

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South)
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Housing Corporation*

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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(Baker Lake)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of
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Immigration; Minister responsible for the
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, November 2, 2018**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, 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 9:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and my colleagues, good morning. Our fellow Nunavummiut, good morning and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

Let us proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 104 – 5(2): Celebration of a Newly Certified Journeyperson

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. We have risen again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I am pleased to share a success story of a recently graduated apprentice in one of our newly designated trades.

(interpretation ends) In September 2016, as part of an ongoing effort to modernize apprenticeship and trades training in Nunavut, our government approved the renaming of existing trades and the recognition of new trades through the approval of a revised Trade Designation Order. These revisions came about as the result of cooperation with our industry partners, particularly those in the mining and energy sectors.

Mr. Speaker, one of the changes approved was the recognition of the new partsperson – materials technician trade. As the direct consequence of this approval, Chad McCallum of Cambridge Bay became our first registered apprentice in the trade. Today I am proud to

share with you that two years later, with the strong support of his employer, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. McCallum completed his apprenticeship program.

>>Applause

Mr. McCallum is now the first-ever certified partsperson – materials technician journeyman in Nunavut. I love it when we have our firsts. This great achievement of Mr. McCallum could not have been obtained without the support of our employers and other industry partners. Their support and input are critical as we continue to modernize our trade certification and apprenticeship systems.

Uqaqtitsijii, Mr. McCallum's successful graduation is also a symbol of our government's continued efforts to work with our industry partners to provide training and employment opportunities to ensure Nunavummiut play a major role in our evolving economy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 105 – 5(2): Teacher Shortages

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, my thoughts are with the people of Kimmirut and the family who lost a loved one in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, fellow members, as you may be aware, there is currently a national teachers shortage currently affecting jurisdictions across the country. A combination of rising school enrolments and a substantial number of teacher retirements has caused this crisis, which unfortunately also affected Nunavut's education system this year.

This past June, at the end of the 2017-18 school year, there were over 120 teacher vacancies throughout Nunavut. I am proud to say that my department has been able to fill most of these positions through a concerted recruitment strategy involving career fairs, social media, directly contacting every faculty of education in Canada, and more.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today there are less than 20 teaching positions that need to be filled, which means for every two schools in Nunavut there is only one vacancy. Although I would prefer to see this number at zero, I would like to thank my department for all of their efforts made in recruiting teachers to Nunavut.

I would also like to thank school staff for making the necessary adjustments to ensure that, to the degree possible, all classes started on time for the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the parents for their understanding and patience during the start of this school year, especially those in communities hit hard by this shortage.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to make you and my fellow members aware that my department is currently developing a recruitment and retention strategy, ensuring that we are preventing the impacts of a teacher shortage of this magnitude in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 106 – 5(2): Support Women in the Public Service

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Arviat. Today is Friday and I wish you a safe weekend.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate and update my colleagues on a statement I made on October 11, International Day of the Girl.

Mr. Speaker, I have instructed my colleagues and staff at the departmental levels to review the current Government of Nunavut's Harassment Policy to ensure it adequately addresses and meets the needs of women who have experienced inappropriate behaviour or sexual harassment in the workplace.

In doing so, I have asked for the creation of a working group involving female DMs, human resource experts, and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators among others to review our existing policies to ensure there are adequate supports and resources available and to identify gaps and solutions where needed.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I, along with some of my cabinet colleagues, met with members of Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada to learn more about their work and resources around workplace harassment. Pauktuutit has graciously offered to give the GN use of some of their workplace harassment training materials to share with staff. We will make this readily available for the public service as soon as possible. I want to thank them here today for meeting with us and for their important advocacy work across the country.

Finally, I want to assure my fellow members and the public that this is not a one-time fix. I know this that is an ongoing initiative and one that requires time, understanding, and organizational changes. I am committed to continuing to make the GN a safer and more inclusive place for women. I encourage women and men to come together, to gather, to share, to listen, and to speak up. Now more than ever we need understanding and to help one another. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 107 – 5(2): Arctic Energy Fund

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning, especially to my constituents in Cambridge Bay and members in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to inform my colleagues that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is proposing to use funding from the Government of Canada's Arctic Energy Fund to complete power plant infrastructure upgrades in an estimated 12 communities.

If these projects are approved, this fund will provide the Qulliq Energy Corporation up to \$175 million under a 75-25 percent cost-shared arrangement, of which the Qulliq Energy Corporation would [contribute] a maximum of \$58 million. This major construction initiative would include power plant rebuilds and generator set replacements in communities across the territory that need it the most.

These upgrades are required to replace aging infrastructure and to ensure the Qulliq Energy Corporation is able to meet the energy needs of all Nunavut communities. Replacement and upgrades will be determined through infrastructure assessments and will accommodate Nunavut's growing population. I look forward to updating my colleagues on the power plant projects as they receive funding.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Energy Fund provides funding for projects to increase energy efficiency and reliability and reduce carbon emissions within northern rural communities' infrastructure. This funding will also allow the Qulliq Energy Corporation to replace aging infrastructure in a faster time frame than would have been otherwise possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Government of Canada for funding programs like the Arctic Energy Fund that would support projects and investments that would benefit our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 108 – 5(2): United for Life Gathering for Suicide Prevention

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past September the beautiful community of Baker Lake opened their doors...

>> *Laughter*

...to host the United for Life Gathering - I had to throw that out there for our colleague, Mr. Mikkungwak - for suicide prevention. I had the pleasure of participating in the gathering that was organized by the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy partners. These include the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the RCMP "V" Division, and the Embrace Life Council.

Mr. Speaker, the gathering was held during Embrace Life Week and began over the weekend with 25 youth wellness leaders meeting in advance to learn, connect with other youth leaders, and build capacity. Over the three days in Baker Lake of the main gathering, more than 100 stakeholders, including elders, community wellness leaders, Inuit organizations, businesses, treatment organizations, and survivors, came together to raise awareness of mental health support and suicide prevention. Mr. Speaker, participants worked to strengthen networks, heal and learn from each other, and empower community-led action.

The gathering began on September 11 with a focus on self-care, positive coping skills, and healthy activities that support mental health and wellness. Mr. Speaker, the second day focused on professional development and learning, with an emphasis on intergenerational trauma and resilience. Participants learned from each other, research and successes from Inuit Nunangat. The final day of the gathering brought people together to learn about mobilizing the community and then practising this together.

Mr. Speaker, during the gathering, a ceremonial signing in support of the opening of the Umingmak Child and Youth Support Centre, a future child advocacy centre, took place. The signing included representatives from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Embrace Life Council, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "V" Division, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and me on behalf of the Department of Health. This centre, slated to open in Iqaluit, is a project supported by the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation. It will be a safe haven for children who are victims of violence or trauma, supported by the justice system to create a place of healing. The symbolic signing of support for the Umingmak Child and Youth Support Centre is an essential step in our commitment to improving the health and well-being of children and youth in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that we all need help at times. We can get through hard times with the love and support of family, friends, elders, and counsellors. The Hope for Wellness Help Line offers free, confidential counselling, with a crisis line in English, French, and Inuktitut upon request, 24 hours a day at 1-866-925-4419. Kids Help Phone offers free, confidential counselling by chat or text at www.kidshelpphone.ca or text TALK to 686868. There are options. There is help.

My sincere thanks to the community of Baker Lake for hosting the United for Life Gathering and to all the participants who joined us as we heal together and build our capacity, knowledge, and network of support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 109 – 5(2): Highest Number of Learners Enrolled in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

I rise today to tell my fellow members about our current enrolment numbers in the Nunavut Teacher Education Programs at Nunavut Arctic College. The Nunavut Teacher Education Program, widely known as NTEP, is delivered in conjunction with the University of Regina, and all of the learners enrolled in this program are currently working towards a Bachelor of Education.

