



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

1st Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 11

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Pages 479 – 543

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. Monica Ell
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Health

Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Minister of Community and Government Services

Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Samuel Nuqingaq
(Uqqummiut)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Justice; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	479
Ministers' Statements	479
Members' Statements	483
Returns to Oral Questions	488
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	490
Oral Questions.....	490
Tabling of Documents.....	514
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	514
Report of the Committee of the Whole	541
Third Reading of Bills.....	541
Assent to Bills	542
Orders of the Day	542

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 479

B.

Ministers' Statements

038 – 4(1): IGN.I.T.E Camp (Quassa) 479
039 – 4(1): Retraction of Territorial Power Rates (Okalik) 480
040 – 4(1): ABE Essential Skills Program Recognized in New Online Inventory (Quassa) 480
041 – 4(1): Novel and Non-invasive Techniques for Studying Wildlife in Nunavut (Mike)..... 481
042 – 4(1): Retirement of Brian Zawadski (Kuksuk)..... 482

C.

Members' Statements

096 – 4(1): Apex School Breakfast Program (Angnakak) 483
097 – 4(1): The Retirement of Phil Bordeau (Ell)..... 484
098 – 4(1): Against Family Violence (Joanasie)..... 484
099 – 4(1): Concerns Regarding Shortage of Nursing Staff (Akoak) 485
100 – 4(1): Harmonizing and Updating Eligibility Criteria for GN Programs (Mikkungwak)... 485
101 – 4(1): New Travel Arrangements for Sanikiluaq (Rumbolt) 486
102 – 4(1): School Breakfast Programs (Ugyuk) 487
103 – 4(1): Waste Management (Savikataaq) 487

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 051 – 4(1): Cape Dorset Housing Authority (Kuksuk) 488
Return to Oral Question 052 – 4(1): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund (Mike)..... 488

Return to Oral Question 054 – 4(1): Purpose of Acquiring Old Health Centre (Quassa)	489
Return to Oral Question 057 – 4(1): Department of Environment Expenditures (Mike).....	489

E.

Oral Questions

111 – 4(1): Planning for Travel from Sanikiluaq (Rumbolt).....	490
112 – 4(1): Waste Management in Arviat (Savikataaq).....	492
113 – 4(1): Concerns Regarding Shortage of Nursing Staff (Akoak)	493
114 – 4(1): Harmonizing and Updating Eligibility Criteria for GN Programs (Mikkungwak)...	494
115 – 4(1): Human Rights and Social Assistance (Enook)	495
116 – 4(1): Public Service Act (Hickes).....	496
117 – 4(1): Foster Care Services in Nunavut (Angnakak)	498
118 – 4(1): High Arctic Transportation Strategy (Shooyook).....	499
119 – 4(1): Update on Family Violence Prevention Strategy (Joanasie)	501
120 – 4(1): Helping Low-income Families Meet High Cost of Living (Sammurtok).....	502
121 – 4(1): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund (Rumbolt)	502
122 – 4(1): Income Assistance Legislation (Enook)	503
123 – 4(1): Government of Nunavut Procurement Activities (Angnakak)	505
124 – 4(1): Sale of Ivory from Nunavut (Hickes)	507
125 – 4(1): Shared Directional Statement with the RCMP (Sammurtok)	508
126 – 4(1): Funding Request for Disabled Family Member (Shooyook).....	509
127 – 4(1): Pond Inlet Airport (Enook).....	509
128 – 4(1): Cape Dorset Housing Authority (Joanasie)	510
129 – 4(1): Support for People with Hearing Impairments (Hickes)	511
130 – 4(1): Sale of Ivory from Nunavut (Savikataaq).....	512
131 – 4(1): Restructuring the Funding Formula with Iqaluit Housing Authority (Hickes).....	513

F.

Tabling of Documents

031 – 4(1): Qulliq Energy Corporation 2012-2013 Annual Report (Okalik) 514
032 – 4(1): Nunavut Liquor Commission Annual Report, 2012-2013 (Peterson) 514
033 – 4(1): Office of the Chief Coroner 2011 Annual Report (Okalik) 514
034 – 4(1): Grants and Contributions 2012-2013 (Peterson) 514

G.

Motions

Extension of Question Period (Enook)..... 506

H.

Committee Motions

001 – 4(1): Extended Sitting Hours (Rumbolt) 536

I.

Bills

Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014 –
 Consideration in Committee 515
Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2013-2014 – Consideration in
 Committee..... 536
Bill 05 – Interim Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014
 – Consideration in Committee 539
Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014 –
 Third Reading 541
Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2013-2014 – Third Reading 541

Bill 05 – Interim Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014
– Third Reading 541

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase, Hon. George Kuksuk, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Enook to say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Members, Ministers, Premier, and all Nunavummiut. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 038 – 4(1):
IGN.I.T.E Camp**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Igloolik and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, as we move forward into the fourth mandate of our government, we are committed to supporting successes and enhancing education and training opportunities for our students.

We encourage youth to learn about a variety of career opportunities in Nunavut, including those related to science, technology, engineering and math.

Mr. Speaker, I.G.N.I.T.E. stands for "Igniting Interest in Technology and Engineering". An I.G.N.I.T.E. camp was offered to students between the ages of 8 and 14 in Igloolik on February 24 and 25, and in Hall Beach from February 26 to 28.

This camp has now been offered five times in Nunavut, most recently with 10 young people participating from Ataguttaaluk Elementary School in Igloolik and 11 participants from Arnaqjuaq School in Hall Beach. The facilitator assisted students in exploring science, technology and engineering activities while working together in groups to build their technical skills. The youth also learned about the importance of staying in school and working hard to expand career opportunities for the future.

Mr. Speaker, this camp was a partnership between the Department of Education, Qikiqtani School Operations, N-CAP, Ataguttaaluk Elementary School and Arnaqjuaq School. I would like to acknowledge IBM and SNC Lavalin for their donations of equipment and resources that this program to continue to be offered for youth in Nunavut.

We look forward to working with our youth to promote further skills development and training in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 2. (interpretation) Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member, Mr. Okalik.

**Minister's Statement 039 – 4(1):
Retraction of Territorial Power
Rates**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform Nunavummiut, businesses and members of the House that I have given instructions to the Qulliq Energy Corporation to retract the planned territorial power rate, which was to take effect next month.

Two years ago, a plan for changing rates annually was announced and scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2014. The plan was called territorial rate re-balancing and it was to have been accompanied by an evaluation of electrical subsidy programs.

During the recent territorial election, Nunavummiut voiced their concerns regarding the planned move towards a territorial-wide power rate. Homeowners in all communities and businesses in Rankin Inlet, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung would have borne the brunt of the new territorial rate. These ratepayers would have seen annual increases of up to 5 percent for as many as five years, with ripple effects on private homeownership and the price of goods and services.

As the proposed rates would have seen no additional revenue for the corporation, I have given instruction to

the Qulliq Energy Corporation to retract the territorial rate and include, as phase 2 of its next general rate application, cost of service options for consideration. This application is expected to occur in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, system-wide changes to rate structures will not be considered until its effects, such as the cost of living, subsidies and northern allowances, are evaluated and impacts to Nunavummiut are minimized. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Member, Mr. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 040 – 4(1): ABE
Essential Skills Program
Recognized in New Online
Inventory**

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut Arctic College's new Adult Basic Education Essential Skills program was recently selected as a case study to be included in an online inventory of essential skills initiatives aimed at First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The First Nations, Inuit and Métis Essential Skills Inventory Project (FIMESIP) recently announced the launch of its website, and I quote, "www.fimesip.ca."

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Career Development Foundation, in partnership with Employment and Social Development Canada's Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, the Assembly of First Nations, the Métis National Council and Inuit Tapiriit

Kanatami have worked together on this project to develop a comprehensive inventory of essential skills initiatives aimed at First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Of the 72 submissions, Nunavut Arctic College's ABE Essential Skills program was selected among 12 for further research as a case study. Mr. Speaker, Trina Bucko was contracted on behalf of CCDF to conduct on-site interviews with the project developers, instructors and students in this program in Iqaluit in October 2013.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of FIMESIP is to gain a better understanding of the state of practice with respect to essential skills initiatives tailored to First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth and adults living in diverse communities throughout Canada and to share these insights and lessons learned with a larger community of practice.

The case study research will provide other practitioners with tips, tools, techniques, resources and lessons learned for integrating these practices into their work.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our partners from the federal government and our national aboriginal organizations for their strong support in making this collaborative project a success. This initiative would not have been possible without the financial support of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency of Canada.

I would like to congratulate our staff with the college's Community Programs Division for their strong commitment and dedication to advancing the quality

of our adult basic education essential skills offerings for adult learners in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Mike.

Minister's Statement 041 – 4(1): Novel and Non-invasive Techniques for Studying Wildlife in Nunavut

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The statement that I will be making comes from my office regarding novel and non-invasive techniques for studying wildlife in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to provide my colleagues with an overview of the different non-invasive techniques my department is using to study polar bear and other wildlife populations in Nunavut. (interpretation ends) These novel methods demonstrate our commitment to addressing the concerns of Inuit, who have asked that we limit the degree to which we handle wildlife for research purposes.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, my department recently completed the third and final season of field research focused on surveying the Baffin Bay polar bear subpopulation. (interpretation ends) Unlike previous surveys, which relied on physical mark-recapture methods, the 2010-13 study employed the use of biopsy darts to remotely collect DNA samples from bears. The small samples collected over the three-year period have been sent to a lab for

analysis, identifying a genetic tag for each bear that is equivalent to the ear tags and lip tattoos applied during capture-based studies. I look forward to sharing the final results from the Baffin Bay survey with you in the coming months.

(interpretation) Again, my department listened to the concerns of hunters and community members (interpretation ends) when using aerial surveys, another non-invasive technique, to conduct polar bear research in Foxe Basin and western Hudson Bay. A recent report about the western Hudson Bay study and a number of other research projects that have started since it first began show that aerial surveys can be a useful and reliable alternative method for estimating polar bear population size. Results from the western Hudson Bay survey, the first study to cover the entire management unit, suggest that the population has remained stable. My department is using the same methods to survey polar bears in the McClintock Channel management unit this spring.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, my department is working with researchers from the University of Minnesota (interpretation ends) to develop a remote monitoring technique that uses high-resolution satellite images to count polar bears in particularly remote areas of Nunavut. Researchers completed a pilot study using the images to count bears on Rowley Island in Foxe Basin and compared their results with those from an earlier aerial survey. While the technique is still being tested, the initial project was a success, as both surveys yielded similar results.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, my department works hard to ensure that the values and recommendations of Inuit are reflected in all of our wildlife research efforts. I am very proud to say that we continue to explore new, non-invasive methods to study Nunavut's valuable wildlife populations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Minister's Statement 042 – 4(1):
Retirement of Brian Zawadski**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brian Zawadski on his retirement from the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Mr. Zawadski joined NDC in 1999 and in his years with the corporation, he wore many hats, from vice-president, business advisor, corporate secretary, and code of conduct advisor.

