to benefit Nunavummiut, we can explore different options associated with it. We do have to make sure that we are following the accountability to you as legislators and to the population who we are accountable to, but I can assure the member that when we have some finite options available in front of us, we will sit down and we will go over the best open path to provide long-term care across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Question 218 – 5(2): Support for Arts Sector

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I think we want to make some progress. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Indeed, firstly I will start off with a preamble as I believe the minister or actually two ministers on the other side can recall, as we were invited to attend Qaggiavut when it was first being debated as a proposal. That proposal was quite innovative and a source of cultural pride when we first reviewed the proposal.

Now, this proposal they want to establish relates to Inuit cultural performing arts, as it showcases the wonderful abilities of Inuit to create and present cultural stories, and to showcase the word “Qaggiavut” which is a place of performing. They’re showcasing the Inuit language and culture.

I want to add this segment, Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is the only territory in Canada which doesn’t have a performing arts and learning centre, which would showcase Inuit cultural skills and abilities in the performing arts. This means that Nunavut is the only place in Canada that doesn’t have a performing arts centre.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is very much aware, the board of directors and volunteers of the Qaggiavuut Society have been working hard in recent years to achieve the dream of building a new performing arts and Inuit culture learning centre in Nunavut.

The society’s business plan, which you can see very clearly here, for this project which was produced earlier this year indicates that the total cost of the project is approximately \$63.6 million. The society is seeking upfront capital funding of approximately \$50 million from the federal government and \$5 million from our own territorial government, which represents less than 10 percent of the total cost.

Will the Government of Nunavut be providing this funding, yes or no? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. At the beginning of September, I was able to have a meeting with Qaggiavuut in regard to the capital funding they are requesting. There have been changes in the numbers. At times I would think that the entire capital funding will be coming from the federal government and at times they made requests to our territorial government.

I have yet to see another request since September. They have also made additional requests with different departments. At my department, the Department of Culture and Heritage, we have to get together and review those proposals or requests. I have

directed my staff to talk with the Qaggiavuut board of directors. I have had dialogue with the Qaggiavuut Society and I have directed my staff to have a meeting with the board to look into the details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response so Nunavut can have a better understanding of where it stands. We are the only ones in Canada who don't have an arts centre.

You indicated that you are still waiting for a request from the Qaggiavuut Society. Would you commit to writing a letter of support and tabling that letter in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have indicated to Qaggiavuut that if they want a letter of support, I could do so. I'm still drafting my letter of support to be directed to the Qaggiavuut Society.

If you're going to make a request and if the funding coming from this government is not enough, it will have to go through the approval process. If it's going to be a huge amount, it would have to be brought before of the Legislative Assembly either through capital projects or other means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last question and I would like to thank the minister for giving us a better understanding of where Qaggiavuut stands.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate what other forms of support the government is providing to the Qaggiavuut Society? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2017-18 the Department of Culture has contributed \$118,000, the Department of Health has contributed \$170,000, and the Government of Nunavut has given that much money to Qaggiavuut Society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 219 – 5(2): Infrastructure Needs

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would also like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In my member's statement I was talking about capital projects like roads and ports. In regard to marine facilities, I would like further information on capital projects or marine infrastructure projects, as I would like further clarification on future construction projects, or to say it in English, (interpretation ends) major projects or construction (interpretation) of new marine facilities.

As we all know, many communities have applied for marine facilities in Nunavut. We have heard and are aware that several communities are receiving marine infrastructure construction projects. What plans does his department have towards this category? What funds are they expecting for these future projects?

I know that there are small capital project funds of \$500,000, but it's not going to be enough. If we should want to build a new port, using Qikiqtarjuaq as an example, \$500,000 is not nearly enough. If we're going to be looking for funds for major infrastructure projects, I would like to ask the minister where those funds are going to be accessed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you very much for that question. We are working extremely hard as a government and I can respond to you in a variety of ways. That my colleagues and the people of Nunavut will be informed, we as a government are looking at the federal level and we're looking all the way from the east to the west.

Each province has ports built by the federal government and there's not one, except Pangnirtung, and there are also Pond Inlet and Iqaluit which are under construction. Those projects are being built through the Building Canada Fund. In Qikiqtarjuaq we have made a request to the federal government and we are not going to give up in trying leveraging funds for major projects. We made seven requests and one was approved.

With the Lancaster Sound in the High Arctic and up to Clyde River and through Parks Canada, we're trying to come to an agreement with the Inuit organizations that these four communities with no ports be reviewed and included in the agreement between Parks Canada and the communities, which we are very happy about.

With the other communities, we have made a request and the federal government has set aside \$94 million for marine facilities. My department also made a request to the federal government for funds out of this pot of money. The communities that I have named will

be reviewed and a financial study will be done. I think this \$94 million is a 10-year project and not only to be reviewed, not to be drafted but to build them.

To date we have made requests for funds to be used for drawing and for reviewing all those communities. With the help of the federal government, we hope to see all those marine facilities built in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. That's quite clear. We have been expecting funding from the federal government, but sometimes even though we expect something, we don't see it and we know that. The agreement was signed under what is called the Investing in Canada infrastructure program. If I understand it correctly, the Minister of Community and Government Services signed it for \$556 million over 10 years, (interpretation ends) half a billion dollars, (interpretation) and this has already been approved. In the document I understood that, even though I don't understand it very easily.

Here it states that (interpretation ends) marine infrastructure (interpretation) should be a part of that and the minister just stated that these are needed and must be seen in Nunavut communities. How much funding has the Department of Economic Development and Transportation received from this pot of funding for marine infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Good question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for recognizing that with my fellow minister signing the (interpretation ends) infrastructure agreement, (interpretation) he's dealing with it. This replaced the Building Canada Fund. We are currently in the process of constructing docking facilities in two communities.