It is my pleasure to announce that this academic year we have the highest number of learners enrolled in NTEP compared to any other year in the history of the program.

>>*Applause*

Currently there are 93 NTEP learners enrolled in total in the nine different communities across the territory. These communities are Iqaluit, Arviat, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Rankin Inlet, Kugaaruk, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, and Sanikiluaq. Of the 93 learners at NTEP, 90 of them are Nunavut Inuit.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that the following four NTEP communities will celebrate their graduations this year: Iqaluit, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, and Sanikiluaq. We are anticipating that 23 learners will graduate this academic year and shortly enter the labour market.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all the Members of this Legislative Assembly to attend one of these graduations if they are happening in your community and to celebrate the accomplishments that these learners have worked so hard to achieve. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage other Nunavummiut that they can also learn and start this program. Nunavut Arctic College would like to see many students who will take training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 178 – 5(2): Encouraging Mental Health

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues, Premier, and ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to mention that earlier when the Minister of Health made a statement which I wish to second on mental health services being offered throughout Nunavut, as it is causing challenges for Nunavummiut and it is a cumbersome challenge for all of us.

Perhaps, we as members have all noted that mental health services are a critical element as we have all faced this issue amongst our families and friends as they have gone through hardships, regardless if they are an elder, youth, woman, or a man as it impacts all Nunavummiut, as we all know.

This issue is being administered by the government. However, I want to urge my fellow Nunavummiut, as well as inform the government, and the reason why I rise is the government unilaterally can't resolve this issue as residents throughout Nunavut, from various departments and private homes, should be debating and discussing this issue.

This isn't an ignominious or shameful matter, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing disgraceful about living life and this was brought up on occasion by the residents of Arviat. Now, I urge the viewing audience to not shy away from this mental health issue as it affects people from all over the world, who undergo this challenge from time to time.

If you are going through a stressful period, there are people who can provide assistance or counselling, and that you are not alone. Others want to assist you and you can receive help for the challenges, whatever they may be, as eventually it will come to pass.

I wanted to speak to this issue, and to conclude, I want to state that although it may not occur on a daily basis, we must not forget that mental health services are not a shameful topic to discuss as Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 179 – 5(2): The Mamaqtuq Nanook Cooking Club

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I would just like to say I support my colleague, and those are exactly my thoughts. We have to help each other.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to talk about something that is fun and something I'm really proud and happy about. I rise today to provide an update on the Mamaqtuq Nanook Cooking Club. I have talked about this before in the House when I was a regular MLA previously. This program is run out of the Nanook School in Niaqunnguut.

Mr. Speaker, this is the fifth year that the free afterschool program has been running. It was started by the Apex resident Keri McCluskey to help teach Niaqunnguut children how to cook healthy meals from scratch and on a tight budget. Every Friday, Keri and Kootoo Alainga work with more than 30 children to prepare and eat nutritious meals. The club also emphasizes literacy development and community volunteerism.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very successful grassroots program. In five years the number of participants has tripled. The program helps develop their self-esteem and leaves them with skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. They will also be heading to the Frobisher Inn in Iqaluit to tour the facility and to learn more about food-related careers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to thank the Frobisher Inn because being open like that and allowing kids to come in and learn, as a community, that's community connectedness. It's being supportive and I just want to say that it's great that the Frobisher Inn would be so open in being able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important field trip for these children because it gives them a valuable opportunity to understand how the skills that they are learning can be transferred to employment.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If anybody has any questions about the impact of this program on participants, let me provide you with concrete proof that the cooking club walks the walk.

River McCluskey, one of the cooks who have been with the program since it started five years ago, just won the Kid Food Nation Contest and travelled to Ottawa to represent Nunavut earlier this month. Isn't that great? How wonderful.

>> *Applause*

This nine-year-old, by the way, is a Niaqunnguut resident, is without a doubt for other Inuit children.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues can rest assured that they will have the opportunity to try all these delicious foods. River's winning recipe for arctic char with citrus relish will appear in the Kid Food Nation Cookbook later on this year and the club is developing its own cookbook through Inhabit Media.

I'm always pleased to rise in the House to celebrate the cooks of the Mamaqtuq Nanook Cooking Club. Please join me in applauding these inspiring children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 180 – 5(2): Announcing the Retirement of Dorothy Tootoo

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

The reason why I rise today, Mr. Speaker, is to acknowledge and to bid farewell to this person who is about to retire, and who I wish to commemorate, Dorothy Tootoo of Rankin Inlet. She has worked at Arctic College for many years, and never stopped working and today is her final day of work so I wish to express my pride here.

She is extremely capable and she will leave a large void for those of us who have entered the college to learn. When you see her, she is always busy doing something. She may be assisting students or the teachers, and she takes on anything that can provide assistance.

We are very grateful to her, and she always has a smile on her face. I doubt I have ever seen her without smiling, even if she is dealing with a challenging or stressful job, she still keeps smiling. I know that all of the work she does, and the people she assists have all progressed through her help.

She will be dearly missed, as after this weekend, when residents go to Arctic College, they will miss her capabilities and willingness to help, as it is quite noticeable. She is also involved in the Rankin Inlet cadet corps, working with male and female youth under the Junior Ranger program. I know she will not stop this anytime soon.

Through her hard work in teaching young people and guiding them, we have fine young men and fine young women in Rankin Inlet that have blossomed in growth. She leads by example and Dorothy never stops even as it's her last day at work.

I know she will not stop helping in this way as she has aspirations to pursue now without limits, Dorothy. Thank you and we will see and meet you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the opportunity.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 181 – 5(2): Carrying David Joanasiac across a River

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As today is Friday, I will speak to a fairly funny story that occurred, as I had to carry another person on my back this summer, and that person was an adult that I carried.

>> *Applause*

This summer, the Minister of Education arrived into Coral Harbour to help celebrate the local students' graduation ceremony, and for that I thank him. I appreciated your arrival to our community. When our community of Coral Harbour finally gets visitors, we try to showcase the tremendous beauty of our land, where we try to show the visitors the most scenic lands. As a matter of fact, it is more scenic than Pond Inlet or Baker Lake.

>> *Laughter*

The minister came to visit me in the morning, and I wanted to tour him around our community, so we drove around the community right? We went to the north-eastern side to a river called the Ford River, so I could show him where it flowed into the sea.

And later on, we started towards the airport when the scheduled arrival time crept up, and while we had a bit of time, we went to go and see this small creek that is locally known as Fossil Creek to look at the surroundings.

As we got there, we could see the plane descending on its way to land at the airport, and the airport isn't that far from the creek, so I killed the engine of my car, and we looked around as the plane started landing that he was going to be a passenger on.

The plane was on its final approach, so I told him we have to hurry up. We were on the other side of the creek, and this summer was quite wet so the creeks and rivers were swollen. As we tried to cross, my vehicle got stuck and could move any further.

Now, I turned to the minister and told him “your plane has already landed” and he replied “I can sleep another night if I have to”.

>>*Laughter*

I told him you have to leave, so we started looking for a place to cross as the creek was flowing heavily, and it had burst its banks so it was quite a bit wider so we looked for a narrow spot where it wasn't flowing. I told him I can carry you across here as the current isn't as strong.

Mr. Speaker, I want to finish this story as I am just getting to the punch line, please. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member wishes to finish his statement today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Netser, please proceed.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. Now, as I was saying, I was looking for a narrower section to cross, and my friend who is still quite young had short shoes, so I told him I can carry you across on this section.

He replied that he weighed over 200 lbs., so if I wanted to carry him it might be difficult. I asked him: do you want to get on the plane?

