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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment

Alex Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)

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(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Minister of Community and Government Services

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(Tununiq)

Samuel Nuqingaq
(Uqqummiut)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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
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Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

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)

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

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Hon. George Kuksuk, Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alex 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): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Mikkungwak.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the people of Nunavut. Welcome to the Ministers and MLAs. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 014 – 4(2):
Department of Environment
Wildlife Research 2013-2014**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Pangnirtung, the elders, and everyone in Nunavut either watching or listening. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of the numerous

wildlife research initiatives my department implemented over the past year.

The Department of Environment initiated 27 different research projects on key initiatives that included the first ever island-wide aerial survey of caribou on Baffin Island, and reassessments of the Baffin Bay and Kane Basin polar bear populations using genetic mark-recapture. The latter is a new non-invasive technique that does not require the handling of polar bears. Other initiatives included the Peary Caribou Management Plan for Nunavut, and a Baffin Island caribou traditional knowledge and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* study engaging elders and expert hunters.

A total of \$2.5 million was invested by my department in wildlife research and management planning projects in 2013-14, from which our Wildlife Research section was able to independently raise another \$1.6 million from external sources. The total investment in wildlife research and management projects by DOE in 2013-14 was \$4.6 million.

Through the Baffin Island Caribou Co-Management Steering Committee, we will continue to work together with our co-management partners - the hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs), the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated - in developing a Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan over the coming year.

Currently, this is a top priority for wildlife conservation and management in Nunavut. A follow-up co-management workshop, building upon

last year's "Working Together for Caribou" Workshop in Iqaluit (July 2013), will be held this fall.

Other wildlife research highlights in 2013-14 included a population reassessment of the Peary caribou and muskox on the Bathurst Island Complex in the Qikiqtaaluk region, which will help inform the Peary Caribou Management Plan and the Recovery Strategy under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. Results from my department's scientific research show positive signs of the recovery for Peary caribou. This is consistent with the knowledge shared by hunters in the communities of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I can advise that working with our co-management partners, we have also completed a muskox management plan for the High Arctic.

By working together, we can ensure that we make decisions that are best suited to maintaining healthy, sustainable wildlife populations for generations to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 015 – 4(2):
Meeting of the Nunavut
Roundtable for Poverty Reduction**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Netsilik. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as

Members of this House are aware, the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction met earlier this month, May 12 to 14, in Rankin Inlet. I was pleased to serve as the co-chair for this meeting with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Vice-president James Eetoolook.

More than 65 participants attended the round table representing 21 communities as well as governments, Inuit organizations, and non-governmental organizations. The theme discussed at this gathering was early childhood development and support for parents. This issue will be included in the Five-year Poverty Reduction Action Plan. Round-table participants concluded that Nunavut should be a national leader in early childhood development and in programs that support families.

As we learned in Rankin Inlet, we have some excellent programs and many new ideas about how to support parenting and early childhood development. These include the views we heard from the elders' council, as well as innovative new programs like the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre's Inunnguiniq program.

Participants in the round table agreed that a small implementation team will be formed this spring to prepare a position paper on child development and parenting in Nunavut. Work in this area will be included in the broader Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

I want to thank the Deputy Premier, Monica Ell, for helping to convene the round table in Rankin Inlet, and Minister Quassa, Minister Sammurtok, and [MLA] Alex Sammurtok, who also participated. (interpretation) I am grateful to you.

(interpretation ends) I want to thank all round-table participants. We are inspired by their dedication and their faith in Nunavut. Together, we are building the kind of future we want, one in which all Nunavummiut can participate and grow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Tom Sammurtok.

**Minister's Statement 016 – 4(2):
North American Indigenous
Games**

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Goof afternoon to my fellow members from Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet and to all of the people of Nunavut. Lucky that you guys are enjoying your spring.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Athletes from across Nunavut are training for another chance to complete at the international level this summer at the 2014 North American Indigenous Games to be held in Regina, Saskatchewan from July 20 to 27.

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) were established in 1990 to provide indigenous youth from across Canada and the United States an opportunity to showcase their heritage, history, and culture through a variety of sport and cultural events.