We applied for funding through the Oceans Protection Plan for marine infrastructure and as he just stated and we're looking at doing work in other communities. That's what we're doing. With the funding that is available now, we're negotiating agreements under the Oceans Protection Plan and we will be hearing in the near future about our proposals, so I am looking forward to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for his response. I understand that there is some expectation or there's some hope when it comes to the Oceans Protection Plan and these marine infrastructure facilities, but I guess I'll just ask for a clarification. Are there any plans for any marine

infrastructure to be built under this Investing in Canada infrastructure program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one that I can't answer at this point and I am not the lead minister for that particular agreement. What I have been saying is there is money allocated for marine infrastructure under the Oceans Protection Plan. As governments, what we're trying to focus on right now is to try to get it through that Oceans Protection Plan.

As for the infrastructure, that is still an ongoing discussion in terms of what projects will take place. I am sure the lead minister will make some announcements at the appropriate time and seek your support because, if I understand, that one requires a 25 percent investment coming from our own House, where in under the Oceans Protection Plan, as far as I know, it's 100 percent federally funded.

What makes it exciting for me is that I hope that they get back into the marine infrastructure, as they have in Building Canada. We need to be a part of Canada and we need those ports. Those are very crucial infrastructure, as you stated in your member's statement, and I want every one of our members to have that same voice. Let's share that voice to our federal counterpart. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 220 – 5(2): Correctional Facilities

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody.

Mr. Speaker, my question is not for the EDT minister. My question is for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister will recall, a serious security incident occurred at the Baffin Correctional Centre in June, and I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the staff of the facility, the RCMP, and the first responders who were able to successfully contain the situation.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of repairs to the facility and the repatriation of inmates who had been temporarily transferred to correctional facilities outside of the territory? 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, Ms. Angnakak, for your question. Currently the renovations to the repairs to

the Baffin Correctional Centre are complete and all of the inmates have been returned back to Nunavut except 12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her response. It has been reported in the news media that the incident cost the government more than \$1.5 million. Can the minister confirm whether or not her department has been able to absorb these costs from within its current budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time I don't have that specific information, but it will come to cabinet for approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I take that as it's going to be like an appropriation or something.

I think that we all recognize that the opening of the Qikiqtani correctional healing facility will not be taking place for quite some time. Can the minister confirm how many inmates are presently incarcerated at the Baffin Correctional Centre and can she indicate how many of these are on remand awaiting trial? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time we have 39 inmates who are on remand and 7 sentenced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 017 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Aivilik, that oral question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Therefore oral question period has been extended for 30 minutes starting now.

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Question 221 – 5(2): Terminology Change for Cannabis

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

I had asked this question last spring, cannabis, and the term for it is “intoxicant.” The minister of the day had stated that the term was started by the Inuit Language Authority and used by the government. Has the current minister had any discussions with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to change the terminology of “surrangnaqtuq”? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know my Cannabis Division has been very busy getting ready for the legislation to be implemented. I’m not aware if they’ve had an opportunity to speak to the group on the terminology being used yet. I would have to check on it and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I have been consulted by my constituents that the terminology “surrangnaqtuq,” the way they understand it in my dialect, when it comes to terminology using this “surrangnaqtuq,” it’s like saying, “using stronger drugs,” for example, cocaine, crack, meth. These are the stronger drugs that my constituents understood with the terminology “surrangnaqtuq.”

My second question is, looking at the government website, I have noticed that they have been using “aangajaarnaqtuq,” “surrangnaqtuq,” but to my understanding, “ujaraq” in general terms describes the whole cannabis. Looking at the Inuktitut website, it’s going all over the place from “aangajaarnaqtuq” to “surrangnaqtuq” and these little things.

My question is: will the minister start using this term “ujaraq” rather than these other Inuit terminologies when it comes to cannabis? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member lobbying for some consistency and I agree with the member that a consistent phrase or term be utilized. I’ll have my officials consult with the IUT and we will finalize the correct terminology to work across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, many residents don’t approve of the term, not just in my constituency but throughout Nunavut, that don’t agree

with the legalization of cannabis. Now, yes, you did state that you will consult the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to come up with a term, so I urge you to consult them.

Now, I would like to ask about this issue. The terminology used for English and Inuktitut, and particularly the Inuktitut terminology is all over the place. The terminology in English within the English version, yes, the words are clear. Now, as a regular Inuk, I have never used the Internet to visit that website and it was only today that I looked it up and they were using terms such as “aangajaarnaqtuq” and within our legislation put forward in the spring session, the Inuit Language Authority recommended the term “surrarnngnaqtuq.”

As I stated previously, when you use the term “surrarnngnaqtuq,” it just means changes and seems to apply in this case as the proper term. Now, if you were to reference hard drugs or addictive drugs, then the term “aangajaarnaqtuq” would be more appropriate. Now, I wonder when the minister is querying the Inuit Language Authority, how will you arrive at a consensus with the body if they aren’t willing to change this term? Now where would we go from there? Will we continue to use this terminology that is currently in use, this term “surrarnngnaqtuq”? Many regular residents don’t agree with that word.

I am sure many people in Nunavut don’t agree with the legalization of this substance. Now, if this term can’t be changed, then will it continue to be called by that name? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My officials are listening right now and in their dialogue with the language authority, they will bring forward your concerns and I look forward to bringing more information back to the member after those discussions have taken place. As of now, the terminology that we’re using was provided by the IUT, so we will take your concerns back to the language authority and we will find a solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 222 – 5(2): Policies Preventing Family Support

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize and send my condolences to the people of Pond Inlet about Josie Pitseolak. He was a very gifted and talented carver. My condolences.

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

One of my constituents from Chesterfield Inlet recently faced a very difficult situation this summer when he went to visit his aging father who had been sent to Winnipeg for

treatment for a very fast-acting cancer. My constituent had great difficulty in even meeting with his father who was staying at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre because of the facility's strict policy regarding visitors.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of being welcoming, *Tunnganarniq, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, is very important to our culture, but the GN pays lip service. It doesn't practise it.