>>*Laughter*

I ended up carrying my colleague on my back to cross the creek. However, I don't wish to get an amauti and I certainly hope I don't have to carry another adult as I start to age, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 182 – 5(2): Successful Polar Bear Hunt in Arviat

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to apologize to you, as I just now got the information about the success of the grandson of Joe Kaludjak, who I want to publicly acknowledge as he is my Makpa Kaludjak, whom I dearly loved.

Their oldest son, Griffin Qajuuttag Kaludjak, is travelling to Arviat with a bevy of other boats from Rankin Inlet to go polar bear hunting. He was successfully able to harvest a polar bear, Pallulaaq Ford's son and I want to expressly thank Sam Alagalak for guiding his hunt, and they also crossed the ocean to harvest his first polar bear.

I acknowledge you, Griffin Qajuuttag Kaludjak Ford of Rankin Inlet and thank you, as they passed by the spot where the Bombardier vehicle sank, taking his father Makpa with it and they were able to grieve and for closure so I am grateful for that. I am also happy that you harvested your first polar bear.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 183 – 5(2): The Importance of Inuktitut

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, residents of my community, as well as my colleagues and the Premier.

Now, on a matter we continue to bring up, Mr. Speaker, pardon me. Firstly, let me mention Dorothy Tootoo, as I too share the pride in her hard work. I know her capabilities as she is quite capable especially with the cadet corps, where she has travelled all over to work with cadets so I am proud of her work, and I share my colleagues' feelings of pride.

Now, regarding the Inuktitut language which is of critical importance to Nunavut, and further, this issue was a priority for the negotiators who fought to establish Nunavut in the Inuit homelands, as they wanted to preserve our language and maintain it.

Our language will keep our culture alive, and was one of the reasons for fighting for Nunavut, and a public government that would use Inuktitut so that Inuit could have a government that they could understand. And further, another matter that is a cause for happiness is the establishment of the Inuit Language Authority.

It was created to deal with our language, whether it deals with oral or written forms of the Inuktitut language, as they wish to preserve our language. I am glad that the Inuit Language Authority was established. Further, we know that they have done important work in that role.

I will be directing questions on this matter later on in the day, actually later on this morning about the Inuit Language Authority, due to its critical importance, and because I take pride in that body, so I will request an update on their mandate as this is something we want to hear about, and obviously many Inuit want to hear about the role of the Inuit Language Authority especially with the importance of Inuktitut and our written language.

That's what I wanted to say this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

Member's Statement 184 – 5(2): Congratulations to Chad McCallum

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It gives me great pleasure to rise today to personally congratulate one of my constituents who is also a long-term employee of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Chad McCallum, for becoming Nunavut's first partsperson – materials technician journeyman. Again, congratulations on your achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I almost had no more names on my list.

>> *Laughter*

Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Member's Statement 185 – 5(2): Appreciation of Education System

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my constituents in Gjoa Haven. If my family is awake, I say "good morning" to all of you.

The reason why I rise today is to firstly acknowledge the Minister of Education who acknowledged the teachers (interpretation ends) and Mr. Speaker, he's right. We should not be short of any teachers in Nunavut.

(interpretation) The reason why I rise today is to recognize our teachers today as it is Friday today. They provide lessons to our students about healthy living, social skills by respecting others and that is part of what they are taught. They are also taught the required courses and preparing them for their futures, including potential careers. However, I want to state here, Mr. Speaker, that one student has been treated wrongly during the school hours. Apparently this student was bullying other students and he was asked to leave the school for his actions.

When he went home during school hours, his mother asked him why he had come home, while the school is still open so what is the reason for your coming home? He was quiet for a while, and then stated that he had been kicked out of school. I will state this part in English.

(interpretation ends) The child was told to go home, and then his mom asked him why he went home early, and the child's response and any child that if they say anything, so the child's response was, "I got fired from school!"

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Children can respond in any manner that comes directly from their hearts, and I want to recognize all students in school as they are taught courses for their future benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 186 – 5(2): Looking Forward to Next Visit to Coral Harbour

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond to the funny story from the Member for Aivilik about the fact that he had to carry me on his back when I was visiting his community. I just wanted to say, like I said yesterday that I would return to the community. (interpretation ends) I promise you won't have to *amaaq* me this time.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) However, it was a lot of fun that we had and we can tell stories about it. (interpretation ends) I have a very nice souvenir from fossil creek now in my office after that incident and I just want to thank him. It just shows how he will go above and beyond for his guests, and I thank him for that.

>>*Laughter*

I look forward to the next visit to Coral Harbour. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

An Hon. Member: You're all welcome to Coral Harbour.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: And just to give a little bit of advice because it's Friday morning, maybe somebody should consider investing in a pair of rubber boots.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 235 – 5(2): Health Care Professionals Needed**

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say “good morning” to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk, to our Premier, and colleagues.

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

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut’s health care system needs health professionals like nurses, doctors, mental health workers, and other health care providers more than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, even with their training, these professionals are just as human as we are. When their efforts exceed the limitations of their bodies and abilities, they burn out, just like you and I do.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut needs to find more nurses, doctors, and mental health workers...

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Qirngnuq: ...to manage the workload and keep our health care system alive.

Can the minister provide an update on his department’s plan to ensure the health care positions are fully staffed across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly appreciate the member, especially in his preamble where he speaks to how important health care professionals are across the territory. I don’t think anyone understands that more than I do with the challenges that we have, especially during some of the seasonal or summertime of filling the staffing in health centres across the territory.

It’s a complicated issue. It has been going on for a number of years and we’re not alone in any stretch of imagination, Mr. Speaker. All jurisdictions across the country and even internationally are experiencing medical staffing shortages and we’re very competitive. One of the ways we compete is our salary dollars. We’re one of the leaders in Canada with providing income with salary ranges.

I think one of the things that go unnoticed is, again, I spoke to it just recently at a conference for the ships here in Iqaluit, how important it is when you come to Nunavut to participate in the community, to take advantage of our people and our land, and people who come here want to come back. There are a number of different initiatives that we’re working on. We send people to recruitment seminars for doctors and nurses.

We have a dedicated team that is there to provide hiring processes, working very closely with the Department of Finance HR and soon to be the stand-alone Department of HR. We're looking at job sharing opportunities, making them less cumbersome and more open. One of the feedbacks I have been getting when I travel to communities and speak to some of the health care professionals is that previously it was a very cumbersome process to do a job share.

I'm working very closely with the Minister of Finance right now to make it a little bit easier for people to job share. They may not be there all year, but at least it's the same people coming back and it builds that continuity in the community. That's all I can say for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister responded to my first supplementary question, so I'll ask my final supplementary.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister is working hard with his staff to address the needs for more health care professionals across the territory. Will the minister commit to tabling his department's latest recruitment and retention strategy for Nunavut health care professionals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said in the past and members have heard in the past, we're currently working on our model of care, which will have some aspects with our recruitment and retention strategy. At such time where I can have all that material correlated, I would be more than happy to share it with members.

I do want to highlight maybe that I left out a little bit in my first response is how hard we're working to get more Nunavummiut into the health care field. We have a nursing program that we partner with Nunavut Arctic College. We have medical interpreter programs, again, partnered with Nunavut Arctic College. We're always promoting Nunavummiut to apply for health care positions and educational opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 236 – 5(2): Beer and Wine Sales

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, last year or in one of the sessions there was a question raised about the status of the beer and wine store and how much revenue it has generated. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the recent numbers and as the fiscal year-end, when we look at liquor sales across the territory, approximately \$1 million was profited in liquor sales. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that it's going to be over \$1 million in revenue. Can the minister give us an indication of what that money's going to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad the member asked that question. Just recently we approved to increase the expenditure on harm reduction programs to \$750,000 with the legalization of cannabis. It was previously \$500,000. Already we have more harm reduction monies available for education on liquor and cannabis across the territory in addition to specific programs in communities such as the seasonal taxi voucher giveaways, and again working with community wellness partners on harm reduction programs. The bulk of any profits that are generated through liquor sales in the territory are put back into harm reduction programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that in Nunavut we have the worst statistics for anything. I'm sure that we are going to increase in the statistics with alcohol and cannabis made available now. We have the worst statistics in Canada; the numbers of suicides are huge here in Nunavut. I would like to ask the minister to make sure that we rectify this problem and to decrease or get better statistics here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member. We are always working to improve the negative aspect of any statistics.