Mr. Speaker, Brian's accomplishments with the corporation are many. He was instrumental in the development of Nunavut's "Truly Wild" Brand for arctic char, and he led NDC's Inukshuk initiative for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

But his greatest legacy will be the support and leadership he provided to NDC's food processing companies and his knowledge of our commercial

harvesting sector in general. Mr. Zawadski spent a lot of time providing business, regulatory and strategic support to Kitikmeot Foods in Cambridge Bay, Kivalliq Arctic Foods in Rankin Inlet and Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that I speak for the entire staff and board of the Nunavut Development Corporation when I say “thank you” for your commitment over the past 15-years, not only to the corporation, but to Nunavut’s hunters, fishers and plant workers alike. Your contributions are both recognized and highly appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 096 – 4(1): Apex School Breakfast Program

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak of our visit to Nanook School in Apex.

Mr. Speaker, the day before yesterday, I invited the Premier, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Family Services to accompany me in visiting Nanook School to learn more about a very important initiative that Nanook School and many other schools have in place, the breakfast program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the

Premier and the ministers for joining me on the school visit, and I appreciate their willingness to be available to learn more about the challenges that schools and students face on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is safe to say that many elementary schools serve a meal to their students. They do this every school day because, Mr. Speaker, children come to school hungry.

A breakfast program ensures that children get at least one nutritious meal per day. It is also an incentive for children to come to school and it’s a way for staff to interact on a more informal level with their students to see how each student is doing in general.

Mr. Speaker, presently, teachers and support staff do all the fundraising, buying the food and preparing the meals. This is in addition to their regular jobs as principals, teachers and support staff.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to encourage this government to support this worthwhile initiative through the allocation of dedicated funds in the upcoming budget for school operations.

I would also like to thank all those that contribute to the breakfast program. My thanks to Principal Mathew Knicklebein and the staff of Nanook School and also to all the ministers once again, the Premier and Minister of Family Services and Minister of Education, thank you very much for coming with me on our visit. Thank you Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell.

Member's Statement 097 – 4(1): The Retirement of Phil Bordeau

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the pending retirement of a constituent of mine, who also happens to be my executive assistant for the last five months; Phil Bordeau. Most Iqalumiut would probably recognize him as the guy who walks around a lot.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, Phil has been a member of the GNWT and the GN workforce for 30 plus years. He began his career as a member for the public works crew and spent extended periods of time in the communities. Phil then worked in the Petroleum Products Division serving the Baffin region for approximately sixteen years, followed by the last fifteen years as an executive assistant to four different ministers.

Mr. Speaker, Phil's last day of work will be March 31. Following that, he will be relocating to Kemptville, Ontario. Apparently almost all of his friends in the Kemptville area are former northerners, some of whom still have ties to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish him the best. I know he will be missed by friends and co-workers in Iqaluit and in Nunavut. I would also like to welcome Chris Scullion, another constituent of mine, as my new executive assistant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 098 – 4(1): Against Family Violence

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow members and to the people of Nunavut. I rise today to say that violence has no place in the home and within the family.

Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, many Nunavummiut, especially women and children, experience violence all too often at the hands of an angry spouse, family or community members. These victims feel like they have no one or nowhere to turn to for help.

Mr. Speaker, as Nunavummiut, we must not accept violence as part of our daily lives. Hurting the body is hurting the mind and this has been an ongoing cycle for too long. Whenever your physical body is abused, your mental state also suffers from anguish and this particular issue has been allowed to fester too long.

Mr. Speaker, many studies point out that violence in the family starts at home, however, it is my belief that once started, the violence doesn't stay in the home. It moves silently out into the schools, our workplaces and across the entire community. Violence moves throughout our communities, and the victims of family abuse are carrying stress, sorrow and anguish. And, as I mentioned before, they may feel like they have no options to get assistance or to be comforted.

Mr. Spekaer, I am speaking to all Nunavummiut when I say this phrase: let us not hurt each other. There are ways to deal with violence and better solutions to resolving problems.

Mr. Speaker, although violence is a very personal issue... .

I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, including my colleagues.

And the whole community feels the pain these victims are carrying. I also would like to thank the government.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Government of Nunavut has been working on a family violence prevention strategy called “Ilagiitsiarniq.” At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the minister responsible for this strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Member’s Statement 099 – 4(1):
Concerns Regarding Shortage of
Nursing Staff**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the community of Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my

concern about the shortage of full-time nurses in our community health centres.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the community of Gjoa Haven is not alone in having too few nurses working at our community health centres. I appreciate the agency nurses and casual hires who come in to fill in on a temporary basis, however, this is not a solution to the problem.

Mr. Speaker, our nurses are overworked, they get tired and can only see patients on an emergency basis. This is unacceptable. This is not only the health of our community and residents that is at risk, but the health of our nurses as well.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the minister to work with her department to increase the number of full-time nurses working in our community health centres.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Member’s Statement 100 – 4(1):
Harmonizing and Updating
Eligibility Criteria for GN
Programs**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address (intrepretation ends) the issue of harmonizing and updating the eligibility criteria for the government’s different programs to assist Nunavummiut.

During our sitting, many questions have been asked concerning the eligibility

criteria for the government's various programs, including the Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program, the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program, the Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program and other initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, an important concern that has emerged during the sitting relates to the different eligibility criteria for these programs. This can be very confusing for Nunavummiut. For example, there is a sliding scale to determine eligibility for the Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program, but the recently announced Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program is more open.

Mr. Speaker, concerns have also been raised regarding the extent to which the current eligibility criteria for different programs remain appropriate. For example, we all agree that we need to encourage homeownership in Nunavut and reduce dependency on public housing and staff housing. However, the current eligibility criteria for such programs as the Nunavut Down-payment Assistance Program may be outdated.

Mr. Speaker, there has also been confusion about the extent to which benefits provided to residents under some programs, such as the Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program, may impact their eligibility for other assistance.

Mr. Speaker, we need a coordinated approach to addressing this issue. This is why I am calling on the Financial Management Board to undertake a government-wide initiative to harmonize and update the eligibility criteria for the government's different programs to assist Nunavummiut.

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statements. Are there any nays? There are none, you may proceed, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At the appropriate time, I will have questions on this issue for the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Member's Statement 101 – 4(1): New Travel Arrangements for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my Member's Statement, I would like to wish my grandson a very happy birthday. His name is Jaden and has already become a very good hockey player who has discovered that slashing is something he can get away with.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage the government to take a proactive role in assisting the residents of Sanikiluaq to acquire government-issued photo ID.

Mr. Speaker, beginning this April, Calm Air will be the new air transportation provider between Sanikiluaq and Winnipeg. As of April 2, passengers on Calm Air flights to and from Sanikiluaq will now be required to go through full

security screening at the Winnipeg International Airport, instead of travelling directly to and from an airline hanger as they did in the past.

As my colleagues will be aware, from my past questions in the House, getting government-issued identification for residents of Sanikiluaq has been a long-term problem.

Mr. Speaker, in order not to run into problems with medical clients and other passengers travelling to Winnipeg, I encourage our government to work with the GLO in the community to ensure that all residents have the appropriate identification as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 102 – 4(1):
School Breakfast Programs**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut for the invitation to visit her community. I was very pleased to be involved in that visit. Yes, they do have breakfast programs for school children in our community and there are a lot of young children to come to take part in the breakfast program.

I would like to thank the teachers, who take turns providing and cooking for those children over and above their duties. I thank them very much for their

dedication. Also, another organization that is continually mentioned is the Qikiqtani Inuit Association who provides funds for breakfast foodstuffs and for their contribution. I send them my appreciation. Thank you for allowing me to speak to this issue, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 103 – 4(1):
Waste Management**

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to address the issue of waste management.

Mr. Speaker, significant attention has been paid to the issue of waste management during the current sitting of the Legislative Assembly. This is very important to the community of Arviat, which continues to work towards solutions for its situation.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan was undertaken in 2011. The plan, which confirmed that the community's existing landfill site was at capacity, recommended a number of actions to address the situation. One of the actions included determining an appropriate location for a new landfill site.

As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker, the current site cannot just be expanded, due to a number of factors, including its location along the flight path into the community's airport.

Mr. Speaker, the integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan also recommended the introduction of an incinerator, which is an initiative that I strongly support.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Community and Government Services on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Kuksuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 051 – 4(1): Cape Dorset Housing Authority

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The following question was raised on March 12 by the MLA for South Baffin:

“In 2011, the Cape Dorset Housing Authority was formally established by way of a ministerial order made under the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* and prior to this time, local association matters were being administered by the municipality.

Concerns have been raised with me that there are a number of unresolved issues resulting from this transition, including concerns related to the municipality incurring a deficit as a consequence of funds being held back by the Nunavut Housing Corporation that were intended to support local housing operation. Can the minister indicate if he had been made

aware of this situation?”

Mr. Speaker, I am now aware of the situation referenced by the member from South Baffin. My officials inform me that this matter is ongoing. NHC officials are prepared to meet with the municipality, the local housing organization and CGS to discuss the concerns further.

LHOs are audited on an annual basis as part of year-end consolidation with NHC's audited financial statements. Further, LHOs provide regular reporting to our district office, whose staff provides ongoing guidance and support to LHOs in regard to financial and operational issues.

The directorate will continue to work with the LHO and municipality to come to a resolution on the disputed amounts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Mike.

Return to Oral Question 052 – 4(1): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Allan Rumbolt regarding the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund.

The question asks:

(interpretation ends) “Can the minister explain if his department has funded any projects under its Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund?”

(interpretation) I can respond to the question now. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment has not funded any projects under the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Quassa.

**Return to Oral Question 054 – 4(1):
Purpose of Acquiring Old Health
Centre**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 12, 2014, Steve Mapsalak, Member for Aivilik, asked a question regarding Repulse Bay's old nursing station. He wanted an update.

With that, I can respond to the member, even though he is not in the House, that Education is currently using the four apartments at the station for teacher staff housing to reduce the number of teachers who have to share accommodations in Repulse Bay. The lower level floor of the apartment building will be used as a program area.

Education is currently working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to have these units allocated for teacher staff housing, possibly through a memorandum of understanding where Education will have sole use of the four apartments for a period of five years. At the end of this period, a review will be done to determine if the four apartments are still required by the Department of Education.

If the need for these units still exists, the agreement may be extended until the

construction of additional staff housing for Repulse Bay. Maintenance of the units will be negotiated as part of the administration fee. Education will be responsible for paying for the administration of the units, similar to what has been done in other communities.

Rent will be based on the current formula and will be deducted from the employees through the payroll deduction process.

Staff from both Education and Housing will be visiting Repulse Bay by early April to work on this arrangement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Mike.

**Return to Oral Question 057 – 4(1):
Department of Environment
Expenditures**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter that was asked about on March 12, 2014 in a question by the Baker Lake MLA Simeon Mikkungwak was with regard to the Department of Environment operations and maintenance budget and funds provided forthwith, I believe. (interpretation ends) The question:

“Can the minister indicate if funding for hunters and trappers organizations and regional wildlife organizations will be increased in next year's main estimates? Are HTOs funded to provide input into grizzly bear management plan development?”