Can the minister clarify what steps can be taken to help bring families together when a family member is suffering from a serious illness but bureaucratic policies get in the way of common sense or compassion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the member and I have talked about this circumstance and it is unfortunate that in today's age we have to have security and have to have the level of respect of privacy at some of our institutions or contracted facilities.

Again, I have said it before, I'll say it again, and I'll continue to say it, our first priority is the safety and well-being of people under our care. There are procedures in place when family members want to visit other family members that are in a facility, whether it be one of our facilities or a facility outside of the territory. There are protocols that go into place to make sure that it is safe for those people to be visiting or be visited.

I would just encourage anybody out there, if you're travelling to visit any family members at any facility, contact the facility and let them know you're coming. That way, if any concerns are made aware of then, they can be mitigated before people get to the door and in a very passionate state of mind that they want to see their loved one, but it can be dealt with long before they ever step foot in the door so that they have unencumbered access to their family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand that security, safety, and procedures are very important. However, in speaking with the son, he doesn't drink; he didn't drink. All he wanted to do was to be with his father and his father could not go downstairs, being very ill, not quite make it on his own to sign the visitors' form. He could, but it was with great difficulty.

I do understand that the Office of Patient Relations is supposed to be there to assist with these types of situations, and I am sure that the staff do their best. However, in the case that I am referring to, the Office of Patient Relations simply got on the phone with my constituent and simply repeated the Kivalliq Inuit Centre's visitor policy. A few days later the father passed away. The amount of time the son could have spent with his father, he couldn't spend it.

Can the minister clearly explain what authority the Office of Patient Relations has to actually help resolve specific situations, taking into account each individual's personal circumstances, especially when addressing life and death situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My condolences to the family. When I come across stories like this, it's very difficult. It's a difficult aspect of my role.

With regard to patient relations, I can address that. The patient relations office is there to advocate. It's exactly what its title says. It is there to advocate on behalf of patients or family members within the health care system. They don't have the authority to bypass policies or to change the rules on the fly, but they are there to help guide people to follow the rules, to help guide them down a path so that they can understand the processes that they need to follow to get the end result that they are looking for.

I know that office has been gaining increasingly busy the more we talk about it and as people talk about it around the territory. I know that in your first preamble, you spoke to how hard they're working and the good work that they're doing. I would like to take this time to publicly applaud the work they're doing. We don't get many escalations past patient relations because they are doing such a great job in there helping people and their families understand their options, helping them through the process, to help guide people through the entire process to receive the outcome that they're trying to achieve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very sad, and I'm not talking about the staff, but bureaucratic policies and procedures meant that a son who faced so many challenges in trying to provide care and assistance to his father in his final hours was turned away. It should not happen. Where is the Inuit IQ in all of that compassion, *Tunnganarniq*, the last hours where a son wanted to be with his father?

Will the minister commit, yes or no, to reviewing the policies and procedures that relate to family members who are in special and unique circumstances when trying to support their sick loved ones, especially those who are terminally ill, so that they can be dealt with compassionately instead of bureaucratically?

In saying that, I would like to get a commitment from the minister on these policies because the son paid himself down. He had money; he didn't require money to be a government escort. He did it on his own and because he was not a government escort, his sister was, he was not welcome to the Inuit centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the member is looking for a yes-or-no answer and I will get there, but briefly, again my sincere... . There's not a person in this room that doesn't pull on some strings on your heart to hear a story like that happening.

I have stated we are doing a full, comprehensive review of our Medical Travel Policy and, if this review on the visitation isn't part of it, I will look for a review on the visiting policies when people do travel outside the territory to have family visiting them. I will continue to stress, though, that we do have the safety of our patients in the foremost part of our mind. There has to be some rules around it. It can't be a wide open door policy in most instances, but I will work with my department to find a way to make it less stressful on families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 223 – 5(2): Ministerial Meetings with Elders Committees

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the members of the Kugluktuk Elders Committee for their dedication and effort in addressing the needs and concerns of elders in the community.

Can the Minister responsible for Seniors indicate what plans he has to meet with elders committees across Nunavut and discuss their needs and concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have met with the elders' society here in Iqaluit that represent Nunavummiut. This was this summer and we had a good meeting. From the GN we give them core funding so that they can do their basic work that needs to get done. It was a productive meeting. They passed on some of concerns about elders and some of the plans that they want to do and some of the stuff they do right now for elders within Nunavut, and it was a very good meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He answered part of my question, but I'll ask this. I recognize that there is a Nunavut Seniors' Society which receives significant funding from the government.

Can the minister clearly explain how he ensures that the needs and concerns of elders across Nunavut are being adequately addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Nunavut elders' society has board members from other parts of Nunavut from different communities. The board of directors from these other communities would hear the concerns from the communities and then pass it on when they have their meeting. They recently had their AGM and I have not received any copies of their minutes yet. They have not been given to me, but they speak for Nunavummiut and they have some good stuff that they want to do for the Nunavut elders. They have business plans in place and they have stuff that they wanted to do. They want to be the voice of elders in Nunavut and they said they speak for the elders of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The chair of the Kugluktuk Elders Committee recently contacted me and asked me to get some idea from the Minister responsible for Seniors as to when he would be contacting the committee and, hopefully, meeting with them.

Will the minister commit to contacting the Kugluktuk Elders Committee before the end of this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the advocacy for seniors is in my office, I'm open and my office is open to any contacts from any seniors within Nunavut to address their concerns and their needs, and I'll take that in. It's probably easier if they contact my office, but I can look at my staff to see if they have a contact person. We're open for contacts for not just elders; for anyone. We're an open government.

As the advocacy for seniors myself, I'm open to any contacts or any suggestions from any seniors and we will work with them to try to address their concerns that they have or they may have and they can either directly contact myself, go to the Nunavut Seniors' Society, but if you're watching TV, just give me a call. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Question 224 – 5(2): Vacant Staff Housing Policy

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

We hear all over the place and those of us who sit here always talk about it. You probably heard about the lack of housing and staff housing. We have heard loudly and we have also expressed here, I think all of us, that government staff housing units in our communities that are generally vacant and they are vacant for a very long time. The minister is quite aware of this.