More than 6,000 athletes, coaches, managers, and cultural performers from indigenous communities in 26 regions across North America will be taking part

in the Games in Regina, Saskatchewan this July.

We will be proudly represented once again by Team Nunavut, a contingent of more than 50 of Nunavut's best and brightest young athletes, mission staff, and cultural performers.

Team Nunavut will compete in badminton, volleyball, and basketball events at the 2014 North American Indigenous Games. Territorial trials and competitions are taking place now to select teams and athletes for the Games.

This is Team Nunavut's fourth time participating in the North American Indigenous Games, having competed at the Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2003, Denver, Colorado in 2006, and Cowichan, British Columbia in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Nunavummiut, I would like to wish our Team Nunavut athletes the best of luck as they head to the 2014 North American Indigenous Games this summer.

I would like to thank the coaches and volunteers in our territorial sport organizations who devote countless hours to provide youth with the opportunity to participate in sports. Without them, none of this would be possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 045 – 4(2):
Jump-rope for Ellen Rumbolt**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to state that (interpretation ends) this past spring in April of 2014, the Rachel Arngnammaktiq Elementary School grades kindergarten to grade 5 had done the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for approximately the last 15 years.

This past year, we lost a dear friend who was also a teacher, Ms. Ellen Rumbolt, due to heart failure at the young age of 44. Ellen was a grade 1 teacher. This year staff agreed to run their own fundraiser in memory of Ellen, "Jump-rope for Ellen" they called it.

Proceeds earned would go towards the school's purchase of an artificial external defibrillator. They are simple to use and have been proven to be great aids in prolonging a victim's chances for survival. The AEDs range in price from \$1,500 to \$10,000. These devices are becoming regulated in public buildings, government offices, and sport facilities.

Prior to the event, Mr. Rod Rumbolt, Ellen's husband, was contacted for his permission and approval. He was very honoured and grateful for the gesture of the staff and students.

The students had three days to collect money. The response from the community was outstanding. Our students in grades 1 to 5 raised a total of \$3,223. Ellen's 1B class had the greatest donations collected of \$688.

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

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to all of my colleagues.

After informing Rod Rumbolt of the school and community's fantastic donations, Rod offered a donation to the school of \$3,500 to match the efforts of the Rachel Arngnammaktiq Elementary School. Our overall total now jumped to \$6,723.

The school has since purchased an artificial external defibrillator for the Rachel Arngnammaktiq Elementary School. The Baker Lake Youth Athletic Association purchased one for the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School. In addition, backboards were also purchased for both schools in the event of an emergency. The person could be properly transported to the health centre immediately and safely.

The Rachel Arngnammaktiq Elementary School plans to use the remaining money to go towards health-related resources for education and other equipment that will help promote heart awareness and health.

In reflection, I am amazed what a small community can do when everyone comes together for a common and respected cause. The students showed amazing effort when going door to door

collecting. The community showed great support of this cause and opened up their pockets. The staff did a great job working with the students in the collection process. Once again, I am proud to call myself a “Baker Laker.”

As our students look forward to next year’s fundraising, in the last 12 years, the Rachel Arngnamaktiq Elementary School students in kindergarten to grade 5 have raised \$34,560. Never doubt the energy of a child and the generosity of a small community in times of need.

In loving memory of our grade 1 teacher, Ms. Ellen Rumbolt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member’s Statement 046 – 4(2):
Summer Literacy Camp**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk of how proud I am of the Minister of Education because yesterday, I heard about something that I really felt deeply about with respect to the language camps in some communities, and the camp that will be starting in Cape Dorset. I am happy to say that I am glad with respect to that. I am also proud of the Minister of Education for getting this program started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for

Niaqunnguu-Iqaluit, Ms. Angnakak.

>>Laughter

Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickee.

>>Laughter

Members’ Statements. Member for (interpretation ends) Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

>>Laughter

**Member’s Statement 047 – 4(2):
Arviat Water Reservoir**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address a longstanding issue in the community of Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, the provision of safe and clean drinking water is one of the most important responsibilities of government.