My response reads:

Contributions to hunters and trappers organizations and regional wildlife organizations will not be increased in the 2014-15 main estimates. The contributions the GN currently provides to the HTOs and RWOs will be examined as part of the review of harvester support programming that will be undertaken in 2014-15.

Funding HTOs and RWOs is a responsibility of the federal government under section 5.7.13 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. (interpretation ends) The financial contributions provided to HTOs and RWOs by the GN are intended to compliment federal implementation funding and to help enable HTOs to work with the GN in the local management of renewable resources.

HTOs are not specifically funded to provide input into grizzly bear management plan development. However, in addition to the \$223,000 in core funding, the GN provides to RWOs annually and the \$317,000 we provide to HTOs annually, the department also covers the honorariums and travel expenses for RWO and HTO members to participate in consultations and other activities they work on with the department as well as co-management partners, including grizzly bear management planning. (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. No. 5. Mr. Quassa.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm standing a number of times today and now I stand to recognize someone from Igloolik, my son-in-law Lazarus Iqaqsaq. He's here on medical travel to Iqaluit. I just want us to recognize him. I believe he is the only visitor I have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand and recognize Mr. John Matthews. I represent him and he's a long-time resident of Iqaluit. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 111 – 4(1): Planning for Travel from Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few years, members have raised the concern in the House that Nunavut residents are not getting government-issued identification such as driver's licences in a timely

manner for various reasons. As recently as yesterday, I heard from a constituent who has been waiting two years for his new driver's licence.

I would like to encourage our Premier to work with his ministers to ensure that government departments work together to ensure this basic need of Nunavut's residents is addressed.

Can the minister indicate what steps have been taken to work with the community government liaison officers and assist Nunavut residents in getting government IDs in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I thought, at the last Assembly, we got rid of that, but apparently it's still there.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation got an award for the best design of the general identification card, including a driver's license and we beat out the United States, Cuba and several other countries by having the best designed and secure card ever done for a jurisdiction.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I don't expect we'll get any awards for the delivery of the program, but, Mr. Speaker, it's only been one member that's been raising this issue. It's not all members, but we'll look into this. I know the GLOs are there for a

purpose. They have five primary functions as GLOs. One of the main functions is to disperse information within their communities and the government. And, we intend to do that with GLO offices.

Mr. Speaker, there's 21 communities with GLOs and there's four communities without GLOs. Kugluktuk is one of them and we've never ever had a delivery problem with either driver's license or general ID license, so we'll look into that. I know that there's going to be an increase in activity for Sanikiluaq so the Department of Transportation is aware, they can assist in anyway possible to make sure that the residents of Sanikiluaq get their general ID cards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my member's statement, medical travel clients will now have to go through a full screening process at the Winnipeg International Airport. It is estimated that approximately 70 percent of the community's residents do not have some sort of approved ID.

Would the minister support a public campaign, delivered through the GLO, to encourage and assist Sanikiluaq residents to get government-issued ID as soon as possible for when they need it for medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will do everything to assist the residents of Sanikiluaq. The general identification cards are valuable, needed documents to travel outside the territory, so we will do everything with the assistance of the motor vehicles division to assist Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 112 – 4(1): Waste Management in Arviat

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. As I noted in my member's statement, Arviat's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan indicates that the community has been working to identify a location for a new landfill, a dump.

>> *Laughter*

Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the community to achieve this goal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, there was a round of laughter and I missed some of the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq, please clarify your question.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask my question again, just part of it because we don't want to paint a big picture again, eh?

The community of Arviat has been working on identifying a location for a new landfill. Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the community to achieve this goal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my department has had some consultations with the community in regard to the landfill concerns and we will continue to have a dialogue with the community. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I also noted in my Member's Statement, Arviat's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan also indicates that it supports obtaining an incinerator for the community. Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the community to achieve this goal of Arviat getting an incinerator as part of the landfill development or finalization plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. CGS is currently investigating the feasibility of incineration as a solid waste management strategy for Nunavut. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Community and Government Services recently issued a request for information for potential planning for solid waste management methods. The closing date for this is March 28. Will the minister commit to providing a formal update to the Legislative Assembly on the status of this initiative at our upcoming spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the report is available, I would be happy to share it with the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 113 – 4(1): Concerns Regarding Shortage of Nursing Staff

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

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement, I raised the issue of the shortage of nurses in our community health centres.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of hiring full-time nurses to work in Nunavut's community health centres and specifically at the Gjoa Haven Health Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The Department of Health has been reducing the vacancy rate in the last couple of years. The agency nurses' rates have also been going down. For the community of Gjoa Haven, there are to be 11 nurses. At the current time, there are five vacancies, six are filled with permanent positions, and seven are filled with casuals and two agency nurses. From February 2014 is my latest statistics with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just on the phone with the head nurses. They just have two full-time nurses. My second supplementary, the Department of Health has a Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. According to the department's business plan, this strategy was evaluated in

2013-14. Can the minister inform this House of what areas of the recruitment and retention strategy need to be improved and how her department will use those improvements to recruit more full-time nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I only have the stats from February. The Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy was implemented in August 2008. We have been working with our recruiters, the nurses, and the Nunavut Employees Union to reduce the vacancy rate, including implementing job share agreements and improving training and orientation programs. We have also been working with the Nunavut Employees Union to overtime costs by making changes to the community health centres.

Mr. Speaker, as I have been stating in the House, we compete for nurses, not only in the Canadian jurisdictions, but also with our American counterparts. We are trying to improve the vacancy rate. We work with Nunavut Arctic College with the Nursing Program, but the nurses coming out the college need to have at least three or four years experience before they can go to the communities.

I can tell you that 50 percent of the graduates who have come out of the Nunavut Arctic College program, I have to say, are still in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. Will the minister commit to hiring more nurses for the Gjoa Haven Health Centre at the earliest opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health is committed to filling all staff vacancies. As we stated, the recruitment campaign is implemented. We are committed to supporting our frontline nurses, who are essential to a strong health system, but when we can't find permanent nurses, we do have to rely on casual staffing, and if the casual staffing is not available, then we have to rely on agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 114 – 4(1): Harmonizing and Updating Eligibility Criteria for GN Programs

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

In my Member's Statement, I suggested that the Financial Management Board undertake a government-wide initiative to harmonize and update the eligibility criteria for the government's different programs to assist Nunavummiut. What

is the minister's position on this idea?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister
of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for
the suggestion. I only heard about it 10
or 15 minutes ago. I haven't had much
time to think about it. I will assure the
member that this government is
intending to undertake a review of
government programs during the course
of this mandate. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. Will the minister commit to
reporting back to the House on this issue
during the upcoming spring sitting?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister
of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for
the question. We're going to be very
busy for the next couple of months.
During the spring sitting, we're working
on the main estimates.

I will again assure Mr. Mikkungwak that
our department and our government will
be reviewing programs. We'll take into
consideration his suggestion. Thank you,
Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. In order to make good
decisions, it's important to have good
information. In recent years, the Minister
of Finance has tabled an annual report
on the government's grants and
contributions spending, which includes
spending on some of the programs that I
referred to in my member's statement.
When will the minister be tabling an
updated annual report on grants and
contributions spending? Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister
of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for
the question. I will commit to tabling
that report as soon as possible. Thank
you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for
Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 115 – 4(1): Human Rights and Social Assistance

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the
people of Pond Inlet and also fellow
Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I would
like to direct my question to the Minister
of Justice, who is also the Minister
responsible for the Human Rights
Tribunal.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked questions
about social assistance recipients who

abuse the benefits they receive. However, the response that I got indicated that the abuse of social assistance is, apparently, a human rights issue which could be taken to the Human Rights Tribunal.

Can the minister clearly explain how the abuse of social assistance funds, which are public funds provided to eligible Nunavummiut to purchase the necessities of life, is a human rights issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, as a government we are compelled to treat everyone equally. When we provide assistance programs to the public, we have a duty to treat everyone equally. That's what I know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I receive funding from the government, say from the Department of Culture and Heritage for, let's say, to purchase supplies for a cultural program, I am required to sign a contribution agreement specifying that it is what the money will be used for. If I don't adhere to the terms of that agreement then I could face serious consequences.

Can the minister explain what prevents this government from making social assistance recipients equally responsible

for how they spend the funds they receive? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot speculate on what law the member is referring to, so I am in no position to respond at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to working with the Minister of Family Services, to bring forward legislation or amendments to current legislation to prohibit the abuse of social assistance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the Department of Justice, we do help government departments on our policies and to amend legislation where necessary. Yes, I can commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 116 – 4(1): Public Service Act

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of

Finance, who is responsible for the *Public Service Act*.

As I noted in my Member's Statement yesterday, I believe that the thousands of Nunavummiut who work for the territorial government across 25 different communities need to be assured that their right to communicate with their elected Members of the Legislative Assembly will be respected, and feel comfortable that they will not be targeted with blind accusations from within the public administration for doing so.

Mr. Speaker, the basis for most of my questions in this House comes from numerous sources. Examples are previous issues raised in this House, issues raised by media and members of the public who bring their issues to me. They also stem from the experience and knowledge gained from living and working in Nunavut for the past ten years, and my interests and issues facing Nunavummiut since its inception.

For the benefit of the permanent public record, can the minister confirm that the new *Public Service Act* does not prohibit public servants from communicating with their MLAs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. I listened with great interest yesterday to Mr. Hickes' Member's Statement and again his comments today. I've just quickly scanned his message from yesterday. This

government highly values our Government of Nunavut workforce. We wish them to be highly skilled and motivated and willing to come to work for us. Threats, intimidation, and bullying is unacceptable in this government.

The *Public Service Act*, to answer his question, there is nothing in the *Public Service Act* to prevent employees from communicating with their MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure my colleague from Gjoa Haven will be happy to hear that he did not get somebody in trouble by mentioning a source.

Mr. Speaker, the government recently produced a Code of Values and Ethics for the public service. Can the minister confirm that the Code of Values and Ethics does not prohibit public servants from communicating with their MLAs?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The code of values does not prohibit employees from communicating with their MLAs. However, an employee should be aware of what the code allows them to say and not to say. There are some restrictions on what government employees can say to their MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: I sincerely thank the minister for that answer and I hope those are clarified to most employees. Also, as noted in my Member's Statement yesterday, it is important to recognize the difference between situations when public service simply want to have general discussion with their MLAs as opposed to situations when a public servant feels duty-bound to disclose potential wrongdoing in the workplace.

Earlier in our sitting, the minister indicated that he is working to bring into force part 6 of the new *Public Service Act* and appoint Nunavut's new ethics officer.

Can the minister describe what process the department is currently using to recruit the new ethics officer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in my home riding of Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit, practically everywhere I travel in Nunavut on an airplane or I'm in an airport or even in Tim Hortons, I have Government of Nunavut employees approach me with great ideas and suggestions how to improve the government. I encourage people to have ideas and talk to their MLAs. However, I also have people come to me and tell me about wrongdoing.