They have policies that they have to follow and the government really follows their policies, from what we have been hearing, that the policies are such-and-such. Because of that, we hear that in our community. In my own community there are vacant government staff housing units and homeless people.

While we're in this situation, I would like to ask the minister and hopefully I get a good response. Can you change the government's Staff Housing Policy? We have heard from so many communities that those buildings are vacant and nobody else is allowed to move into them like homeless people, for example. Can the policy be changed? Mr. Speaker, not you personally, but I'm going through you to ask my question. Can the policy be changed? The policy has to be changed.

The communities' concerns would be dealt with and it would help with the lack of housing. Can the policies be changed? 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 thought the Speaker may have to respond to that for a minute.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has many responsibilities that have to do with housing, but we are not the decision-makers as to which community will get a house and for what purpose. We are generally directed by Human Resources and other government departments when they tell us that they need housing for their staff.

In Igloolik, for example, when a position is being opened over there and that position will need housing, we are told, "You're going to have to get a house ready for staff," and then we have to do that. We don't make the decisions as to "This number of buildings will go to Igloolik," for example. That is not our decision. When we are notified, as I said earlier, then we go about acquiring the necessary units to house government staff. As I stated when I was asked on this yesterday, we are reviewing this.

For communities where staff housing is assigned to positions that have not been filled for a number of years, if it looks like the housing will still not be needed, we can review our policies to see what we need to adjust to facilitate the proper outcomes this issue needs. As Members of this House, we can change the rules and adjust them as needed to your satisfaction as a legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter can have many positive outcomes and the only way to start is to move on it, not to only discuss it. The government has said now is not the time as it is too difficult or maybe for 99 years it may not be unchangeable. As we hear terms like this, it is outrageous and it seems not much will change. Based on this, can the minister tell me if all houses in communities, whether social or staff housing, can be transferred to the LHO? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Quassa, for the question. I have never heard personally of a situation that would take 99 years to resolve, so I just wanted to quash that, as I have never used that term. I may be too old by then.

Mr. Speaker, I can say on the so-called transfers to LHOs from the NHC and you have to know that we as the NHC cannot decide alone on units controlled by the hiring and housing assignment committees, and how those units could be transferred to the LHO. The NHC cannot make that decision alone as staff housing is still being needed and units are assigned accordingly. Committee decisions would be made to, let's say, a unit that would no longer be required. The NHC alone cannot make that decision, as the GN holds those units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Minister Kusugak. We understand better, but you are the minister and you are able to make the necessary decisions for the required changes as you speak about the NHC.

We all know many government positions have not been filled for years. I'm sure not 99 years but a long time passes where that position is not filled and that house sits empty for God knows how long. Those are the empty units that sit and fall into disrepair while waiting for a tenant that never arrives. That's not right. Today we speak of this very urgent need for housing for Inuit while this happens.

My question is: how can changes be made to the policies? We have to change the policy. The only way it can help with the lack of housing is if we change the policy. For positions in the community, sometimes they can't find anyone to hire and then the house waiting for that person gets old.

I would really like more thought to be put into this matter. I don't know how, but I think it should be changed. Is it possible for you to change it? Can you make some different considerations about it? You're the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for bringing that topic up. I just want to remind you that when we first got elected last year, it's like yesterday, but it's a year already. I stated in the House that, if I remember correctly, something has to be done about the government staff housing units that are vacant for a long time. I haven't forgotten saying that and I'm still working on it.

As a minister, if I tried to start something on my own, it's sometimes impossible to do that. The housing corporation staff and government departments, Human Resources do the hiring. It is being looked at. We released some buildings in Pangnirtung, I think, last year. We're still looking at that. I can say here that in the internal workings of the government, this is being worked on and reviewed. If those staff houses can be released, they will be released. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, please note that the time for question period has expired and as you have already extended it, you can't extend it again. Therefore we will proceed with the orders of the day.

Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening 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. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2, 9, 10, and 11 with Mr. Akoak 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 15:54 and Committee resumed at 16:17

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2, 9, 10, and 11. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review Bill 9 and the capital main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 09 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2019-2020 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Yesterday we got the opening comments done. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak if you have officials you would like to appear before the committee. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate if I would be allowed to bring officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Eiryn Devereaux, ADM of Infrastructure, and to my left is Mr. Kyle Seeley, ADM of Local Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to your officials to Assembly. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a comment on a letter that I just received, like probably 15 minutes ago. It was a letter that was in response to a letter I wrote as chairman of the committee a while back asking for clarification on a number of items in the budget. I just want members to know that this letter just became available very recently and we may not have had the time to digest all of this. It's fairly lengthy, so I just want to remind members that if you want to refer to this letter, it was in your doors in your offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Any general comments? Seeing none, I will now proceed to page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page J-3. Community and Government Services. Local Government Services, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Welcome minister and your officials. In this letter here, on the last page of the letter we recently received, it says the CGS engages with all municipalities on a regular basis on their infrastructure priorities. When is the last time the CGS engaged with the municipalities of Whale Cove and Arviat? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact date, but this summer, we visited every community, including Whale Cove and Arviat, to discuss among other things their infrastructure plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I am a bit puzzled why this letter here that you provided didn't provide any more information regarding this fibre infrastructure. In the committee we had or I had attempted to make clear that I felt that the information provided was inadequate. I would like to understand better why no additional information has been forthcoming regarding this new project. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will continue to try to provide as much information on the infrastructure as it becomes available, but if he has any questions specifically to that, I would be more than happy to try to respond to his concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess the biggest question I have regarding this project is why does CGS feel that this project is a piece of public infrastructure?