The harm reduction programs like Let's Be Aware, really, even the fact that we opened a beer and wine store has dropped the consumption of or ordering of spirits by about 25 percent just here in Iqaluit. When we're looking at providing measureable alcohol consumption such as a beer or a wine, to take away that desire for free pouring hard spirits and binge drinking by having a lower content of alcohol available, to me has

already shown to be a step in the right direction in educating people into healthy habits of consuming alcohol.

Do we have more work to do? Absolutely. We're going to continue to do that with programs such as Let's Be Aware and other harm reduction education promotional materials that we communicate across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 237 – 5(2): Follow-up on Sanikiluaq's Community Learning Centre

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq and the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for his return to my question regarding the Sanikiluaq Community Learning Centre. The minister's response notes that currently three programs are being offered at Sanikiluaq's community learning centre.

His response also notes that his department is working with Community and Government Services to renovate the old community learning centre which has only one room and is much smaller than the space now being used.

Can the minister explain what consideration has been given to the space requirements needed in order for the community learning centre to be able to continue to deliver more than one course? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. We try to look at how many programs are being delivered to see how we can maximize the space that is available to the community. Hopefully, when working with CGS, we can renovate that existing facility and use its full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been in that building and its full potential is pretty well one classroom.

Mr. Speaker, the community learning centre currently delivers the Getting Ready for Employment and Training Program, the College Foundation Program, and the Nunavut

Teacher Education Program. These are all critical programs for employment opportunities. I do realize that the NTEP program is in its final year, but the community needs programs like this for residents to get ready for employment.

If the new 'old' location does not have enough space to deliver all of these programs, what steps will the minister take to ensure that more than one program can still be delivered in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The college had undergone some preliminary assessments of all our learning facilities, including Sanikiluaq's. Along with that, we will be planning on the five-year academic plan, considering the space requirements that are currently in place, but we are also trying to address some of the space.

We're building the Iqaluit expansion here and we have plans for the Kitikmeot. We know that there are CLCs that need either expansion or to be replaced completely. We are working towards having those plans in place and addressed through our capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that repurposing the 'old' community learning centre is a short-term solution. However, it seems that long-term solutions are taking too long to be developed. A new community learning centre is not even in the planning stages. If the government started the process to build a new learning centre today, it would probably take at least five years before a new building will be able to open its doors.

Will the minister commit today to addressing at the earliest opportunity, maybe even by Monday, the need for a long-term solution for a community learning centre that has enough space to deliver the programs that Sanikiluaq needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I will be looking back at the preliminary assessment that has been done. I think they're working towards having a more comprehensive plan in place that would show all learning facilities in the territory, including Sanikiluaq, so once that assessment is complete I'll see if I can bring it to the House and show our members what the status is on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 238 – 5(2): Extra School Staff for Chesterfield Inlet

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, our elders, and women and hunters.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that the Department of Education uses a specific formula to calculate how many teaching positions there are in each community each school year.

However, in some cases, regardless of what that formula determines to be the appropriate number of teachers to teach a specific number of students, it may just not be enough.

Can the minister clarify what are the appropriate steps to take in order to acquire additional teaching positions for our community schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for her question. We use a formula that is cabinet approved and it is solely based on the enrolment of the students at any school. So based on the numbers, we allocate PY teaching positions to the community DEAs based on enrolment numbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, the minister, for his response. On October 10, 2018, the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority wrote a very compelling letter to the Minister of Education requesting an extra teacher for the Victor Sammurtok School. As the letter so eloquently points out, having another teacher on staff would not only enhance the overall quality of education for all students at the school but it would better enable school staff to coach and prepare students for post-secondary college or university programs.

Can the minister confirm that he has received this letter from the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority, and if he has, can he indicate when he plans to reply to it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for her question. I recall getting that letter and I’m pretty sure we did send a response to the DEA but I want elaborate on the attendance.

We always want our students to attend school. When we count them that is a very important part of it. When they stay in school that is a part of it, so if they're not staying in school and they're truant 60 percent of the time, then they get dropped out of the enrolment list. That is a very important part of our formula that we need to ensure that our students stay in school for the remainder of the year because that will impact the DEA and the resources that are being allocated to each school.

Further, Mr. Speaker, just to point out that we have the data from 2017 that we're dealing with, so as of September 30, 2017, based off of those numbers, we allocate resources for this school year and the same thing will be done next school year based off of 2018 numbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. We have all heard frustrated comments from our constituents and our fellow leaders that many of our high school graduates are academically unprepared to progress to the next level of education, whether it be for a college diploma or for a university degree. If we want Nunavut youth to become the professionals, the certified tradespeople, the teachers, the doctors, and the nurses that Nunavut so critically needs, we must invest in their school-based education to start with.

Will the minister commit to giving full consideration to the Chesterfield Inlet DEA's request for an additional teacher in order that our students can be better prepared for the exciting but demanding world of post-secondary education? Plus, the minister is always welcome to Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. I agree with her that we want to have our students be ready for post-secondary education and we want them to succeed in school. That is part of when our students attend as much as they can in school, they absorb more of the lessons that are presented through our schools and that would ensure that they succeed towards post-secondary opportunities. I would just like to encourage our students to go on that path, stay in school and be attentive to the lessons that are being learned and that will translate to success.

I recognize that the member has also invited me to her constituency. I assure her that she won't have to piggyback me when I visit.

>>*Laughter*

We will take her concerns and I look forward to meeting with her constituents on this. Again, we are working on a new formula on the student-educator ratio and I hope to be presenting something in the winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 239 – 5(2): Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Languages.

Now, I referenced it earlier by speaking about the Inuit Language Authority, an organization created with a lot of strength and a large workload. It seems obvious that they have been kept busy in the years since their establishment as a body.

Now, the definition for the Inuit Language Authority is that they are the final authority, and I wonder which term is the proper one, perhaps the interpreters can define it more clearly for the word (interpretation ends) authoritative (interpretation) meaning that their decisions are authoritative, and they provide advice to our government the way it is set up.

And further, they deal with the written terminology as well as spoken words that better reflect the Inuit perspective, and they provide this expertise to the government. Now, we were informed in the past that the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami worked to develop a single written language, which continues to be worked on today. The discussions on a standard writing system continue today for all of Inuit Nunangat, as ITK calls all Inuit regions.

This term applies not just to Nunavut, but to every region that has Inuit residents, and the work towards standardizing the written language has been debated in the past. Now, I would like to ask the minister: has the Inuit Language Authority discussed that with the minister or with his officials? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. The Inuit Language Authority of our day, as you probably know, issued a news release. Their new chairman, Louis Tapardjuk, will be doing good work and the vice-chairperson, Rosemarie Meyok, will be working with him. I would like to thank them.

Mr. Speaker we know that what we use is the ICI standard called *qaniujaaqpait* and *qaliujaaqpait*. Those are the two. Also, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami signed an agreement with the federal government for the preservation of aboriginal languages and language issues. The language authority has been involved. I have to approach them to see what they have been working on to date. We will all hear about anything new they have to release. 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 providing that information. We are all aware that in our schools they use two different writing systems presently, the two writing systems he mentioned.