We specifically amended the *Public Service Act* to include an ethics officer so that people can report wrongdoing if they believe it occurs. We are supposed to bring it into force by April 1, 2015, next year. My officials in the

Department of Finance are working on policies and procedures to support the operations of an ethics officer. With the advice and approval of my colleagues in Executive Council, then I would be in a position to appoint an ethics officer to begin their work under section 6 in the *Public Service Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 117 – 4(1): Foster Care Services in Nunavut

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services and follow up on my questions about the fate of those children who, until now, had a warm and caring home at the Iqaluit children's home. The minister indicated that it was the social worker's job to find the appropriate foster homes for these young Nunavummiut.

Can the minister clarify what steps are being taken to ensure that Nunavut has enough foster homes that are willing and able to provide specialized care to medically fragile children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu for her question. First of all, I would like to thank every one of the foster parents who look after children; they have our

immense gratitude as there are about 40 foster children here in Iqaluit.

There are about 220 foster parents throughout Nunavut and we appreciate their contribution as they provide care for our children. The member is asking how we can help the children who need specialized care, and how we can help them out. We always look after how the children can be looked after properly in the home and how they are being served. Those foster parents are being paid an adequate amount of money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that answer. Mr. Speaker, if the foster homes cannot be found in Nunavut, which are willing and able to provide the level of care that these young, vulnerable children need, where are they going to be placed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Iqaluit-Niaqunngu for the question with respect to where the children are placed. They could go to their relatives after they are asked numerous questions. If they cannot be placed with their families, we will look for foster parents. If the foster parent cannot look after them, we would place them in southern institutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister explain how the act of sending some of our most vulnerable children to foster homes outside of Nunavut, away from familiar surroundings and culture, how can they be provided with the same level of services that they receive here, where they could be part of Nunavut society? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu for her question with respect to children. Children are sent outside of Nunavut only as a last resort, especially those with no special needs.

We want to be able to provide for the children with special needs and other issues. Because there are a lot of children with special needs, it would be better for them to have foster homes outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Question 118 – 4(1): High Arctic Transportation Strategy

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

For the past several years, the Government of Nunavut has been working on a High Arctic Transportation Study. This study was undertaken to look at ways of addressing the high cost of travel to the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay. Conducting constituency visits is problematic due to the distances between the communities with airline changes and schedules that make it doubly hard.

Can the minister indicate whether this study has now been completed?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, regarding my colleague's question about a previous study, can he clarify the type of study he was referring to in his question? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Shooyook, can you clarify your question, please.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Yes, my question was about air transportation issues.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague. His question, if I misunderstood it initially I apologize as that word he used is just transportation, so I wasn't sure which

study he meant. With respect to a study related to his community air transportation issues, I have yet to be briefed on it, but I will have to look into that matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the High Arctic Transportation Study in the Legislative Assembly?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank our colleague again for that question. Just now I replied that with respect to his question about a study, I haven't personally heard about it.

I will have to ask my departmental officials to brief me on whether that study has been undertaken and of the status as per his question. If this study was completed, I will commit to tabling it in the House for the member's benefit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Will the minister commit to raising this issue with his federal counterpart?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member. I am trying to be clear with my response, if a report is in existence in our department for that area regarding air transportation or other transportation issues, I commit to tabling this report in this House for every members' benefit. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Question 119 – 4(1): Update on Family Violence Prevention Strategy

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister's 2013-14 business plan indicates that her department would be finalizing and implementing the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Strategy.

Can the minister provide an update on the current status of the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the South Baffin member for asking that question. The Ilagiitsiarniq strategy is still under review and further, I doubt that it is near completion. The strategy

was given to the department in July of 2013, as a draft with further work required.

However, the position is still vacant, but the hiring process is underway. Based on my briefing on it, an individual will be hired shortly in the coming days. The strategy that was drafted on the Ilagiitsiarniq issue requires a worker, so once work is started, then the Ilagiitsiarniq strategy can then be fully developed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will our new government be working with other agencies to finalize and implement the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Strategy, and if so, how will it be done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the South Baffin member for asking this extremely important question. I also applaud his efforts and his earlier statement. That is also what we believe, that in order to alleviate Nunavut social issues, the Qullit Status of Women, Pauktuutit, the RCMP, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the MLAs need to work together as they are impacted by this issue. We expect to be in partnership with these organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have noted that the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Strategy has not been made available to the public. Will the minister agree to tabling the strategy in this House or posting it on her department's website? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for South Baffin for asking that question. Yes, the draft strategy is now being in the works as we stand, and we will review and approve it. Many people have worked on it. Once we have filled the position, we will then have a better idea of what kind of work needs to be done. Once we are able to, we will table it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. 6. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 120 – 4(1): Helping Low-income Families Meet High Cost of Living

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

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that the cost of living in Nunavut is extremely high. However, when it comes to accessing federal benefits and subsidies, Nunavut's poorest and most vulnerable members receive the same amounts as

southern Canadians who do not face such high costs.

Can the minister indicate whether her department has presented a case to the federal government to have federal subsidies such as the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, and National Child Benefits adjusted for northerners who face significantly higher costs of living than other Canadians? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking the question. I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 121 – 4(1): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, when the minister took my question as notice on March 12, I had a couple of other questions on the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. Now that the minister has replied with the answer that I anticipated, I have a couple of other questions.

Mr. Speaker, on September 5, 2013, a former colleague of mine asked questions regarding the Natural

Resources Conservation Trust Fund. At that time the minister indicated, “We’ll be able to make use of it when it reaches about \$5 million for the purpose that it’s meant for.”

Mr. Speaker, according to the Tabled Document, as of March 31, 2013, the balance was \$286,349, and the revenue for 2013 was approximately \$3,300. At that rate, it will have taken decades, if not longer, to reach the \$5 million.

Can the minister clarify when the fund will reach its goal of \$5 million? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will take his question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken the question as notice. I will move to the next member on my list. Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 122 – 4(1): Income Assistance Legislation

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services. I just want to go back to the *Blues* on March 18. I note that this is not the final copy. There are questions that I had posed to the minister in the *Blues* and I would like to get clarification on her replies.

People who receive income support, even when it is known that they are abusing their benefits, do I understand the response from the hon. minister that we have no means of doing anything because of human rights? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking the question in regard to income support abuse yesterday. Yes, there are many people who are receiving income support. In 2012, there were 1,491 residents in the Tununiq riding, and 756 residents received income support in that one year. There are only two social workers working, and they don’t have the authority to request search warrants to determine abuse of the income support recipients.

Yes, we are aware that income support abuse occurs, however there are no regulations within the income support legislation related to abuse and consequent punishments for abusers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is what may be leading to my inability to comprehend the matter, as the department knows abuse is occurring, yet there are no repercussions for abuse.

Let me ask from this perspective. Residents get assistance from the Nunavut government through various

departmental programs, for hunters for example, although I personally know I am not much of a hunter. Hunters receive various funding such as compensation from the disaster relief fund and through other assistance programs offered by different departments.

The hon. minister seems to be saying that the department is unable to act due to the primacy of human rights and that we can't tell residents how to budget these assistance funds. Now, what is the minister implying when every penny derived from assistance programs, such as if a hunter, male or female, loses their snow machine due to events beyond their control and the Department of Environment approves compensation for \$15,000 to replace that machine?

Is the minister implying that once the person receives that compensation cheque, and the person decides a snowmobile isn't his priority and decides to go on a holiday, that we can't even reprimand them since she stated that this government cannot even tell a single person how to spend their funds? Is this how I understood her comment? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Tununig for being conscientious about income support abuse and expressing his concerns.

As per my earlier statement about income support and that there are no regulations yet for this particular issue.

There is an upcoming comprehensive review of all budgetary items within the Family Services department, which includes early childhood students, elders, income support and so on. This review is scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2015.

With respect to income support, the legislation is quite dated as it was grandfathered from the NWT Legislature and no revisions to date have been applied. This legislation doesn't align with reality in Nunavut. Sometime in the next four years, I hope with my colleague's assistance, to see legislation and improvements in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The final supplementary question sure arrives quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer to the written *Blues* from yesterday's proceedings as I read them, and to further remind myself as I know this isn't the final product. Now in using the written copy as my foundation, it seems quite clear that the departmental response quickly reverts to human rights. A person's human rights can't be overridden.

The responses are quite clear that the hon. minister provides and I totally understand them. Now, given that response, even with this comprehensive review of the entire legislation, that even if we make amendments to the income support legislation, that we can't correct this oversight due to the primacy of human rights? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Tununig for asking that question. Yes, we know as Nunavummiut that many of our peers receive income support. If you look at the entire population of Nunavut, perhaps half of the population, perhaps even more receive income support.

This issue impacts many people and trying to hastily amend the legislation wouldn't solve the matter. Yes, with respect to the issue of abuse, I am open to any suggestions from members and communities to improve the income support system, as it isn't geared to resolving single individual cases.

The income support is for the household, children and their needs. That is why trying to resolve a single case can impact more than that one person, and it can lead to multiple impacts on many Nunavummiut if the income support criteria was changed overnight.

Again, it falls under human rights as a government can't treat anyone differently, but has to treat them equally and we have to be extremely cautious about changing the criteria to resolve this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 123 – 4(1): Government of Nunavut Procurement Activities

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

The Department of CGS has the lead responsibility for government procurement and contracting.

As I noted in the House during yesterday's sitting, the Legislative Assembly was informed on March 1 of 2012 that the Government of Nunavut would be conducting a "comprehensive internal review" of its public procurement practices.

Now that the minister has had time to locate the relevant information, can he update us today on the results of the comprehensive internal review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, once I have the report, I would be very happy to share that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question revisits the issue of appeals of government contract and tender awards. Although I recognize that the NNI Contracting Appeals Board already exists, it has been suggested that

the government should establish an independent appeals body that would have the jurisdiction to hear appeals based on broader grounds than simply the application of the NNI policy.

Any new appeals body would be the responsibility of the Department of CGS. I will again ask the Minister of CGS to clarify his position on the idea of establishing a new and independent appeals body. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. CGS, in its contracting and procurement services only uses the NNI policy. However, it's another department, ED&T that would be responsible for the appeals process. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if the minister really understood my question or not. Maybe he will look at the *Blues* and we will get back to it tomorrow.

My last question: as I noted in the House during yesterday's sitting, annual reports on the government's procurement, contracting and leasing activities have not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since the fall of 2012. Yesterday, the minister indicated that he would be happy to table the reports as soon as he has them in his hands, and I

anticipate that his officials have briefed him on when this will occur.

Does the minister have any new information that he can share with us today on when he will table these important reports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be very happy to provide those reports as soon as they're completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion: Extension of Question Period

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour, raise your hand. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended by 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 124 – 4(1): Sale of Ivory from Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To break the mould of whom I have been asking questions at this sitting, I'm going to ask the Minister of Environment a question.

As he stated last week, the fur program in Nunavut has been a quite successful program to assist the hunters in accessing more funds for the pelts that they bring in. Have there been any discussions within his department on adding ivory to that listed program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the member's question, I understood the subject to be tusks or ivory tusks. I can look into the matter that touches upon the question he raises.