For a number of years, the Municipality of Arviat has raised concerns regarding the need for a second pump outlet at the community’s drinking water reservoir. At present, there is only one outlet, which results in problems with the daily delivery of water to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat’s integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan, which was completed in 2011, outlines a number of concerns regarding water supply infrastructure. For example, the plan indicates a need for a three-stage sediment system and a larger reservoir. The plan also points out that the projected useful life of water

reservoir cell No. 1 ends in 2016, which is just two years from now.

Mr. Speaker, I will have detailed questions for the Minister of Community and Government Services at tomorrow's sitting of the House concerning his department's actions to address the priorities that have been identified in Arviat's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 048 – 4(2):
Successful Search and Rescue in
Gjoa Haven**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't have my hand up, but thank you.

>> *Laughter*

I rise today to recognize the people of Gjoa Haven. We just had one search not too long ago and it was successful.

The whole community got together. It was a search for four days, 24 hours a day. We had some groups going out in whiteout conditions. I am very proud to say that they found the young person. They also had radio operators that were on 24 hours a day, keeping people informed of the search. I would like to say "thank you" to the community of Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I apologize for the mistakes I have been making.

(interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 049 – 4(2):
Proposed Merger between
Canadian North and First Air**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet. In particular, Elijah, I say "good afternoon" to you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again address the issue of the proposed merger between Canadian North and First Air. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to emphasize a number of important points.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut understand and recognize that there are many issues that fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government and cannot be touched by the Nunavut government.

In my Member's Statement of yesterday, I pointed out that the federal Competition Bureau, which has the mandate to review proposed mergers to "determine whether they will likely result in a substantial lessening or prevention of competition," has confirmed that it will review the proposed Canadian North-First Air merger.

Mr. Speaker, although the Government of Nunavut may not control this regulatory process, it does have the ability and the responsibility to make its position clear on such an important issue.

Mr. Speaker, there are many examples of the Government of Nunavut making submissions to federal regulatory bodies.

For example, the Department of Community and Government Services has made a number of submissions on behalf of the Government of Nunavut to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission concerning its review of NorthwesTel's modernization plans, as well as the broader issue of telecommunications in the north.

Mr. Speaker, I again call on the Government of Nunavut to make its position clear on the proposed merger of our two largest airlines.

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

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I am perfectly aware that the territorial government does not control the regulatory process for approving or denying the merger, but I strongly believe that the territorial government should make its position on this issue perfectly clear for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

Member's Statement 050 – 4(2): 2014 Graduates of Whale Cove

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Nunavut, particularly the people of Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I am very pleased that there was a graduation ceremony held in Whale Cove at Inuuglak School. There were seven grade 12 graduates last night.

(interpretation ends) There was a graduation ceremony held last night in Whale Cove. I am very proud of these graduates for their hard work in finishing high school. I wish them all the best in their future career paths and good luck to those who are moving on future academic programs.

Uqaqtittijii, the names of the graduates are:

Jeannie Kayuk,
Michaela Angutialuk,
Daniel Panika Jr.,
Charlene Okalik,
Jeannette Angoo,
Keisha Jones, and
Simon Enuapik Jr.

I stand today with the people of Whale Cove in recognizing these hard-working youth and I ask my colleagues to join me as well. We are proud of you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 051 – 4(2):
Appreciation to Inuit Hunters**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I awake today, Mr. Speaker, and I also rise...

>> *Laughter*

I think we're different here in Nunavut, and I'm proud to say that even though we're different, we have to try and remember the hunters and to be proud of our hunters.

The hunters in Nunavut provide country food that they catch to other people, including their neighbours and community members. When we're in our communities, we hear people on the radio saying, "Whoever is hungry, please come over and I will provide you with some food that I just harvested." We have to be proud of that process.

Inuit people provide food for other people. Even though it's very expensive to provide gasoline and rations when we go out hunting, they think about their fellow Inuit and invite them to come over and get some food.

I would like all the young people to be able to continue this and for the hunters to provide food for those people who do not have anything. I would like to say I am proud of those hunters for providing for people who are hungry and who do not have hunters in their homes and give out food for those people who are in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 052 – 4(2):
Repulse Bay Search and Rescue
Group**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say "good afternoon" to the people of Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, and Nunavut, as well as my fellow members.

I rise today because I am very proud of the Parnaijiit Society, who are a search and rescue organization. The reason I am proud of the society is that search and rescue does not get any funding government and they stand on their own and provide search and rescue services for the people of Repulse Bay.