With the case being two different writing systems in all of our schools, if they used one standard writing system it would be better. What the position of the minister? Do we need one standard writing system, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the question. The Inuit Language Authority have worked together with the Department of Education to have a standard curriculum that can be understood by all Nunavummiut. We expect that. We are working towards one standard writing system. The two different writing systems we presently have, we could keep using the other writing system within the government or outside of the government.

However, we have noticed today that the language authority and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami are leaning towards a standard system. Properly put, they want to make *qaliujaaqpait*, or (interpretation ends) roman orthography (interpretation) the new standard. That said, I can't promise it will be so as it is still in the planning stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 240 – 5(2): Workplace Environment at Nunavut Arctic College

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow residents and my colleagues. This morning I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has a Harassment Free Workplace Policy. That policy clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of executive and senior managers when such things as "a hostile and abusive or poisoned work environment" occurs due to harassment. The policy indicates that "Deputy Heads are responsible for keeping the workplace free of harassment and for appropriate intervention should harassment be alleged."

Can the minister confirm that this policy also applies to Nunavut Arctic College and, if it does, has the minister been made aware of any formal harassment complaints within the last four months regarding the college's senior and executive management?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank her for that question. Yes, Nunavut Arctic College adheres to the Government of Nunavut human resource policies. As an example, if harassment occurred not just in the workplace but even outside of the workplace, if an issue crops up with any of our employees, they have to approach their (interpretation ends) supervisor (interpretation) or the next higher management position on up to the senior manager to submit their complaints.

This process has to be followed within Nunavut Arctic College, and with respect to her question, I imagine that the human resource supervisor would deal with that, as the supervisor would hand that aspect. I would have to request information from the employee to determine if that issue has cropped up in the past four months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Concerns have been brought to my attention that a number of Inuit senior and middle management may have quit Nunavut Arctic College in the last few weeks after experiencing a “hostile,” “abusive,” or “poisonous” work environment. Others are still there but concerned for their jobs. This is not the type of work environment we want for our employees, especially when we are trying to encourage the employment of Inuit in management positions.

Can the minister confirm how many Inuit senior or middle management staff have resigned in the last four months? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank her for that question. I think there were two or three employees who have resigned according to my information. Their terms were ending and I don’t know exactly the reasons why they resigned. The president of Nunavut Arctic College has better information. Perhaps I can reply to that in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Over the past year Nunavut Arctic College has brought in a number of new senior executives as well as creating several new positions.

Can the minister confirm whether or not the staff in these positions undergo probationary periods, performance evaluations, and regular assessments of their management capabilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. Yes, the college has been undergoing quite a bit of transformation over the past year with new management and reorganization. All staff, whether they're at the senior executive level all down the chain, do go through a probationary period and I'm just not aware of the details of how long those periods are, but I could get back to the member with those details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 241 – 5(2): Educational Leave Program

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Finance.

I would like to follow up on the response to the written question I received in March on the education leave utilization.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin my question, I would like to give praise where praise is due, and I said this before and I'll say it again, the GN Education Leave Policy is quite generous.

I really hope that all GN employees are aware of this and I highly encourage them to research into it, but with that being said, I was glad the response I received to my written question and that there was increase in the number of employees utilizing the Education Leave Policy.

Mr. Speaker, with that being said this fall marks the beginning into the new academic year so my first question to minister would he be able to provide us with an update on the current amount of employees utilizing the education leave program and how many employees have just started an education program this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member's kind words. It is fantastic program and I do encourage anybody to speak to their leadership in the department they work with to see what opportunities are available to them.

At this time as the education year is just getting started we're still accumulating that data from different departments, and I don't have any further information from this March 1, 2018 data that he already has in his possession. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question will be: will the minister commit to tabling that information before the end this current sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said in my first response, we're still gathering information from different departments. The Department of Finance administers the information but we have to gather it from all the departments.

Every different department has the ability to be able to provide education leave to their employee, so it's not governed by the Department of Finance. The rules may be but if somebody from Education or CGS wants to apply for education leave, it doesn't go through the Department of Finance other than through the pay and benefits side of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. It's been two months since the beginning of the academic school year and I assumed given the salary attached to the Education Leave Policy is pro-rated, I assume there would be a quick data dump from the payroll system.

My next question is regarding applications of education leave. I was curious if the minister or the government tracks the amount of employees that actually apply and not just those that are granted education leave, and if not would the minister commit to doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm chuckling because this is the exact same question I had to the department when I saw this report is: how do we track applicants. At this time, again, the applications don't go through Department of Finance so would have to reach out to all my colleagues' departments to see how readily available that data is.

With regards to his second question on how many people are in education programs right now I can check with the departments to see how fast we can put that data together and if it's readily available I will share it with the member, absolutely.

Again when it goes back to applications, we don't track them with the Department of Finance. It is something I've asked about and so we're going to see maybe there is an opportunity with the merger with the Department HR and this may be a data collection of value. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 242 – 5(2): Tourism

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

I want to raise the issue of tourism, which the minister spoke about in his statement yesterday. I was glad to hear that a number of Nunavut businesses took part in the “China Readiness Workshop” that was held here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we can all agree that one of our territory’s core strengths as a destination is the breathtaking beauty of all of our communities, but especially Niaqunnguut of course.

>>*Laughter*

Can the minister indicate if any of the companies that participated in the workshop were from the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, I say “good morning” to my youngest child, Kobie, who is watching the proceedings. I didn’t get the opportunity this morning to speak.

My colleague asked a good question in this regard. The Nunavut Tourism agency happened to be meeting, where the training materials were provided so yes, the different communities were then able to partake in this training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague from Netsilik recently raised the important issue of marine tourism and the cruise ship industry. Can the minister indicate what level of engagement the Chinese market has had with respect to marine tourism in the Arctic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of cruise ships that are growing and growing, and we are getting different clients through this. I don’t have any specific ones that are directly linked to Chinese visitors, but working with the federal, provincial and territorial partners is that this year has been the year of China and Canada and through that, I was being given the number of visitors that are coming into Canada.

One of the things that I want to try to do and develop and update our tourism strategy is to see if we can capture more of that and, if so, how do we do that. When I look at the infrastructure needs, such as just simple as hotel needs, because what the other parts of Canada are experiencing is in a major centre like Banff or even Yellowknife, with the sheer amount of volume of people that are going there, it has a chokehold.

What we're trying to do as provincial, territorial and federal counterparts is figure out how can we spread the wealth and figure out where the niche markets are. With Nunavut, we have lots to offer and I'm glad that each one of our communities is very beautiful. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the members say, they want to catch the market, but I think one of the important things in being able to catch the market is to know what the market is looking for and to have a good understanding.

As the minister will recall, the government undertook a significant reorganization of its approach to tourism funding back in 2016, following the televised standing committee hearings that were held here at that time and of which I actually took part in.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2018-19 main estimates included funding for 19.0 positions in its Tourism and Cultural Industries Division. As of today, how many of these positions are filled with indeterminate employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have the current specific to the division of those positions, whether they're filled and at what level. I'm going to have to get back to the member for those specific positions, whether they're vacant or not. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 243 – 5(2): Supports for Adults in Need

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services...

>>*Laughter*

Yes, my question is for the Minister of Family Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in every community there are individuals who struggle with some aspects of daily living, through no fault of their own, perhaps due to a mild disability or a behavioural challenge.

Can the minister describe what steps her department takes to identify individuals who need assistance with daily living and to ensure that the appropriate levels of services are available to them? (interpretation) 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. (interpretation ends) Our Department of Family Services does offer support for adults who request and consent to services. We also provide placements and supports for adults with complex needs through adult group homes, supported living, and alternative family care homes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there are a variety of different facilities across Nunavut which provide a total of 26 beds for adult residential care. However, I am confident that there are more adults in our communities who are falling through the cracks and not getting the level of support that they need. As our populations grow across Nunavut, that number is sure to increase.