I can only commit to looking into the matter. I will respond with the information afterwards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I mean, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From some of the information that I have gathered, there are brokers that purchase narwhal and walrus ivory to bring to auction.

With the tagging process specifically for narwhal, it would appear to be quite easy to track specific tusks and put more

money in the hands of our hunters. Is this something that the minister would support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it felt like a staring contest for a second. Yes, based on my earlier response, I now understand exactly what he meant in a new light. When the member was asking about the fur program, with reference to sealskins, much like that issue, this is a new matter and for that reason I can look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It is just my opinion, but I don't think it would necessarily mean to undertake a new program. I think, with the existing infrastructure being used for the fur program, it could simply be added to an existing program to ease the administrative aspect to assist in controlling the market for ivory. As most of us are very well aware, there is very limited ivory traded globally and Nunavut could become a large player in that global market. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Question 125 – 4(1): Shared
Directional Statement with the
RCMP**

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

The current directional statement between the Department of Justice and the RCMP “V” Division indicates that communication is one of the top three priorities of both parties. However, a longstanding issue of concern in many communities, including Rankin Inlet, is the RCMP’s after-hours emergency telephone services.

As the minister is aware, if an incident occurs in the middle of the night in Rankin Inlet, residents must call the RCMP’s telecom centre in Iqaluit. Can the minister indicate what discussions he has had with the RCMP on this issue? *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This isn’t a new issue and further, whenever I meet with the commanders of the RCMP, I continue to remind them about the need for Inuktitut as it is a requirement and has to be kept available due to the legal status, especially if the RCMP is to police our communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The shared directional statement between the Department of Justice and the RCMP’s “V” Division also indicated that the GN and the RCMP will work together to provide efficiency and rapid emergency response. Can the minister describe what specific initiatives are being undertaken to achieve this goal? *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to policing matters, some operational items have to be kept confidential. That is why I can’t speak to some of the specifics, as the RCMP still needs to police their communities daily plus they deal with dangerous situations. That is why I can’t respond to the question in this very public forum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: I recognize that the RCMP provides policing services in Nunavut under contract with the GN. Increasing the size of the Rankin Inlet detachment could help to address such issues as the need for 24/7 local telephone response.

Can the minister indicate when the current policing services contract with the RCMP will be renegotiated? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good suggestion since many local detachments are aging and are in need of upgrades, and this applies to many of them. I concur with the member. However, the agreement was recently signed last year and the term is for 20 years. We don't have much leeway at this time on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Question 126 – 4(1): Funding Request for Disabled Family Member

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health regarding two individuals that are asking for help from the government. This issue was brought up by the previous member of the Legislative Assembly representing Quttiktuq. It's in regard to an individual who has a handicap.

Is there any money that could be made available to help this individual? Can the minister indicate to me if there is any money that could be made available to the individuals? If not, can you direct me to the right department so I can ask them? I would like this responded to before I go home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just received his letter a few days ago. We work with Family Services to deal with the letter he had in question. I just signed the letter this morning. It's being translated and the member will be receiving it. The letter indicates where the family can go for support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 127 – 4(1): Pond Inlet Airport

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, I will be reading some excerpts from the *Blues* dated March 18, 2014. I know that they are not a final copy.

Yesterday, when I was asking questions about Pond Inlet becoming one of the airport hubs, the responses in reading them, I seem to find a loophole in there so I'll just open it right to the minister. He said he was not involved in the planning of the hubs and the strategy.

With that, I would like to ask the minister, because he is the head of the department and he can give direction to his staff and management, could you now tell your staff to look at Pond Inlet becoming an airport hub for the High Arctic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member because that was a very direct question. Mr. Speaker, I can respond to his question by saying that as a government, I don't know if we could initiate such a thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you saw the news yesterday or the day before, apparently, the federal Minister of the Environment's department is encouraging that the Mary River Project go ahead. You've all heard this. That's one of our reasons since Pond Inlet is the closest community to this proposed mine that seems to be going ahead.

Mr. Speaker, apparently, there is a letter coming from the High Arctic mayors to have Pond Inlet be made into an airport hub. I would like to ask the hon. minister, as it is only your department that can do the encouraging.

Are you now going to be encouraging the Department of Economic Development and Transportation staff to start looking at Pond Inlet to be made into a hub for airline services in the High Arctic? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I'm saying, to become a hub anywhere in Nunavut we have to look at certain things. Is it

like a real base or a hub? It doesn't matter which community it is, you just have to look at it to see how important that community is and what jobs are available on the side of it. We have to look at the airlines. We have to look at the sealift operators and private businesses. We'd have to look into all of that in order to recognize it as a potential hub for the High Arctic. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Question 128 – 4(1): Cape Dorset Housing Authority

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was questioning the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and I have more questions.

On March 12, I asked the minister about the Cape Dorset Housing Association. I'm grateful that he was able to provide me with a response today.

Now I would like to ask him, because it is outlined in your letter stating that the Nunavut Housing Corporation staff will be planning a meeting with the hamlet council, the community, the housing association board and the Department of Community and Government Services. Can the minister inform us when that meeting is scheduled to take place? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the

member for the question. Yes, it's true, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the local housing association, along with the Department of Community and Government Services, are working on that particular problem. We haven't decided when we would go to Cape Dorset yet. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is outlined in your response letter that the headquarters will work with the local housing authority and the hamlet as they are putting together agreements on the matter. What I want to understand is what happens when an agreement is unreachable? What avenue can the hamlet councils take in that event? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This issue is being dealt with by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, who are working with the local housing authority as per the member's question. We are collaborating with CG&S, as they are required to be involved when dealing with problems of that nature. That was the reason.

With respect to local housing authorities throughout Nunavut, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's goal is to work hand-in-hand and closely with the local authorities, through constant communication about these matters and open channels. That is how the local

housing authority in the member's riding is being treated, so we are collaborating with them on this issue.

However, as I stated earlier in a prior response, a date has yet to be determined on when we would visit the community, and if an agreement couldn't be arrived at, you wondered about possible avenues. My expectations on this, Mr. Speaker, is that the local housing authority and the Nunavut Housing Corporation continue to work together, along with the Department of Community and Government Services officials. I am hopeful that an agreement can be reached. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 129 – 4(1): Support for People with Hearing Impairments

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Family Services, who I believe has the responsibility for disabilities in Nunavut.

What types of services are provided to the families of children with hearing impairments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member from Tasiluk for that question. The question he asked is a very important issue. If a child suffers from hearing loss or deafness, then the parents can make an appointment with their

social worker to see what programs are available to assist their child.

Social workers, along with nurses, would cooperate on this issue as they tend to work together on child-related disabilities. The Department of Family Services has a committee specifically for people with disabilities and that committee would be a good resource for that type of information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, I have a constituent who has a grandchild who is hearing impaired and does not live in this community, yet when he travels here, he enjoys taking his grandson out on the land and has trouble, I guess, interacting and communicating with this child. They have purchased books and are trying to teach themselves sign language, as the child in question has some proficiency with sign language.

Are there services available through Family Services for sign language training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for Tasiluk for that question. The social workers take in referrals and make recommendations. There are volunteer service agreements to provide services for the child. We work closely with Health to assist

families that need help with disabilities. There is also the Nunavut Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society here in Iqaluit.

I would ask the member to try and get more information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 130 – 4(1): Sale of Ivory from Nunavut

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

My colleague, Mr. Hickes, asked him if he would look buying some ivory as a program, and he said that he was going to look into it.

My question to the minister is: in the event that they start buying ivory, in the event that they start paying the shipping of the ivory, will he pay the shipping for fur to other places, other than one fur buyer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, it is a new initiative, and I have to look into it first. It's new to the government. It's never gone through my department and that's what I meant when I said that I could look into it, look

into the ivory issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 131 – 4(1): Restructuring the Funding Formula with Iqaluit Housing Authority

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I'm noticing the clock go down, I keep thinking of more questions. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I brought up an issue about the funding formula with the Iqaluit Housing Authority last week during the Committee of the Whole, and I realized that I'm sure the department hasn't had a chance to initiate conversations with the Iqaluit Housing Authority on restructuring their funding formula.

I am wondering if the minister can commit today to exploring an option of putting in temporary funding so that the workers who are direly need to keep the maintenance up on the houses of the City of Iqaluit to let them go back to their jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question that he is asking. In regard to the Iqaluit Housing Authority, I have not received anything at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate that Minister Kuksuk hasn't had the opportunity to discuss with the Iqaluit Housing Authority at this time, given the time that we were just discussing this last week.

I am hoping that the minister can direct his officials to initiate that conversation and explore to even look at temporary funding until such time as a secure funding formula can be agree upon with the Iqaluit Housing Authority. Can I get that commitment from the minister today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe perhaps if I say that my department is dealing with your questions. They know the problem. I will get more information on the concerns that you have. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 031 – 4(1): Qulliq Energy Corporation 2012-2013 Annual Report**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2012-13 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 032 – 4(1): Nunavut Liquor Commission Annual Report, 2012-2013

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2012-13 Annual Report for the Nunavut Liquor Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Okalik.

Tabled Document 033 – 4(1): Office of the Chief Coroner 2011 Annual Report

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me. I am pleased to table the 2011 Annual Report of the Nunavut Office of the Chief Coroner. You will note that each report is addressed to individual MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Peterson.

Tabled Document 034 – 4(1): Grants and Contributions 2012-2013

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I committed to my colleague from Baker Lake earlier, I am pleased to table the 2012-13 Grants and Contributions Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 3, 4, and 5 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:54 and Committee resumed at 16:14*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut who are watching through the television, and also listening on the radio. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 3, Bill 4, and Bill 5. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of Bill 3, followed Bill 4 and Bill 5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson, you can now proceed with your opening comments for Bill 3. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014*, totalling \$34,565,000.

This bill will provide additional funding to cover cost pressures that have arisen over the year and have exceeded the departments' ability to pay. Bill 3 consists of additional funding to the Legislative Assembly and three departments.

\$156,000 is being requested for the Office of the Legislative Assembly. This money is to be used to cover the additional costs associated with office space of the new child and youth representative and Elections Nunavut, and cost of the additional indemnity for the new minister for the Fourth Assembly.

\$5,409,000 is being requested for the Department of Family Services to fund a projected budget shortfall in various programs:

- \$2.0 million for social assistance payments;
- \$300,000 for additional payments under the FANS program;
- \$1,474,000 to cover additional costs for residential care clients; and
- \$1,632,000 to cover employee salary costs.

\$200,000 [is being requested] for the Department of Justice to fund shortfall in the Legal Services Board due to increased costs associated with an increased number of court circuits.

An additional \$2.8 million to the Department of Justice [is being requested] to fund a compensation and benefits budget shortfall within Corrections.