In the substantiation sheet, you mention that similar pieces of infrastructure have paid for themselves in short period of time. That sounds to me like the definition of a private investment, something that would be able to attract private investment.

What I would like to get to is the private side or whether the government has scoped out any potential investors on the private side of things. I am particularly interested in Inuit-owned companies, it could be a development corporation, could be investors and I think we have to take opportunities to not build things as a government and give them to the private sector so that they can build them for Nunavut and hopefully make money on them.

With regard to this specific project, what engagement has there been with the private sector? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, wherever possible, we encourage the private sector to tackle or to take on infrastructure [projects] and there are times when there is very large infrastructure [projects] that maybe the private sector is not

capable of getting into at such an early stage but nonetheless we always work to see if the private sector is interested and able to take on such things as fibre.

Mr. Chairman, maybe through you, if I could have my Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Mr. Devereaux, respond further to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I think we did undertake an examination of the various mechanisms to potentially proceed with fibre infrastructure to connect Nunavut for the first time and we did look at models that included potential private investment in the infrastructure.

We have certainly seen a benefit to the government with having an ownership position in the infrastructure, the fibre cable connecting the proposed cable connecting Nuuk to Nunavut, and then on to mainland North America.

The value in that was, I suppose, somewhat similar to when we looked at capital infrastructure projects, whether it's to own a building or to lease a building. We see value in the government too having an ownership of that infrastructure as compared to leasing that fibre space from somebody else.

We always were aware that the federal government was in a position to contemplate funding and there was a mechanism to go after federal capital funding so we thought that was an advantage in terms of a strategic plan for this particular project.

The other consideration that we brought forward was that if we do become the owners of this infrastructure and we are successful with federal funding hopefully in early 2019, and potentially with GN funding through this capital estimates session, it doesn't discount the opportunity to examine any private sector or organizations coming on board as some forms of partnership down the road in the next year or two.

This project will run the next two years before completion but if we're in the driver's seat as the owners of the infrastructure, certainly we're in a much stronger position to potentially consider any partnerships with other entities as we have those discussions in the next few years.

We have had some preliminary discussions with various groups for sure in the last 6 to 12 months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just a reminder, we have translators. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the answer and I appreciate the amount of thought that has gone into this, but this is the same concern I expressed upstairs in our committee meetings was I am concerned that the department is proposing to jump into something very quickly and yes, there is value

to the government owning a piece of infrastructure but there is also a risk, and that is the give and take between public and private infrastructure.

What is the framework within which CGS is going to lease out parts of this infrastructure to private companies or to other parties? Is there a mandate in there to generate a profit or to lease out? It's almost like you're looking at setting up a telecommunications operation within the department, and as far as I'm concerned, the role of the government isn't to generate a profit. That is the private sector's role.

We have so much in Nunavut that is run by the government that we should be seeking every opportunity to hand off investment opportunities to the private sector and do less, and focus on what we're good at and what things that people can't make money at. I'll put that out there, and I would be interested to hear the minister's thoughts with regard to the public versus private ownership. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The opportunity for funding such an infrastructure for Nunavut is now. I think we do have a great opportunity to get fibre into our territory. We would be working with those that are doing studies. The opportunity for that, I believe, is now and if we did that over the next 12 months, it will give us the next 12 months to be able to talk and work with the private sector and to see where they can, how they can, and how much they can take and privatize those sections, the fibre that we are not accessing. I think the opportunity to get Nunavut into fibre is now.

Through you, Mr. Chairman, if I could have Mr. Devereaux again add to the comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. To add additional information, we do foresee in the next, assuming that the capital funding gets approved both through the Legislative Assembly and the federal Treasury Board in the course of the next three to four months, we would thereafter immediately commence a framework to reach out and examine potential partnerships with private sector entities for the delivery of those fibre optic services on space that was not dedicated for government Internet traffic.

The framework, we've certainly had many discussions on how to go about to approach it. We haven't started the implementation of those discussions around pursuing any potential partnerships with the private sector in lieu of the fact that we don't have the funding approval for the infrastructure upfront. We, again, think it's very strategic if we're in the driver's seat as the infrastructure owners. That's how we can address potential partnerships with the private sector, but we certainly see 2019 as a year in which we would commence an approach to see who those partners are and how we can engage in the highest value partnership for the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the response. With all due respect, in my mind that sounds like work that should be done well in advance of contemplating a major investment like this. All the answers to those questions should be known before the decision to build is made, okay?

To reassure my colleague from Iqaluit here, I'm not against fibre Internet coming to Iqaluit. I think it's badly needed and the benefits to me are clear. There would be huge benefits to the government, but the issue I have with this project is that I do not believe that the government should be the one to build it. I believe it should be the private sector that builds it, ideally an Inuit-owned company, and the government simply leases out that capacity.

I have a real hard time seeing how this is a strategic way of approaching things if we are deciding to build a major piece of infrastructure and then after the fact, going and deciding what we're going to do with the parts that we don't need.

One of the toughest things about being an MLA is trying to stay outside of the government mindset and trying to keep in mind the opportunities for the private sector because private business does need a voice within this government.

I'm not satisfied with the information that we have been provided. I feel it's inadequate and we're being expected to pull the trigger on something that we don't have proper information for. At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to call for a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 16:34 and resumed at 16:35

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. At this point I'll just go to the next name on the list. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was getting ready to leave, but I would like to talk briefly about (interpretation ends) fibre optics, (interpretation) as I may have to leave.