Can the minister clarify whether her department has any kind of strategy to provide support to individuals who need this kind of assistance, such as areas of daily living such as nutrition, self-care, housekeeping, occupational training, or education? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) Each community takes stock of what the needs are in the community. I can say, as an example, at the Naja Isabelle Home, it is for children, eight children and youth, but we have two beds assigned for adults who may have need of care. There is that kind of strategy in the communities. Each community facility kind of takes stock of the community to plan for needs in specific communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Although I do appreciate the response, I'll take it as a no, the department does not have a strategy to provide support to individuals who need this type of assistance.

At this point I believe that we can do more for those adults who simply require a bit of additional support with their daily living across Nunavut, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to working with her counterpart at the Department of Health to identify individuals in our communities who need additional support with their daily living needs and develop a strategy to ensure that those needs are met? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) I can say that the Department of Family Services also offers day-to-day support for adults who request and consent to these services. Our community social service workers also provide volunteer support for adults experiencing family violence, assist adults in securing services such as mental health services, as an example, by the referral process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 244 – 5(2): Child Apprehensions

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow residents of Amittuq and Nunavummiut.

I will direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

I'm not sure if there's a term for it, but I would like to talk about child apprehension. How many children have been sent south after being apprehended? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I'm looking for that information.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank you for that question. Even though we can't say their names because there are confidentiality issues, we do try to make sure that they get the support and the families need support. We indicate where they're going to be placed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister didn't respond to my question. It is of a concern as to where the children are placed because it affects our lives. The government has a mandate and in there it indicates that there's *Ikajuqatigiinniq*

and *Piliriqatigiinniq*. Can the minister indicate to me if they have set any *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* guidelines yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles are used on a daily basis. I can say and as I indicated earlier, we usually have a list of numbers. (interpretation ends) Indicators for the number of children and youth receiving services in parental homes, we have 115; the number of children in foster care, 253; the number of children and youth in territory placements are 15; and the number of children and youth in out-of-territory placements is 72. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. It must be hard on the family or individuals who have their children or youth apprehended anywhere in Nunavut. This was voiced as a concern where the Department of Family Services does not apply *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* when it comes to child apprehension and children placed in the south.

I would like to ask the minister to work with Culture and Heritage to make sure that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles are applied. My question is: when do you have a deadline to make sure that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles are in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I can say that (interpretation ends) the Department of Family Services now has actually a foster parent coordinator (interpretation) who is an Inuk and I'm sure that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* will be applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 245 – 5(2): Kitikmeot Sealift

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, this year's sealift to the western Arctic communities of Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, and Paulatuk has been severely disrupted by

the cancellation of the Marine Transportation Services barge service to those communities as a consequence of various factors, including ice conditions. This situation has caused hardships for the communities, especially smaller businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that the Marine Transportation Services was established by the Government of the Northwest Territories. This followed the insolvency of NTCL.

Can the minister indicate what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the GNWT concerning the current sealift situation in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I met with the Minister responsible for the Marine Transportation Services just beginning of this month and we talked about the options that he was putting out with his staff. There were going to be further discussions to the two communities that are affected in Nunavut, which are Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Can the minister indicate if the Government of Nunavut has any plans to assume any form of responsibility for next year's sealift to the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That is a very good question and I think it's a good opportunity to highlight that there was sealift that was organized and done by the Government of Nunavut through our ongoing cargo sealift. Those ships made it to all of our communities, including all of our fuel supplies. They have all made it to each of the communities.

I want to clear that the one that the NWT is pursuing, I see that as a business opportunity for them and they are giving Kitikmeot residents an option and that's an option that Kitikmeot residents have chosen to take, where we do have alternative sealift for all of our communities. That are the two differences that I wanted to highlight in terms of this.

Because I have been in a community that we did not have sealift in one year and that was hardship, and I share for these, especially the small contractors that without those supplies, they're in grave danger of this. I have asked my staff to keep an eye on this and I have been told that there's going to be a debriefing at the end of November. I have instructed my staff to be there and make sure that we follow that because those businesses are critical to your communities, and I share that.

I just wanted to make sure that although we don't have any direct dealings with it, we are keeping an eye on it and I thank you for raising that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. Concerns have been raised that the cancellation of the barge service to the western Arctic communities was avoidable, but MTS chose instead to prioritize service to commercial mining operations. What is the minister's position regarding these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The communities have a choice. There are Nunavut government led sealift opportunities that we do and it comes from the east side. What we try to do is guarantee to deliver to every of our communities.

With the new marine transportation system, that is new to the Northwest Territories and I think they had quite a lengthy debate with the minister just yesterday to him in their own legislature specifically about the marine transportation system. I am going to keep an eye on it and make sure that we are part of the conversation, but we can't commit as a government entity of picking that as our sealift carrier because we do have our sealift carriers through this government for that.

We are going to keep a very close eye because that is a very good option or good opportunities for Kitikmeot residents to have at least two or three choices. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, please note that the time for question period has expired and 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. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik. I'm sorry. She's not here at the moment. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 083 – 5(2): Correspondence from Victor Sammurtok School to the Minister of Education

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table correspondence written to the Minister of Education from the Chesterfield Inlet DEA regarding the lack

of teachers. If there are no changes, we are going to be lacking teachers in the smaller communities. Thank you. I'm tabling that document.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Moving on. 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 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:50 and Committee resumed at 11:05*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon colleagues, Inuit. I will now call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 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 of Bill 9 and the capital main estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and, if time permits, Nunavut Arctic College. (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 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Akeeagok, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Akeeagok, please introduce your officials. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Udloriak Hanson, my deputy minister, and on my left, John Hawkins, assistant deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok, and welcome to your staff. Yesterday we did opening comments and completed them. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome minister, and your officials.

Yesterday, your comments related to the capital plan for 2019-2020 when you were reading the written statement, I enjoyed hearing the details, as we should be happy for others. It highlighted Iqaluit and Pond Inlet, as they were the only two communities mentioned, as obviously they are constructing the marine infrastructure.

Nonetheless, I wanted to point out that the way it is written, related to the marine (interpretation ends) infrastructure (interpretation) for these two communities revolves around safety and to allow for more efficient sealift operations.

I wanted to clarify which is an obvious point, as all communities receive sealift cargo and not just these two communities. It is clear that if we were to look at the long term future, then other communities will eventually receive marine infrastructure projects as quite a few have breakwaters.

I just wanted to clarify that, Mr. Chairman that these two communities are not the only ones who need the marine infrastructure, so I wanted to clarify that point, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister and your officials, welcome.

In your opening comments you mentioned communities that will need assistance in the future. I'm saying this even though there are no questions on what the needs are it's good to hear that.

Last spring they visited my two constituency communities, and we put in requests as members for our communities. However, though they are aware of the needs, if they don't see it themselves it becomes a complicated process. It's good to see it in the documents and I wish them well for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: General comments. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a general comment. Since November of 2005, the territorial Department of Economic Development and Transportation issued a joint *Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report*. I haven't seen that report but I will look it up mainly because in that report Chesterfield Inlet is mentioned and now Chesterfield Inlet is going for last summer, \$8,000 was used for the small craft harbour they have right now. Rankin Inlet was issued \$250,000.

Those are completed, but Chesterfield Inlet also wants a bigger marine infrastructure for deep sea port. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would just like to thank the minister for mentioning marine infrastructure in his comments, and I would like to echo my colleagues concerns that marine infrastructure is very underdeveloped across Nunavut. I think in the future it would be great to see some major investment in this area.