\$26 million is being requested for the Department of Health to fund continued cost pressures in seven program areas:

- \$1.8 million for the Pharmacy Services program to purchase additional vaccines and medical supplies;
- \$8.0 million for out-of-territory hospital services, where the number of Nunavummiut requiring hospital visits outside of Nunavut have increased over the past several years;
- \$6.2 million for medical travel to cover the increasing costs of

transporting Nunavummiut to health care facilities in and out of the territory;

- \$5.0 million for agency nurse contracts;
- \$1.0 million for travel and transportation costs for an increasing number of clients requiring services at mental health and addictions treatment centres;
- \$2.8 million to pay for additional mental health contract costs for the increasing number of Nunavummiut admitted to southern facilities; and
- \$1.2 million for physician services contracts for the higher cost of attracting specialists to Nunavut, which will provide more care to Nunavut and help reduce out-of-territory travel.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Do you have any officials that you would like to bring with you to the witness table? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have witnesses. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, (interpretation ends) Sergeant. (interpretation) Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Peter Tumulty, Assistant Deputy Minister of Financial Management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) Mr. D'Arcy and Mr. Tumulty, welcome to the House. (interpretation) Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of our two rules. You have 10 minutes to speak, Rule 77(1), and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Are there any general comments or questions on the opening comments? You can ask your detailed questions during the clause-by-clause review of the bill. The floor is open to general comments or questions. Are there any comments or questions? There being none. We will now deal with Bill 3. We're on Bill 3, starting on page 4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Operations and Maintenance. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. I'm sorry. We were looking at different pages here. I will start again.

Page 4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Expenditures on Behalf of Members. \$45,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. \$111,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$156,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 5. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Why do we read in one area projected budget shortfall whereas in another area it states budget shortfall? Does this mean one area is already spent and the other is not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. If Ms. Angnakak could clarify where she's getting that information from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Ms. Angnakak, clarify that, please.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where it says here on page 5, projected budget shortfall in children and family, and then if you turn to page 6, then you have budget shortfall. I'm just asking about language. Does it mean something different?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the sharp eye. Mr. Chairman, there is no difference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page 5, the amount of \$2,675,000 is requested to cover a projected shortfall under income support. According to the stats from the GN website, the number of social recipients are relatively the same over the last three years and even down in from 2008. So I'm just wondering why there's a request for this amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. The information we have from the department is that the caseloads are increasing and the costs of food are increasing due to cost of living, so additional funding is required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Under FANS, there's a projected shortfall of \$300,000. Is this because there are more students attending school or have you increased the rates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Chairman, it's demand-driven. The rates have not changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if I can ask you, can I ask a question on page 7?

Chairman (interpretation): We're now on page 5. It will be better if we stay on this page, as we will get to page 7. Is that it? Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the actual numbers with me, but I don't think I have seen any department that is in a situation where they're fully staffed, yet I'm seeing a supplementary appropriation for compensation and benefits. Can the minister clarify how this could come about in a situation where most departments are under staffed and there should be surplus monies in compensation and benefits, not a demand for more? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to ask Deputy Minister D'Arcy to explain this. As most members will recall, this was a new department. It was created out of several divisions in other departments last year, so there's an issue with budget reports and transferring monies. Mr. D'Arcy will clarify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. I will allow Mr. D'Arcy to speak. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although there are shortages or capacity issues territory-wide in all departments, it's also true for all departments that a lot of those shortages are taken up through the use of casual employees and also through overtime.

Along with that, as Minister Peterson has said, there is a bit of an adjustment that we have to make this year with respect to the budgets that were transferred from other departments, principally the Department of Education, but also the Department of the Executive to the Department of Family Services.

We do know that the projected expenditures, as Ms. Angnakak has pointed out, to year-end for the department are in excess of the budget in two areas: Children and Family Services of \$960,000; and Income Assistance of \$672,000. That's our best bet for ending the year in terms of those overages.

Tracing where the budget transfers came from with the number of employees in the other department was difficult to back out. At this point in time, we

understand that we're moving forward with this request so that the department does not exceed their appropriation for the year. Hopefully, we'll fix this up for the next fiscal year of 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. D'Arcy mentioned that these monies are funding two separate items: casual employees and overtime. Does the minister have a breakdown of how much of it is overtime and how much for casual employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. We don't have that level of detail with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also noted that \$1.474 million is to cover additional costs for Residential Care Clients. Is the number of Residential Care Clients increasing? Is that the purpose of this appropriation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Yes, it's the understanding that

it is demand-driven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I've brought up this issue a number of times in this House, as well as different briefing with different departments. We need to start looking at utilizing our own resources within the territory to keep our residents here at home where there are support groups and where the care is more appropriate to their customs and lifestyle.

I think this just exaggerates that message, Mr. Chairman, if we're having to increase supplemental appropriations to continue to spend money in other jurisdictions to care for our residents.

What kind of measures are going to be taking place in the future to make sure that this number declines and not increases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hickes raises a good question. It's not a new issue. One of the concerns in Nunavut is that we don't have the facilities that some Nunavummiut would require for specialized care. There was an initiative in the past government. We renovated the old boarding home, Akausisarvik, into a facility that could assist with treating people at home. There are initiatives in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay that I'm aware of where the Department of Health is looking at those types of measures.

Until we build those types of facilities and can offer specialized care, there will always be a requirement to send folks down south. I believe the department is looking at containing the costs by negotiating with the facilities down south to reduce the costs. We do recognize that, over time, it would be better if the government could treat more people at home and provide those kinds of services. The department recognizes that. I'm reading that in our briefing note here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Has your department, in conjunction with Family Services, taken a look at a cost-benefit analysis of how much infrastructure dollars would be needed to offset some of these expenses? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes. We haven't undertaken that initiative yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'm not getting a very clear signal from you, Mr. Hickes. You're done? Okay. (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions were mostly answered by the minister when my colleague, Mr. Hickes, asked, but just for clarification, the cost overrun for compensation and benefits was that there were no new employees; it is just that the money that was supposed to come

over did not come over. For clarification. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Yes, that is correct, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then there theoretically is a \$1.6 million surplus in other departments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. D'Arcy clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to clarify my previous remark. I think I said, "the Department of Education." I should have added the Department of Health as well into social services with the transfer because they were both significant transfers of positions from Health and from Education.

Mr. Chairman, as we go back into balance, most of the departments don't have 100 percent salary dollars and it's not necessarily costed out on a per-position basis either. It is a little bit more

of a group of funds that we have in the departmental budget. So when the budgets were transferred, there was an amount that was transferred, but it wasn't necessarily 100 percent dollars person for person. Some positions may have been vacant and to help assist in reducing the budgetary over-expenditures in Health and to keep the cost down in Education, some of those moneys may have been moved. We found that out after the fact and it's a rebalancing exercise now.

The long and the short of it, Mr. Chairman, is that if we didn't do it in Family Services, if we came up to full capacity in Health, we would have had to give that money to Health or Education, for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In fact, you are stating that if all the departments were 100 percent full, all the jobs, no vacancies, that the government could never fund 100 percent occupancy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. We would be in a very difficult situation if the government was 100 percent staffed. We would have to look very closely at budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose the FANS and the social assistance payments are demand-driven. Shouldn't they be budgeting a little higher then, so they wouldn't always have to ask for supplementary appropriation, especially for social assistance? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. The budgeting isn't a precise science. There are changes throughout the year. There are more students who didn't anticipate applying who may have decided to go to school or people who didn't anticipate seeking social assistance who decided to apply and costs go up. It isn't precise. That's why we have the Financial Management Board available to allow departments to come forward, if they want to transfer money between programs or seek additional funding, to address these situations when they arise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this is on the income support portfolio, but with social assistance, if the demand is always going up and they're always asking for more money, should they budget for more money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is why we have the annual main estimates. The departments do come forward with annual requests. They come to the House for the annual increases to different programs and initiatives, subject to approval, they may get the funding that they seek or they may not or they may get some portion of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Let me remind everyone that we're on page 5. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two matters which I want further information on related to funding of this program. The income assistance budget is slightly over \$2 million, and further, underneath that for career development is the line item listing \$300,000.

Can they provide information on how many people have received assistance from this particular program, for example, their (interpretation ends) their caseload. How many more cases in relation to those two items?
(interpretation) Provided that they are able to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, we didn't come prepared with that level of detail. If we had known in advance, we could have asked the department for that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Let me go again. Family Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Children and Family Services. Total Children and Family Services. \$2,434,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Income Assistance. Total Income Assistance. \$2,675,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Career Development. Total Career Development. \$300,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$5,409,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. We're on page 6 now. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask the same questions to the Department of Justice as I did for Family Services.

Out of the \$2.8 million to fund compensation and benefits, this is not a new department where there was staff transferred over from other departments to create it and I am pretty sure that this department is not 100 percent staffed to capacity. Can the minister explain to me why we're seeing a supplementary

appropriation for this amount of money?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Chairman, this is the Corrections Division, and they have corrections facilities in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Kugluktuk. I believe that the funds that they're requesting are to cover overtime and casual wages for corrections officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm also going to ask the same question. Maybe the Department of Justice can provide a little more detailed briefing note to the minister. How much of this is casual employees, and how much of this is overtime? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again apologize. We don't have that level of detail. Perhaps the Minister of Justice may be willing to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) Yes, for this past

year we spent \$5,177,000 in casual workers for all the correctional facilities, and \$680,332 in overtime up to February of this year. Those are the dollars spent so far. We have been able to reuse some of this with internal transfers, but we're going to be short \$2.8 million. That's why there is a submission.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I'm sorry. There was a cut-out during the number for the overtime. Could the minister clarify that amount for me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik, please clarify.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes. There was \$680,332 in overtime spent up to February of this year. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Okalik for the clarification. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Minister Okalik for indulging me with that clarification. If Minister Okalik doesn't mind and I realize Minister Peterson is on the chair, can the Minister of Justice answer which facility has the most casual workers? Is it Kugluktuk, BCC, or Rankin Inlet? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Okalik, are you prepared to answer that question?

Hon. Paul Okalik: All I have are global figures at this point for all the facilities. I

would imagine that the Baffin Correctional Facility would have the most, as they have the most number of employees. To date, there were 107 casualls for all the facilities, 25 relief casualls to accommodate temporary needs for the facilities. So in total, just over 132 casualls. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. Hickee.

Mr. Hickee: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I had asked a question last week to the Minister of Justice on the amount of Inuit employment and casual employment and what kind of steps they're taking to make some of these positions full-time. I would highly encourage the minister to really take a look at creating 132 casual employments and making some of those full-time with the proper training and proper resources allocated to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickee. (interpretation ends) Mr. Okalik, did you want to make a comment? Go ahead.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we are taking steps. We are trying different steps to train more and more Inuit employees. There is shadowing taking place, where they learn from qualified and working correctional officers. We are taking more steps to do more training so that each of our new employees feels comfortable and confident in doing their tasks. So those steps should be taken so that we retain more of our employees in the long

run. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. Hickee.