They keep on searching for the individuals until they find them, working many hours non-stop to provide search and rescue. As soon as they hear there's someone who went out hunting and failed to return, they use their own equipment to search for the people who are lost by providing themselves with their own money some gasoline and other equipment. I am very proud of them.

In Nunavut or anywhere, when there is search going on, they usually stop at a certain time after so many days have gone past because they don't have enough money to continue the search and rescue. There's usually \$1,000 or whatever that is provided to the search and rescue to do the searching in the

community. For that reason, even though the search and rescue in Repulse Bay don't get any funding from the government, they do a lot of searching.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking the government questions with respect to search and rescue. I would like to encourage my colleagues to provide some support for search and rescue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Member's Statement 053 – 4(2):
Appreciation to Pangnirtung
Volunteers**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Pangnirtung. I rise today to talk about a tradition that is held in Pangnirtung so that you all can appreciate it.

In Pangnirtung, there is a fundraising committee that raises money for bereaved relatives. The fundraising committee mainly help with airline tickets. Even if a person is not from Pangnirtung, the Pangnirtung fundraising committee raises money for them whenever one of their relatives passes away.

The fundraising committee is committed. I would like them to be recognized by everyone. The committee serves a useful purpose and has the continued support of the hamlet council, especially the people of Pangnirtung. Things that could be very difficult are

made easier by the fundraising. They raise the money on their own and use the money to help the relatives that need help at that time.

I would like the committee to have proper recognition. I am not naming any of them, but it's the people of Pangnirtung that I thank. I would like my colleagues to thank them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 054 – 4(2): Cape
Dorset Talent Show**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I rise today to give some good news about the talent show in Cape Dorset.

The people could show any talent that they have through dancing, singing, and the elders did some accordion music playing as well that people enjoyed.

A well-known young person from Baker Lake was in Cape Dorset. Nelson Tagoona held a concert and spoke to the residents of Cape Dorset, and he received a warm welcome.

The National Arts Centre in Canada supported them and I would like to thank them.

The two dancers that were very young children won the dancing competition there.

I just want to thank the people who provided the facility for this enjoyable event. I would like to see more events like this happening in the future where people and kids show off their talents. It's great for community well-being. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Member for (interpretation ends) South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognize visitors in the Gallery, my family. The first one is my wife, Emily Joanasie, our child Pittaaluk Joanasie, and my young son, Qulittalik.

My older brother Joe Joanasie is also here and I would like to recognize him as well. His wife, Uiviru, and his son and my little father, Matthewsie Joanasie, and one of my constituents, Haali Tapaungai, who is my brother. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 056 – 4(2): Funding for Repulse Bay Search and Rescue Group

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we were on Members' Statements, I said I was going to ask a question directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

As I stated earlier, the Parnaijiit Society, which is the search and rescue group in Repulse Bay, handles search and rescue on their own quite independently, they are also financially independent. They raise funds for it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister when a society like that is active are they eligible for government grants for contributions for search and rescue purposes, such fuel or equipment, even if they are an independent group, are they eligible for funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of the communities have a search and rescue committee, and they usually have a society that is recognized; that is how they are able to access funding.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that clear answer. Even though my group is independent, and not recognized, are they eligible for funding from the

Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different funding programs available for search and rescue. We have donated SPOT devices to the communities to help in this matter. Right now, as I am the Minister of Community and Government Services and this issue falls under my department, we are trying to see how we can improve the services that we provide, but right now I cannot say how it will change or what will happen. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister agree with me so the search and rescue committee knows if they are eligible for funding from the government or not for upcoming searches or for general operations? Can your department staff explain to the search and rescue committee in my community where they can apply to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, there is a secretariat that looks after the search and rescue committees in

the communities. The communities can look into that office and ask how they can be helped. I'll direct my staff to talk with the people in that group. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 057 – 4(2): Casual Employment in the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on the issue of casual employment in the government that was raised yesterday by my colleague from Arviat South.

According to the government's most recently tabled quarterly report on employment, there were 675 casual employees and 1,697 relief workers employed by the government as of December 31, 2013.