I think this shouldn't be any news to the minister. I'm sure he's heard all about this and it's something that our constituents are really looking for, so that is my general comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments. Seeing none, we'll now proceed to a page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page K-3. Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Questions. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, good morning. Earlier this year, the Legislative Assembly approved \$100,000 in funding as a part of your department's 2018-19 capital estimates for the purpose of undertaking capital planning studies.

What specific capital planning studies have been undertaken to date during the 2018-19 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, the Naujaat airstrip is being studied to determine if we can lengthen the runway, so that study is being undertaken with that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is \$100,000 being budgeted for capital planning studies under your department's proposed 2019-2020 small capital budget. What specific capital planning studies is your department planning to undertake during the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For this upcoming year our 20-year needs assessment for all of Nunavut will be outdated soon so using our study dollars, we hope to update and enhance our 20-year needs study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved \$210,000 in funding as a part of your department's 2018-19 capital estimates for the purpose of undertaking lifecycle renovations. What specific lifecycle renovations have been undertaken to date during the 2018-19 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: For the lifecycle it is one project and that is specifically for the Arviat leasehold improvements. As members may be aware, the department is moving into a new office and one of the... . For doing that our department is part of that and we're using those lifecycle dollars to do some tenant improvements in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also \$327,000 has been allocated for lifecycle renovations under your department's proposed 2019-2020 small capital budget. What specific lifecycle renovations is your department planning to undertake during the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently we will be able to make changes but for the two buildings we own, the fuel tank for the tourism centre in Pond Inlet, the fuel tank needs to be replaced, and also in Hall Beach, for the building we own, the oil tanks need to be replaced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In looking at your 20-year infrastructure needs assessment that you mentioned a little earlier, when you look under Sanikiluaq it says that the runway was last resurfaced in 2013, and you go on to say that the stockpile is required and you put down a lifecycle ending of 2016.

I know when that runway was resurfaced it used up the stockpile just about entirely. When does the government anticipate they will be issuing any kind of tender to replenish the stockpile in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for noting that it is in the 20-year needs study. That needs study needs to get updated and that's what our plan it and it would identify when we would need to re-stockpile or resurface airstrips.

I don't have an immediate exact plan for Sanikiluaq specifically, but that is one through our 20-year needs study would be one of the things that would be identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned updating the 20-year needs assessment. When does he anticipate this needs assessment will be complete and ready for members' review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, I almost called you Speaker, Mr. Chairman.

We will deal with it this year and we'll have to look at it again. We will try and deal with it next year. I don't have an exact date. Also, the present 20-year needs assessment, our proposed 2019-2020... . The 20-year needs assessment is lacking and we are looking at different options and the federal government has different things for Nunavut and also for the rest of Canada. We expect funding from that source. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to airport terminal buildings, in Sanikiluaq when planes pass through there are times when people are handicapped or people are in wheelchairs need to get off the plane and go use the restroom and then get back on plane. In order to do that in my community, they have to get off the plane and get wheeled around the building and enter the front of building because there's no wheelchair access on the air side of the terminal building. When will the department be looking into putting ramps on the airside of air terminal buildings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's one of the sad legacies of building air terminals without having any wheelchair access. I think there are a number of our airports that are in that situation and I do apologize to those are in wheelchairs that have to go through that extra step to get in the terminals.

Right now our plan is that for any new buildings or any of our new renovations that we are going to do that we do include them. Right now we are renovating the Baker Lake airport and one of the things we are installing is the wheelchair access to that building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you're doing new renovations it is a good thing to have these ramps on airside but, what about the older buildings? When will you be making an effort to have the ramps put on the airside because as far as I know there is no plan in the future to do renovations in Sanikiluaq, so how long will it be before you consider putting ramps on these buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have an immediate plan for old terminals but what we are doing when we are renovating, and that includes old buildings, if we are doing renovations then that comes into part of our renovations and that's one of the things we are doing. Through these lifecycle renovations we don't have a specific list in terms of what would be built through the lifecycle that's also eligible through there. This year, as I mentioned, there are two fuel tanks that we need to replace and that would take up that budget. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This next issue I've brought it up in the past as well and nothing was ever done about it, and I'll try again today. As I stated earlier, planes fly from Northern Quebec through Sanikiluaq to the south and vice versa; fly from the south to Sanikiluaq to the north. There have been cases in the past where people get off the plane not knowing where they are and sometimes don't get back on the plane thinking they're at their destination. The reason for that is there is no signage outside the building on the air terminal side indicating that they're actually in Sanikiluaq.

Could the government look into having a sign placed on the outside of the terminal building on the airside of the airstrip so that people will know where they are when they get off the plane? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we will commit to that and I was fortunate enough to go to the Taloyoak opening and saw that they had signs.

When I went to our colleague's other riding it did say "Welcome to Northwest Territories" and I was happy that I had both these individuals there and I said "We need to fix these." It's a legacy project, and it is very crucial especially to our tourists when

they come in. They are going to Nunavut and I think we do need to do that. I am committed to making some signage to each of our buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good morning minister, and staff. It's good to see you Mr. Hawkins, (interpretation) and Udloriak. Welcome.

(interpretation ends) Earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved \$1 million in capital funding for your department to undertake its Transport Canada Remediation project. (interpretation) There were some problems with the airstrips and you provided \$1 million for that. What is new with the Transport Canada Remediation project?

There were some inadequacies that were identified. Have they been corrected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I would like to have my associate deputy minister, John Hawkins, respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are undertaking all of the work that Transport Canada outlined in that. We actually had to transfer some additional funding into that project because the contract that we led to do, the required electrical work especially was more than the \$1 million that we budgeted for it.

The work is not quite complete but it is in progress and we are reporting that progress to Transport Canada as we complete works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has Transport Canada provided any funding for that? I know the Government of Nunavut is always lacking in funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that good question. Transport has been getting more strict in telling us that we have to fix these broken things, but they have their own funding as well which can be used for airport projects so we request money from that and we had a meeting with the Minister of

Transport Canada and told them that they have to make more money available for the north after the regulations were reviewed.

It is stated there that the arctic really needs help and so I will keep out dialogue with him and keep on requesting funds from them through the assistance airport. So we're always going to be trying to get money out of that for airport terminal buildings and through the House here as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague from Sanikiluaq... . We set aside \$850,000 to demolish the old airport terminal there in Sanikiluaq. Your department has identified the old airport terminals of Coral Harbour, Qikiqtarjuaq, Nanisivik, and Resolute Bay to be removed and I don't see any money set aside for that purpose in reading this. Why is it like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the Legislative Assembly making that money available for Sanikiluaq, the \$850,000, for that purpose. We know that we have to remove the buildings that we no longer use, so we request money for that. Some of the projects can go through small capital. We have also stated and have requested through the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework that the old terminal buildings that are no longer being used should not just be left there, so we try to get funding for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Coral Harbour there was an old, wide garage. When can the people of Coral Harbour expect money to be put into the removal of that garage? In our community we have proper private contractors that have heavy equipment. Can you do that through a sole source contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the old buildings like garages that are no longer being used, we have to request funding to remove them. If it's going to cost \$250,000, we have to make a proposal to the Legislative Assembly here for that. We haven't made any proposals yet for that. However, I would like to inform my colleagues that we do look for money not just from the Legislative Assembly. We're looking into the arctic framework funds as well.

Once we have the funding available for that and after we present it here in the House, either through a request for proposals or a tender, we will make that available. We can look more into what you're asking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The monies slated for Sanikiluaq, the \$850,000, you used for that community to remove the old airport terminal, where did that money come from? Was it a request from the House or was it funded by the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. It was approved in the House here in the 2018-19 capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why are you not requesting money for the communities that I mentioned, Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Nanisivik, and Resolute Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. When we request capital funding annually, our staff gets together and puts in a list of the funding that we want and that is always a part of the request that we make, but then there's always a lack of money. MLAs all have different needs and requests, so we have to decide what money is available for which project.