Mr. Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank Minister Okalik for providing Minister Peterson with the level of detail that I asked about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask questions about the \$2.8 million too, but I do have one question and that's on the \$200,000 budget shortfall for legal services. Has this money been spent already and, if not, why is there a need for the additional funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Well, it is the funding that's requested to get the Legal Services Board through the end of the fiscal year. I can't state with certainty if it has all been spent, but I presume that some of it has been spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We're on page 6. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$200,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Corrections. Total Corrections. \$2,800,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$3 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 7. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 7, under Treatment, they're requesting an additional \$5 million for agency nursing contracts. We have been using agency nurses now for many years. I'm just wondering if he can explain why they need an additional \$5 million for this department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to bring in another witness to the table from the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. Does the committee agree and allow the minister to bring in another witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness in and the other witness out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, will

you please, for the record, introduce your witness.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Bill Neish, Acting Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Neish, welcome to the House. (interpretation) Let me ask you, Mr. Rumbolt, to repeat your question. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: for the \$5 million for agency nursing contracts, we have been using agency nurses now for many years, and I'm just wondering why, all of a sudden, we need an additional \$5 million towards them contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I'll ask Mr. Neish to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. I shall ask Mr. Neish to respond. Mr. Neish.

Mr. Neish: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Historically, Health has spent, a few years ago, around \$25 million in agency nurse contracts. That number reduced significantly when we implemented the nursing recruitment and retention strategy. At one point, it dropped down to less than \$10 million. Our budget is currently at \$5 million. Historically,

we've not had funding that we have needed.

Our vacancy rate is around 40 percent right now with the full-time nurses. So we tend to try to hire casual nurses whenever we can and use agency nurses as a last resort. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Neish. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're using agency nurses in our communities, what amount of time are they required to spend in one location at a time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. Neish if he can answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Neish.

Mr. Neish: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The time varies, depending on the situation. We have peak periods of the year, especially around Christmas time, or summertime when the regular nurses are going on holidays. Sometimes it's difficult to maintain our staffing levels. We cannot reduce our nursing services, or close our health centres. Sometimes we do have short-term agency nurses covering off vacation periods. We try to keep the agency use as short as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Neish. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the maximum amount of time that an agency nurse will be required to stay in one location? Do they have a turnaround time of two weeks, six weeks; you would have to send somebody else in to replace them or is an agency nurse left in the community until a replacement is found? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Neish will respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Neish.

Mr. Neish: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no maximum term that an agency nurse can stay in the community. We don't like switching them out because of the travel costs. So we try to only book agency nurses that can come and stay for the full period that's required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Neish. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask a different question. Under Directorate, you ask for \$400,000 to provide funding for continuing cost pressures for Directorate for travel and transportation.

Whenever a budget is given to a community, for example, a housing association, a hamlet, or a school, they're given X number of dollars and they're told to work within that budget, and if they do cost overruns, the

following year, they're asked to find ways to make up for the shortfall.

Why is it the government can go over their budget and then request additional monies when you do the opposite in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I should not thank him for that question.

>>*Laughter*

I'll ask Mr. Neish to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Neish.

Mr. Neish: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Directorate section includes a lot of programs and services in that area. We currently have mental health headquarters staff; we have audiology services that we are providing to communities, and territorial leads in those areas. So there is a lot of travel that we're requesting in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. My question is around the agency contracts as well. I am just wondering what measures and support is being done to increase the number of graduate nurses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. With your permission, if I can refer that question to the Minister of Health to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the member to repeat the question so that I can respond appropriately. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a lot of discussion around agency nurses and contracts over the years. The government introduced or promoted Arctic College courses for nursing and we still are using a lot of agency nurses. I'm just wondering what kind of supports were given to Nunavummiut to become graduates of the Nursing Program here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. I think I'm going to make an executive decision and go straight to the Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That question was raised earlier by the (interpretation ends) hon. Mr. Hickes (interpretation) just a short while ago. The Nunavut Arctic College students are people we take pride in, and we wish them success in

their studies. I stated in my response at the time, that we do need to consider better benefits to our students.

Currently, we have approximately 20 students enrolled in that program and nine of the students are Inuit beneficiaries. There are different class years, for example five students are taking the first year of the program, and ten students enrolled in the second year, with six students who are Inuit taking the third year and two students taking the fourth year who may graduate and one of the students is also an Inuk.

Indeed, we are aware and I personally know this, and the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College is someone I want to work closely with to determine what other means of support we can provide to these students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to ask another question related to graduates of the Nursing Program. Does the government immediately offer employment positions to the graduates of this Nursing Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Again, I will go direct to Minister Ell. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the nurses graduate, they have to do some (interpretation) what's that word? They have to work in a hospital, while learning on the job, and they generally are required to complete this practicum, perhaps as long as three

years and sometimes a two year period. There are some two year practicum agreements made with other colleges offering nursing programs where they can practice their skills in a southern hospital, such as in Nova Scotia.

Sometimes, they work for another period which occasionally has them working here at our hospital. The requirement is to have a supervisor, and the term is called a (interpretation ends) practicum. (Interpretation) That is the word in English, and they are required to undertake further training prior to becoming a nurse capable of working in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ell. (interpretation) I wish to remind all members that we are trying to review the items listed on page 7, dealing with Supplementary Appropriations. Not Previously Authorized. Please keep your questions to the point, and sometimes it's better if you ask your question during Oral Questions. We are looking at the numbers here. That's just a reminder. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Okay, I'll keep to... . Under Medical Travel there is a request of \$6.2 million. Is this for escort travel, or for patients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. It is my understanding from the briefing note that the \$6.2 million is

for patients who must travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I think I have Mr. Savikataaq. Do I? Go ahead.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Mental Health contracts, the \$2.8 million, are you hiring more mental health nurses that weren't anticipated? How did you come up with the \$2.8 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for his question. From the information we were provided from Health, it is to increase staff capacity, providing more mental health services in the territory, plus sending more folks to treatment in the south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know we all need more mental health nurses. In your briefing notes, is there a breakdown of how many new mental health nurses were acquired with that extra money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. We don't have that information at the table here with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back to agency nurses now. This may be borderline O&M. You can use your judgement on that. The agency nurses, we need them and we hire them. But I've known of instances where regular permanent nurses become agency nurses because the benefits are better for an agency nurse while they work, like no rent. That's my understanding. Correct me if I'm wrong. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. That is correct. The agency nurses are not charged rent, they're contractors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a last comment. I guess we are encouraging our permanent nurse to work for agency's department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) I will take that as a comment, unless Minister Peterson, you wanted to reply to it. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health is working to address that, as I think we have indicated in an answer earlier that hiring of agency nurses is a last option. There is a requirement to have nurses in

all the health centres. There are times throughout the year when indeterminate nurses are out of town or unavailable and you do need nurses. So there is a combination of indeterminate nurses, casual nurses, and agency nurses, but agency nurses would be the last option to hire staff at a health centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question on the pharmacy services. I would like to know what that is. Is it for physicians or is that for all that Tylenol that you give away? Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for his question. It is for additional pharmaceutical products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple questions. Earlier, one of my colleagues had asked, but they didn't quite catch on it. On medical travel, it was identified that it is geared towards patients. My question here is on that medical travel aspect. Has the Department of Finance notice a difference in the figures with the inclusion of the Office of Public Relations which started, I believe, at the last Assembly? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Just to clarify my earlier answer, it would be medical travel for patients and escorts. The Patient Relations Office only opened for business last, I think, July 2013, so it is early. I have heard anecdotally that there has been some success in terms of patients, clients and others getting faster responses to their concerns when they're on medical travel or escort travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for that response. I guess it is something that we will have to watch for if it is a success or not.

On the very top there, Travel and Transportation, what does that cover? Seeing that we already have medical travel there, what is Travel and Transportation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I'll ask Mr. Neish to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Neish.

Mr. Neish: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The travel and transportation request

covers several areas. There's a request for Directorate, which we spoke of earlier. There's also a request under our Public Health and then under our Treatment Branch.

In the Treatment Branch, it's mainly our casual nurse travel. So we have casual nurses that we don't have funded for and their travel is not funded for under removal in or removal out, so we're flying casual nurses in and out of the communities. Whenever possible, we use casual nurses over agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Neish. (interpretation) Thank you. We're on page 7. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last comment on the overall thing, on the additional funds that are being asked for, it would help us if we knew how much had been spent so that we can compare it to what's being asked.

For example, you're requesting \$8 million for out-of-territorial hospital services. If we knew that you had already spent about \$200 million on there, then we would say, "Okay. Well, they're not asking for much of an overrun," but if it was only like \$20 million, then we would say, "Holy smokes! Their budgeting is really screwed up!"

So for the next time, if we could just have, on each line item, how much was actually spent so that we can compare that to what is being asked for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation) Let me remind you to be aware of what you're talking about and your language. (interpretation) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the suggestion and recommendation. I'm not sure how that would change the presentation of these supplementary bills and the main estimates, but there is a way to compare or in the main estimates, you could see the overall budget for the entire year. So you can look at those areas there and then do some cross-referencing and research. You will find that the \$8 million is an addition to the approved amount earlier in the main estimates process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we have been bantering about quite a bit in the House in the last couple of weeks is almost two sides of the coin for medical travel expenses. As I'm sure all of us want to see the numbers reducing, some of us are still very concerned about the amount of escorts that are being denied or approved in whatever case it may be.

One of the concerns I have, and I realize the minister is fairly new to this portfolio, but I don't recall a year ever occurring where there wasn't a supplementary appropriation for medical travel, so I don't see those costs reducing. There are a number of factors, as I have questioned in the House this week and last week, on telehealth, as an example, and different programs being

utilized to reduce medical travel. I'm not seeing the results. Can the minister comment on that? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question and comment. A few years ago, before I was in the health department the second time, I had a conversation with Finance people and some Health people. I said, "If the health care costs continue at the pace they're going, there will only be two departments by 2020 or 2022, the health department to incur the bills and Finance to pay the bills."

I attended FPT finance ministers' conferences and FPT health ministers' meetings when I was health minister, and it is a reality across Canada that the health care costs in all jurisdictions are increasing. We started an initiative or a process several years ago in Health when I was health minister. We call it bending the health care cost curve because the health care costs in Canada are increasing at an exponential rate in most jurisdictions and some provinces are at almost half of their annual budget.

In Nunavut, we live in one of the most challenging jurisdictions in Canada to deliver health care to all our residents. We only have health centres in communities. There's a hospital in Iqaluit, but when people get sick, and we have no control over that, if they really need medical care, we have to send them south. There's no two ways about it. There are a significant number of medevacs every year; I think 1,500 or 1,700 medevacs. We have tens of

thousands of patients who have to be sent south for check-ups and specialized tests. We have hospitals in the south charging us very expensive fees for the facilities. Doctors are charging us very expensive fees.

Until we get to the point in our territory where we have facilities and trained physicians and nurses in all communities, we are going to continue to get increasing costs. There was an initiative started in the Second Assembly, preventative health, where we started educating Nunavummiut about caring for themselves; eat a proper diet; lifestyle choices. Obviously, if you smoke, if you're a lifetime smoker or you're smoking, that's going to catch up to you at some point. We're educating people about taking care of their health and taking care of their families.