We hear about the product EAUFON, I hope I pronounced it correctly, E-A-U-F-O-N, is the name of the fibre optics with Iqaluit and Kimmirut connecting to Nuuk, Greenland. That's what it states. Yes, I know you're still in the planning stages. (interpretation ends) How many phases does the EAUFON initiative include in total? That is my first question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa... . Kusugak, sorry.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The usual phases are planning, design, and construction. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I know this is in the beginning stages and I think we have to have an idea as members along with Nunavummiut. If this were started, what is the total number of Nunavut communities that will receive a fibre connection as part of the EAUFON initiative? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) In the beginning stage we are looking at four communities to start with, but we're thinking this won't be the project. In the coming years we're looking at we're thinking the door will be connecting other communities as this project grows. In the beginning it will be four communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. Nunavut is a very large jurisdiction and it's not just the Qikiqtani region; there's Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. It's a large area and Kugluktuk is the furthest community and it's very far away if you're going to start from Iqaluit. Will you try to reach all of the communities in Nunavut? Are they all being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. What I can say is: the communities that are possible to reach with the fibre and that's our goal. That is how I could respond right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister for pointing that out. What about the communities you can't reach? What then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This relates to communities that can't be connected via fibre optics and can only connect via satellite as they would be included in that part of the project.

Maybe to make it more understandable, this fibre optic network has a pipe enclosure and if more people connected to this fibre optic network, it would alleviate the current bottleneck in our Internet satellite connection.

A majority of people are now connected, and if the majority of people are connected through the fibre optics, then it would allow more room for communities that are only connected by satellite as it would also allow for greater connection speeds.

Not all the communities would be using the satellite linkages then, and for example, Iqaluit comprises about 70 percent of the satellite bandwidth from the broadband satellite so just one community (interpretation ends) uses 70 percent of the satellite bandwidth is being used up by the City of Iqaluit right now for the GN.

(interpretation) Once this fibre optic cable is in use, the communities using the satellite linkages would have more room as Iqaluit would be hooked up to the fibre optic cable and it would speed up the connection speeds as 70 percent would be freed up.

It is really noticeable when the satellite experiences overload, once everyone gets online using the satellite, it becomes extremely slow when everyone is using the bandwidth, so if Iqaluit were to be switched to the fibre optic connection, it would free up a lot of bandwidth.

It would allow for more communities to use the faster connection if this fibre optic project proceeds, and it would have tangible benefits for Nunavummiut as a lot of bandwidth would be freed up with the transferring of Iqaluit to the fibre optic connections.

Communities not connected to the fibre optic cable would be connected through the satellite. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that information as it allows us to understand this well and how it impacts Nunavummiut. I believe more residents now understand how this would work. This seems more of a long-term project that we are envisioning at this time and isn't something that will happen in the short term.

However, I just want to restate my question on how a community could take advantage of this proposed project, as it seems most communities are excluded. What is the reasoning for why most communities aren't included, as I can't quite envision why other communities are not connected, in light of the fact most communities are close to the seas.

Most communities, perhaps with the exception of Baker Lake, are on the shores of the marine environment. What is the reasoning for not including other communities that will not be included in this proposed project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As an example, if the fibre optic goes through Cape Dorset or through Iqaluit or even through Sanikiluaq if the fibre optic is connected through Northern Quebec and it would most likely connect through Cape Dorset destined for Greenland, and it would connect from the southern provinces via Sanikiluaq.

If these projects can be connected, then we could look at investing funds in the future to try to connect the Kivalliq region to this fibre optic connection. The reasons for not connecting other communities is largely, Mr. Chairman, related to financial resources.

They will need to fund this project privately, and fundraising was able to fund certain connections, and this is why it is currently difficult to try and look at connecting to this fibre optic connection as it requires substantial investment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. At this time, I will be taking a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:43 and resumed at 17:02

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Mr. Main.

Committee Motion 003 – 5(2): Deletion of \$5 Million from the 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move that \$5 million be deleted from the proposed funding for the fibre infrastructure project in the 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main, could you please provide your motion to the table. Thank you. The motion is not translated, so we will take a break for now so that the motion can be translated. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:03 and resumed at 17:18

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back. I call the committee meeting back to order. The motion has been passed around by our pages, and the motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a whole lot to say as it was already discussed beforehand, and it seems that the department hasn't decided on the final design as a government. If there were developed plans specific to this project I would not have a problem with that issue.

I know that this project is required, as we all know, as it will benefit the government. However, not enough deliberation or foresight was spent on the financial aspects to determine if this was indeed the lowest cost option.

For these reasons I have put forward this motion to remove it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: To the motion. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the opportunity. Mr. Chairman, before the motion came forward, we heard maybe that the government shouldn't own infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, over the last five years, this government has spent nearly a billion dollars on infrastructure because it's better and cheaper if the Government of Nunavut owns it. We have a lot of water treatment plants, arenas, schools, health centres, office buildings, houses, and the list goes on of infrastructure. Why? Because it's cheaper if we own it than if we rent it.

Mr. Chairman, we've been paying for years of broadband service at \$9 million a year for 200 megabytes. That gets very expensive. We have an opportunity to get into fibre. It's very new. It's very new to us. It's not new to the rest of the country, but it's very new to us and here is an opportunity for us to get into something like fibre; the best opportunity now.

Why? Well, Mr. Chairman, if we don't do it now, what is going to happen a year from now when the federal government may change. The current federal government that we have talked about making fibre and broadband available to rural communities across this country and it was their platform and it was their priority. Here is that opportunity.

We have federal elections coming up next year. We don't know what is going to happen and as we all know, the Treasury Board begins to cut down funding opportunities and asks as the election nears. Here is our opportunity. We have a window and that window is going to close sooner than later.

Mr. Chairman, we are the biggest user of broadband. We, the government, are the biggest users of the internet and maybe we should own the infrastructure so we could maintain the costs and we could pass those savings on and keep the costs down for Nunavummiut across the territory.

As I said earlier, Iqaluit alone uses 70 percent of the broadband out there. If Iqaluit went on to fibre, then the straw opens up for the rest of the territory to be able to have faster internet just by Iqaluit alone. I know we talk about, and I believe why always Iqaluit, but in this case it does make sense.

It's an opportunity. It will be faster internet service for Rankin Inlet and for all of the other communities. We have an opportunity to make that so. Mr. Chairman, once the

fibre infrastructure is in place, we could then begin talking with the private sector, the regional Inuit associations and other bodies out there that are interested in fibre to go into partnerships with them, or through a tendering process, or what have you.