Right now we're asking for approval of \$50 million for 2019-2020 so that we can work on those eight projects. Like I said, we request for money from different sources and we want to be completely open. We do request money from our government here and also from other places because other needs come up that we want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. (interpretation) We're happy in Naujaat and Chesterfield Inlet will be getting a new air terminal building. Thank you. I have a question here for Naujaat. My colleague, Ms. Towtongie, will ask about Chesterfield Inlet. When will the construction start on the air terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could approve our budget, we can start working on the projects that we're going to be doing for next year and we will be putting out a tender once the material has arrived. Once the budget is approved, we will start ordering materials and we can start building the following year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to assure the Minister of Transportation that I won't be introducing a "delete the budget line item" for this.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard good news regarding the Naujaat air terminal and because the runway is too short, they don't carry as much cargo as they should. When are you going to be completing that review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been working on this for quite some time, but we have been looking at the options and once it's completed, it will be handed over to our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, everyone.

I have a number of questions and the members have been asking questions that I have wanted to ask. I will be speaking in English. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2017-18 annual report on the administration of the Community Transportation Initiatives Program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 14, 2018. This report indicates that a total of 10 projects received small craft harbour capital contribution funding during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

My question is: what was the total number of proposed projects that were submitted to your department for consideration? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposal requests totalled \$514,720 for small craft harbours for the 10 communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I heard the number but my question is: (interpretation ends) what was the total number of proposed projects that were submitted?

(interpretation) That was my question but thank you for letting us know what it will cost. I am just asking the same question again because I didn't hear it answered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were 10 proposals that were requesting for \$514,000. The total award was \$440,000. Each of those proposals received some level of funding for all the requests that were made under the Small Craft Harbour project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, how many proposed projects have been submitted to your department for (interpretation ends) small craft harbour (interpretation) capital contribution funding during the 2018-19 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the 2018-19 fiscal year we are currently still using this year's monies. I don't have documented details in front of me on how many proposed projects have been submitted for the 2018-19 fiscal year at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Usually there are quite a number of questions that arise, and of course in Igloolik we do have a small craft harbour but it's shrinking in size because the population is increasing and because of the number of vehicles. I also wanted to ask: how many of these projects have been approved and how many have been denied? I'm sure you won't have a response because as you indicated we are still in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Let me just ask you then: (interpretation ends) how many of these projects have been approved and how many have been declined, and I'm referring to the earlier question I had about the contribution funding for 2018-19. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that follow-up, and I do have the information for the 2018-19 that we have currently approved to date. There are six projects under the small craft harbours that are totalling up to \$500,000 and the following communities that have received approval are: Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and your staff. My question is with the historical data.

About 13 years ago the territorial Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans released a joint report, *Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report*. It mentions Nunavut's request for fishing harbour infrastructure in seven small communities: Pangnirtung, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pond Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, and Kugaaruk. Again, because of that report, the Senate committee, the Government of Canada response stated that there are no immediate plans to construct additional commercial fishing harbours in Nunavut at this time.

Again, nine years ago the Government of Canada issued a report tabled the *Nunavut Transportation Strategy, Ingirraliqta: Let's Get Moving*. Of that report, Action 10.1 states, and I was very shocked, since we became Nunavut, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has not committed to Nunavut. All of our communities except for Baker Lake are connected to the marine. "The Department of Fisheries and Oceans operates and maintains over 1000 fishing and recreational harbours across Canada. The total value of these harbours is more than \$3 billion."

I would like to ask the minister through you, Mr. Chairman: as the minister, have you approached your federal counterpart to lobby for part of the probably more than \$3 billion now for the marine infrastructure across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question and for bringing up the responsibilities of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I am very pleased that you brought it up. We're currently working with the federal government and the DFO minister was here in Nunavut and indicated that there would be more projects in Nunavut.

I also had a discussion with Ms. Ehaloak and the minister and I indicated that the federal government hasn't done anything for Nunavut even though we have a lot of needs. If we look at Canada as a whole, they have constructed thousands of marine facilities or docks. We strongly urge the minister to have more projects being done in Nunavut. I am very pleased that they do have an office here in Iqaluit. We will be working closely with the director of that office and we also have a close working relationship with Community and Government Services.

We also talked about the Oceans Protection Plan with Transport Canada, but at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, in total there's \$94 million that's available. We have been working quite hard in regard to marine infrastructure in all of Nunavut. We could do the architectural work and prioritize which communities' marine infrastructure will be built. We have made a request for all the Nunavut communities. With that report

that you're talking about, it has been 13 years. It's still in our department and we would like to go ahead as soon as there are monies available.

I have indicated to my counterparts in meetings with them indicated that it is their responsibility. We are a part of Canada and if you're going to be working on these types of projects, it's up to you to raise the funds. I do apologize, Mr. Chairman that my response was so long, but I do want to see those built in Nunavut.

We have to work closely as governments to get them going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you minister for your response. The reason why I was stunned with the developing fisheries in Nunavut due to lack of marine infrastructure, Nunavut is offloading and this was a number of years ago, offloading in Nuuk, Greenland to the tune of \$25 million.

Nuuk, Greenland is now developing an international port on financial our contribution to Greenland. So I would assure the minister that looking at these reports, that all of our communities are connected to the ocean and the Department of Fisheries operates and maintains over 1,000 fishing. You know that, Mr. Chairman.

My question is: we have two communities, Chesterfield Inlet and Naujaat that are in their background that are connected to [Ukkusiksalik] National Park. I believe the only second, or first in the world with incoming tide.

Has there been any consideration to approach other funding sources? Example; New Building Canada Fund, provincial, territorial infrastructure, the component of it is national and regional projects. Has the minister considered approaching that other component? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For that specific funding proposal, no we have not approached; we have not put in an application or made suggestions towards that.

We are focusing for the marine infrastructure. We are targeting this for the oceans protection plan because that Oceans Protection Plan is 100 percent funded by the federal government and I think that is the way to go. Where this one there are a lot of community needs and I applaud minister colleague Kusugak to taking the lead on it, is focused on the communities.

I think for marine infrastructure that is a federal mandate that they should be fulfilling. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recognition of the clock I would like to make a motion to report progress please. Thank you.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness. Thank you.

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. 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. Quassa. 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.

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 there's a meeting of the Nunavut Leadership Forum at half past two here in the Chamber, followed by a meeting of the Regular Caucus in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 5:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. 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.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. As today is Friday with the weekend approaching, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who assist us in the Assembly.

Let me first start with our pages who have served us this week, so thank you all. I want to state their names: Dana Natanine, Alexis Vincent-Wolf, Ika Vincent and Inukpauyak Kim Qavavau. Thank you very much to all of you.

>>*Applause*

Also, and on every occasion, I thank our interpreters along with our video and radio technicians for both the televised and radio proceedings. Further, we rarely express our gratitude, including myself, so I want to voice my appreciation to the unseen workers, namely the executive assistants, who are generally on the third floor.

Further, I also thank the ministers' executive assistants, as they obviously prepare all of the information you require. I also thank them.

As well, one group I rarely ever mention in thanking the people who assist us due to their lack of visibility, but who comprises one of the most important aspects of our work, the people who transcribe the *Hansard* working at Innirvik Support Services. We are extremely grateful as they usually produce the *Blues* the next day, transcribing all of the comments which members then use to prepare their next questions. To the people working at Innirvik Support Services, we are very appreciative of your work.

>>*Applause*

And further, we would not be able to proceed with our sessions if the two people sitting in front of me were not here, so Mr. Quirke and Mr. Innuksuk, I thank you very much.

Therefore have a safe weekend. We will also be coming back. I will see my colleagues later this afternoon at the Leadership Forum.

This House stands adjourned until Monday, November 5, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:01*