I understand Mr. Hickes' question, but until such time that we're able to provide more care in our communities, we are going to incur these costs. There have been some initiatives. The Minister of Health announced last week the CT scanner that is in place at the hospital here in Iqaluit. That's estimated to save approximately 600 trips to southern hospitals that they can do here and provide the CT scan work here in Iqaluit. That's going to save on travel costs. There are midwifery programs. Again, there is healthy living, campaigns to quit smoking, and campaigns to eat healthy.

There are initiatives, but the reality is that it's going to take time for us to get to the point where we can significantly reduce the health care costs, as they are rising at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. (interpretation) We are on page 7. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the seven program areas that are under this \$26 million request, I see four of them that have relations to sending people out of the territory. The minister just alluded to, until such time we get the infrastructure needed within the territory, I'm not sure how much longer we can afford not to before we are stuck with the two departments that the minister alluded to earlier.

I understand that there is not a magic chequebook that we can just pick up and develop these infrastructure projects on our own right now. We have an opportunity with a former member of this legislature sitting at a national level, and I'm sure numerous discussions have been had with the federal Minister of Finance dealing with the Department of Health specifically.

Can the minister indicate what kind of discussions are ongoing right now to help us with our infrastructure demand so that we can start saving money by keeping people here instead of sending the money to other jurisdictions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Well, as finance minister, I have talked to Minister Flaherty, former Minister Flaherty now, about investing in infrastructure in Nunavut, but that was

primarily on items such as housing and infrastructure related to ports and roads.

When I was the health minister, of course, and when our MP for Nunavut was the health minister, we had conversations about initiatives that would result in savings to Nunavut, but it wasn't specific to providing more infrastructure for hospitals and health centres. The Government of Canada will always tell us that they would provide us with funding through the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement and through the processes that the Legislative Assembly has, through the main estimates and the capital estimates process that we're working on this week and last week.

We do budgets for health centres. We do budgets for other facilities to provide health care services to Nunavummiut. As everybody is well aware, there are competing demands from all departments for capital monies. Education requires schools. Economic Development and Transportation needs airports and roads. Working with the small capital budget that we have relative to our size, it's going to be very challenging to provide the entire infrastructure we need in the health department as time goes along.

It is challenging, but it's up to us to work with the resources we have. Ministers continue to talk at their FPTs with their counterparts. The Premier talked with his colleagues at his level. MLAs, by asking questions in the House and raising awareness, of course, the media picks up on our debates every day and also, I know there are officials in the Government of Canada who read the *Hansards* every day, so they are well

aware of our pressing needs up here.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister.
Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Just one final question. When I'm
looking at the overall budget of O&M, it
is \$1.3 billion and today, we're asking
for a total of a little over \$34 million. I
know that it's only little under 3 percent
of the overall O&M budget, but it's still
a lot of money.

I believe the member from Arviat South
mentioned earlier that there maybe needs
to be a little bit more work done during
the budget analysis process. I understand
the need to come back for these dollars,
but some of the themes are very
recurring. I'm just wondering if some
little bit more work can be done through
your office with the other ministers'
departments and their staff to help
"accurize" the budget process. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. I
don't know if there was a question there,
but Minister Peterson, if you want to
reply/comment. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for his
comment. Mr. Chairman, when
departments come to the Financial
Management Board for additional funds,
we tend to, well, don't tend to, we
actually make a recommendation that
departments have to go away at it and
begin to analyze the figures that they
provided to us. We make
recommendations and usually in the fall,
in this case, come back with an
evaluation of the costs.

We have our own officials in the
Department of Finance who work with
the department to help analyze costs. I
know the health department has some
people internally who are constantly
working to evaluate their programs and
services and analyze the cost figures to
find ways to save money.

Hopefully, during the main estimates, all
departments can provide you with
information on how they manage their
appropriated funds and why they
sometimes require additional funds.

As we continue in this process, the
Department of Finance is going to be
working with all departments in terms of
reviewing the programs, reviewing their
services to find out what works, what
doesn't work, and what needs to be
improved, what needs to be discontinued
so that we can make better use of our
limited resources. Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister.
(interpretation) I have no more names on
my list. We're on page 7.

Please keep in mind that we still have
three bills to go through before we report
progress today.

We're on Health. Operations and
Maintenance. Not Previously
Authorized. Directorate. Total
Directorate. \$400,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Public
Health. Total Public Health. \$100,000.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Treatment. Total Treatment. \$25,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$26 million. Do you agree?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 2. 2013-14 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 3. Schedule 1: Operations and Maintenance. Appropriation Authority Required. Operation and Maintenance Appropriation. \$34,565,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please refer to Bill 3 in your legislation binder, No. 3. I believe you have a copy of the bill in your binders. I believe you now have a copy of the bill in front of you. Bill 3 is in your legislation binder. I believe you now have the bill in front of you. Let me read out the title. Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): While we're on this clause, go to the Schedule on page 3. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$34,565,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to Bill 3 as a whole?

I'm sorry. My documents were missing some pages. We have to go back to page 1. I apologize for the missing pages in my documents.

Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree to Bill 3 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), does the committee agree that Bill 3 is immediately ready to be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you. We have now concluded the review of Bill 3. If you have any closing remarks, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank you and your committee for your scrutiny on Bill 3.

I would like to thank Mr. Neish for appearing as a witness to assist with answering detailed questions.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Minister Okalik and Minister Ell, for their assistance in also answering detailed questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Committee Motion 001 – 4(1):
Extended Sitting Hours**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pursuant to Rule 6(2), I move that the Committee of the Whole continue its sitting beyond the hour of daily adjournment for the purpose of concluding its consideration of Bills 4 and 5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. There is a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. The Committee of the Whole will stay in session until we report progress on Bills 4 and 5. Thank you.

We will now proceed with Bill 4. If you have any opening comments on this bill, Minister Peterson, you may now proceed.

**Bill 04 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
4, 2013-2014 – Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2013-2014*, totalling \$3,093,000.

This bill will provide three departments with additional capital funding for two special initiatives and one project over-expenditure.

Bill 4 consists of the following items:

- \$200,000 to the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the child and youth representative tenant improvements and furniture, fixtures, and equipment;
- \$2.6 million to the Department of Family Services for leasehold improvements to the old courthouse, which will allow the entire department to co-locate under a single roof; and
- \$293,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services to offset a budget shortfall for the Repulse Bay Pumphouse project.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Are there any general comments or questions on the opening comments? If there are none, we will go to page 4 of the bill. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Assembly Operations. Total Assembly Operations. \$200,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$200,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 5. Family Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Corporate Management. Total Corporate Management. \$2,600,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,600,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 6. Community and Government Services. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we ask questions on the line items now?

There's the \$293,000. I just want to know what the total project cost was on the pumphouse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before I answer that question, may I ask, with your permission, to bring in my new, old witness? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I thank Mr. Neish for his time at the witness table there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. (interpretation) Do you agree to bring in another witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort one witness out and the other witness in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Savikataaq, if you can repeat your question, please proceed.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is: what was the total cost of the pumphouse project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. My calculations are approximately \$4 million for the project total cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. (interpretation) We're on page 6. Community and Government Services.

Capital. Capital Planning. Total Capital Planning. Not Previously Authorized. \$293,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to page 2. Page 2. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$3,093,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Refer to the bill in your legislation binder, No. 4. I believe you have Bill 4 in front of you now. Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2013-2014*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): While we're on this clause, please refer to the Schedule on page 3. In Inuktitut, it's on page 4 and in English, it's on page 3. I believe you all have a copy in front of you now. Schedule. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital. \$3,093,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 2 in Inuktitut. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to Bill 4 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), does the committee agree that Bill 4 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 4 is now concluded. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) if you have any closing comments, I give you the opportunity. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank yourself and your committee for your questions today in support of Bill 4.

I again thank my colleagues, the ministers, for being here to answer questions, if any, that were forthcoming.

I thank my witnesses at the table for their help in preparing this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. (interpretation) We can now proceed to Bill 5. I believe all of you have a copy of the bill. Minister Peterson, if you have any opening comments on Bill 5, I now give you the floor. Minister Peterson.

Bill 05 – Interim Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 5, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015*, totalling \$446,313,000.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is required in order to allow the Government of Nunavut to continue to spend money and keep paying its employees until the budget is approved in the House, which is expected to happen during the spring session starting in May of this year.

This interim appropriation is to cover departmental operations from April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014. The interim appropriation was calculated in consultation with all affected departments and territorial corporations. It took into consideration both their previous maximum spending patterns over a four-year period and their cash flow requirements for the first four months of the fiscal year.

Bill 5 consists of the following items:

- \$7,300,000 to the Office of the Legislative Assembly;
- \$11,394,000 to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs;
- \$21,885,000 to the Department of Finance;
- \$40,518,000 to the Department of Family Services;
- \$32,440,000 to the Department of Justice;
- \$8,571,000 to the Department of Culture and Heritage;
- \$72,923,000 to the Department of Education;
- \$85,028,000 to the Department of Health;
- \$7,033,000 to the Department of Environment;
- \$67,252,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services;
- \$19,405,000 to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation;
- \$60,786,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation; and
- \$11,779,000 to Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Are there any general comments or questions on the opening comments? If there are none, we will go directly to Bill 5. I believe you have a copy in front of you in your legislation binders. I believe you now have it in front of you. Let me proceed. I'll read in English since I can't find the Inuktitut version.

(interpretation ends) Bill 5, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. (interpretation) I don't even know if I can pronounce that properly. \$446,313,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to the first page. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 5 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do my colleagues agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 5 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) if you have any closing comments, I give you the opportunity. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you and the committee for your support of Bill 5.

I thank my officials and all the officials in all the departments and the territorial corporations for working cooperatively with the Department of Finance to prepare Bill 5.

We will see you, I guess, in May, when we're going through the main estimates for the 12 months. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Pursuant to Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker: Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 3, 4 and 5 and would like to report that Bills 3, 4 and 5 are ready for third reading, and one committee motion was adopted. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 3,

Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 3... .

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2013-2014 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2013-2014*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 05 – Interim Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 5, *Interim Appropriation Act, April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 5 is ready for assent.

Before we proceed further, Mr. Clerk, will you determine if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers and give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Edna Elias

(interpretation): Thank you. As you conclude the session, (interpretation ends) as Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the first set of bills passed by the Fourth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*;
- Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015*;
- Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014*;
- Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2013-2014*; and
- Bill 5, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2014 – July 31, 2014*.

At this time, I would also like to introduce two new staff members to the Office of the Commissioner. I have one of four new aide-de-camps, Constable David Aglukark, originally from Arviat, and starting this week as commissioner's assistant, please help me in welcoming Ms. Jessie Mike.

>> *Applause*

I hereby prorogue the First Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly and summon all members to meet in this Chamber at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow for the opening of the Second Session. (interpretation) Thank you. We will see you again tomorrow.

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 22. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board tomorrow at ten o'clock in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for March 20:

1. Prayer
2. Opening Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Petitions
9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Notices of Motions

12. Notices of Motions for First

Reading of Bills

13. Motions

14. First Reading of Bills

15. Second Reading of Bills

16. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Thursday, March 20, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:08*