We do that with other services that we provide, like fuel and gas, where we invite people to tender or partnerships to deliver service. This is one that we could too, and if the private sector built it alone, I assure you, the government and the people out there will have to pay for the cost of the infrastructure because the private sector is going to want to recoup their costs.

It's not cheap and it's something that we need to, as a government, do and do it now, again, before the federal government closes this opportunity. The opportunity is to hook up fibre currently into Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Iqaluit, from the Greenland side, and then from the Northern Quebec side to include Sanikiluaq. That is stage one.

I think we would want to be able to carry on from there as this progresses to the Kivalliq. From Cape Dorset we could go to Coral Harbour and then on to the Kivalliq communities. That opportunity is there. In the coming years we could go from Cape Dorset or Kimmirut onto Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Clyde River, and on. I think the opportunity is there.

The opportunity is now, Mr. Chairman, and I would really hate to lose this opportunity. Do we need to work on it? Yes, we do. Do we need to be better schooled in it? Yes, we do and our department is working very hard to get on top of it. I assure you that this is an opportunity and I hope that we have the support of the colleagues here to see this through so that we could put fibre into Nunavut. By doing that, it will speed up the Internet service even to those communities that don't have fibre because Iqaluit will get off from sucking 70 percent of the straw, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I've just got a brief comment on the motion.

(interpretation) It relates to the previous agreement made between the federal government and Nunavut, which includes this sector of (interpretation ends) improved broadband connectivity (interpretation) as well as marine infrastructure, municipal roads. This is included in the marine infrastructure category.

Many communities are clamouring for marine infrastructure facilities. Nonetheless, when I am in Iqaluit, the (interpretation ends) Internet (interpretation) is exceedingly slow, although due to it being the largest municipality and one would expect higher speeds. When you are trying to download via the Internet or to surf the Internet, it can become very frustrating at times.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps with marine infrastructure being a priority for many communities, and due to its importance to protect local resources, as many people lose boats due to severe weather without a small craft harbour. Many communities continue to request marine infrastructure, and it is unfortunate that this wasn't included to the communities requesting harbours.

Nonetheless, outlying communities pay large sums of money to access Internet services, and if it were to drop in prices, this would have a benefit in digital connectivity. I would vote for this improvement if it assists the government so I will be supporting this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As an MLA representing Iqaluit, of course I would vote to keep this project on the 2019-2020 capital estimates, but as a representative of the territory, I would also vote to keep this project on the 2019-2020 capital estimates.

I actually agree with the minister. We don't always agree, but this is definitely an item that I would agree with. There have been issues raised whether this should be a private or a public project. The discussion of bringing fibre optic to Nunavut has been discussed for a number of years.

In every single discussion or every instance that a company came along raising their intentions of building such a fibre optic cable project, the costs were too considerable, too much for them to handle, which is why I believe that the private sector would be unlikely to complete this capital project if the Government of Nunavut decided not to.

When the minister indicated that if the private sector had constructed a fibre optic line, they definitely would recoup their costs from the government and from the public. For that reason, I do believe that the Government of Nunavut should construct, fund, and own the fibre optic cable. If they so choose to lease the operations of it out, that's also something to take into consideration at a later date.

Finally, we are not the first jurisdiction in Canada to fund fibre optics; the Government of Yukon had done the same a few years ago when connecting Dawson City and Inuvik.

We would not be the first territorial government to fund such a project, and that's another reason why I will vote to keep this project on the 2019-2020 capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Kamingoak, did you want to speak to the motion? Sorry. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is regarding the infrastructure that was first brought up about a year ago by the Department of

Community and Government Services when they were asked about this matter in the House.

This was a project many communities wanted to connect to and many comments were made on this project. Now, although we can't decipher the future events, do we have pertinent reasoning to put forward that can be shared both related to issues raised today and yesterday, as it could be used in the future and that could be presented.

One has to carefully search for the information, and I believe I need to deliberate on this request to our government further using this reasoning as my basis. Many communities request other alternatives especially in the smaller communities, such as marine infrastructure or the like.

If these projects will not be constructed I would not have a problem with that, but I am in support of this way to connect, especially now that communities can use cellphones which would also connect to the worldwide web.

We have to catch up with the rest of the world, in terms of our connectivity. Obviously, we are a new territory and we have a large infrastructure deficit as Nunavummiut. I will stop my comments here as I don't have much more to say and I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will support the motion for to this reason: the two communities that I represent, I have no idea if they will be ever a part of the fibre optics network.

Also, my colleagues know that for many years the people of Qikiqtarjuaq have been requesting something that has never been supported and we see it as a big economic opportunity for Nunavut.

The idea that Qikiqtarjuaq has lost so much money that would have landed in Nunavut because there are so many fishing vessels of all sizes passing by us in the offshore. The only reason is we don't have a port where they can offload and refuel.

Nunavummiut have lost a large source of revenue making sectors up to now, and this is my concern. The two communities that I represent are both inundated by icebergs as all summer and all winter many icebergs pass offshore. Even though they go way offshore, they still run aground even with deep waters.

The reason I am concerned is that icebergs could easily cut the fibre optic cable, and whether it would be feasible for the two communities I represent hasn't been studied properly.

I don't know if it will work if they lay it down without further studies on icebergs, so I will support the motion for those reasons, and I have no idea if my communities will ever be a part of this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be good for some communities, those of us in the smaller communities, those of us that are not being looked at as much by the government there are some things that we have been requested for a very long time and we just get lip service. It just, nothing is done about them, and now the government wants something, something expensive, for example this fibre optic in the bottom of the sea.

It's great that it'll improve the internet for Iqaluit and we also have to consider that this big amount of money that you're requesting for that you would like approval for, is just an estimate. It's just a guess, and if it goes over that budget will you ask for that much money and then you'll request for more money and then the project will be turned somewhere else and then they'll be requesting another \$5 million because something came up that wasn't considered beforehand. The Uqqummiut MLA just explained that they have a lot of icebergs, whenever the cable breaks the repair costs will be probably very expensive.

The hamlets have requests from the Community and Government Services for example; the municipal buildings to be renovated or upgraded. It's a big problem in my community, people quit because of it. They can't get approval to improve their workplace and this person who had been helping the whole community ends up leaving town for that purpose. It's one of the biggest problems in our community, the hamlet has been requesting funds to renovate or upgrade for their municipal buildings, they are always told, next year, next year. They keep getting told, next year, so ask again next year because they won't be told no, we won't think about it.

Meanwhile that's the situation I try to say small things can benefit communities, can improve communities. When will they be heard? When will they be improved? This project is quite expensive and you've agreed it will be used for a number of years, for myself I come from a poor smaller left out community. And we never seem to get support from the government, how will this better you? What else are you going to do? What else are you going to do to help us rise up? When the government is trying to believe in *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, in *Pijittirarniq*, *Ikajuqatigiingniq*, in serving and working together.

I think these are just words that the government uses, even people are trying to tell you look at these things, visit the smaller communities to determine what type of infrastructure is needed to improve the municipality and with that being the situation today and with the motion brought forward on it, I will be supporting the motion.

Mayhap, if I support this motion then the issues I am voicing here in this House will be considered in supporting this motion, as it would allow the government to hear the voices of the smaller communities, as they too are clamouring for more resources.

The residents in these communities have the same feelings as residents in the larger communities, just like those of you who live in larger communities. This is why we try to highlight the infrastructure requirements of the community, such as a small craft harbour, funds to renovate municipal buildings.

The smaller communities request much smaller funding amounts on these projects, and with the current situation we face, I will be supporting this motion as I am here to represent the two communities, and I will continue to voice their concerns. I stated I would bring up these issues, so I am standing here today voicing that.

When I first made a statement, I also declared that one shouldn't notice my perspiration only and to instead concentrate on the message I am voicing. With that being the case now, yes, I will support this motion and I will stop here for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. I have no more names. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before the vote, this will affect all of the communities. I would like to request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Main, do you have any last reply? Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think it's very good that we're having this debate. Ideally this should be a debate that happens more often. We need to question what we're approving. We need to know that we're making the right investments.

The minister mentioned the figure of \$9 million a year. I have been asking questions about this project for quite some time now and I have yet to be provided any analysis which shows the payback period, which shows the return on investment, which shows the potential revenues from the private sector. I'm assuming that that work has been done, but it hasn't been provided to me as a regular member despite requesting additional information on this project.

Either a) the information exists and all the homework has been done and it's just assumed that I'm going to vote in favour of something that I don't understand or b) the work hasn't been done. I don't know what the answer is to that, Mr. Chairman.

This motion is not about whether or not Iqaluit should have fibre. I would like to make that very clear. I feel very strongly that Iqaluit should have fibre, but I also feel very

strongly that it should be done in the cheapest and the most efficient way possible. I feel a bit like I'm putting my neck on the line here saying that, but I will continue to advocate for finding cheaper ways to do things.

Within the government, I'm learning. I have been an MLA for about a year now and within the government, there seems to be this mentality that we run the territory. There is frustration within the private sector on this mentality. There is frustration, I can tell you, because I hear from business owners who have to deal with the government.

This is one of the few pieces of infrastructure that there is a possibility that maybe there's a private build that could happen. If the private build happens, yes, we will pay for it. We will pay for it in O&M just like we're paying for the Iqaluit airport, but the calculation has to be done.

What is the math on a government built fibre line and what is the math on a private built fibre line. Like I mentioned, I can't imagine that anyone would want to invest in a garbage dump in a smaller community. Okay, the government has to build that because nobody else is going to build it.

This is one of the few projects that maybe there is a private business case that could attract private investment, save our capital dollars for other stuff, but department has yet to provide to me a satisfactory answer in terms of yes, we have exhausted all of the options, we know that nobody else is interested in building this but us, and the fact that we seem to be getting signals it's now or never, the window is going to close; I really don't know what to think of that.

This money is proposed to come out of a 10-year capital funding agreement with the federal government, and from my understanding, those agreements don't usually evaporate when the government changes, so the money is there for a 10-year window.

That's all I'll say about that. I would just like to reiterate this is not whether Iqaluit should or shouldn't have fibre. I believe it definitely should happen, but I'm not convinced that this is the best way for it to happen.

I would like to see the \$6 million that has been invested so far in an underwater survey, and I would like to see that data turned over. Perhaps non-disclosure agreements could be signed with the private sector and they could take that data and do the math and see if it makes sense for them to invest in this project. If not, then the government could come back in a supplementary or it could be in next year's capital, and they could tell us, "We know for sure the private sector does not want to invest in this." And I would not have these questions, these unanswered questions, Mr. Chairman.

I'll leave it there and I thank everybody for sharing their opinions. I think this debate is very healthy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. A recorded vote has been requested. All in favour of the motion please stand and sit once I have called your names. All those in favour, please stand, and sit down once I have called your name.

Mr. Main.

Ms. Towtongie.

Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Netser.

Mr. Kaerner.

Thank you. All those opposed, please stand and sit once I've called your names.

Ms. Angnakak.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Lightstone.

Ms. Kamingoak.

Mr. Qirngnuq.

Ms. Nakashuk.

Mr. Kusugak.

Ms. Sheutiapik.

Minister Ehaloak.

Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Hicke.

Mr. Akeeagok.

Those in favour, 5; those who opposed, 13. The motion is carried...defeated. Sorry. My apologies.

>>*Laughter*

The motion is defeated.

>>*Applause*

My apologies. It has been a long day. Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

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

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. Now I will arise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Moving on with the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 9 and would like to report progress and that one committee motion was defeated.

>>*Laughter*

And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. 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.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 31:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 31, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:56*