Can the Minister clarify the difference between casual employees and relief workers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A relief worker is a very short-term employee, as-and-when. For example, if you need a substitute teacher for a day or a week. A casual employee would be an employee that is hired for up to four months and with approval, up

to an additional four months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In the minister's response to the question that was asked yesterday on this issue, he indicated that he wants departments to reduce their over-reliance on casual employees.

According to the government's most recently tabled quarterly report on the employment, there were 35 casuals and 1,285 relief workers employed the Department of Education as of December 31, 2013. Can the minister indicate if he will be reviewing the Department of Education's hiring practices? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Sammurtok for his concern regarding casual and relief workers. In particular, we know that the Department of Education is a special department and requires a lot of substitute teachers and other support staff.

We are working with all departments to review their casual and relief employee needs and I assure my colleague that while it's still early on in the mandate of the government, I think I indicated yesterday we do have some challenges in our own department in terms of having sufficient number of people to look into

all of these things on the HR side. We are working very diligently. I assure my colleagues that it's a high priority for our government to get a handle on casuals and the relief worker situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*. Your final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is my understanding that a number of positions that were previously considered to be employees of district education authorities have been transferred back to the Department of Education in recent years. It is also my understanding that the Nunavut Employees Union has filed a grievance concerning such matters as calculating years of pensionable service for these employees.

Can the minister indicate how close this matter is to being resolved?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for that detailed information. I'm not in charge of the day-to-day operations of hiring and calculating leave and attendance and things like that. I will assure my colleague that I will look into it. I'm sure my staff plus other deputy ministers out there are listening in this afternoon to hear the questions and concerns from MLAs about employment; casual employment, relief workers, and indeterminate employment. I will check on that and see how close we are to

resolving the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 058 – 4(2): Review of Grants and Contributions

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance, so he's going to have to take out his crystal ball again.

Mr. Speaker, the government's most recent annual report on grants and contributions indicates that the GN spent a total of \$383,212,000 during the 2012-13 fiscal year on grants and contributions.

The minister's budget address indicated that the government will "review processes this year for monitoring grants and contributions, to ensure that we receive good value from these agreements."

Can the minister clearly define what he means by "receiving good value" from the government's grants and contributions spending? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did table the report in the Winter Session and there was \$383,213,000. That was quite a significant increase over previous years. Of course, we want to review grants and contribution programs to ensure that the

funding that we approve to the external organizations or individuals, and other agencies and third-party groups, are meeting the intent of the programs that we have available. In terms of good value, we want to make sure that we are getting the results that the money is intended for. We would be reviewing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the minister was unable to tell the House which specific programs the government will be reviewing as its first priority under its new program review initiative. Is the minister able to tell the House today which specific areas of its grants and contributions spending will be looked at as part of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I raised concerns during our recent winter sitting about the way that Nunavut Tourism spends its \$1.8 million in contribution funding that it receives from the government.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the government's upcoming review of its grants and contributions spending includes a detailed examination of the value that we get from Nunavut Tourism? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't commit that we will review a specific organization but I will assure the member that we will probably be looking at core funding that goes to certain organizations. Perhaps all organizations will be reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for North Baffin, Mr. Shooyook.

Question 059 – 4(2): Polar Bears as a Threatened Species

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): My question is directed to the Minister of Environment. I'm rising today regarding the *Species at Risk Act* which the polar bears are in because of global warming. The people who identify these kinds of things never really come up north and specifically look at the situations of the polar bears. It seems that they reach their own conclusions.

As a minister, what is your opinion in relation to whether the polar bears are at special risk in the future because of global warming? Do you believe that they are in jeopardy in terms of ice platforms melting earlier? 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. I thank my fellow MLA for asking this question in relation to polar bears being at risk. I can only state what has been utilized in relation to whether the polar bears' futures are at risk. DOE and other co-management partners, NTI, NWMB, RWOs, and HTOs, successfully prevented the up-listing of polar bears to Appendix I under CITES.

CITES keeps tabs on various species of animals that they think are being endangered. The polar bears were put into that category last year because the GN, NTI, NWMB, and the federal government were able to raise our management situations where we had stated that we manage our polar bears quite well over the past several years. That is all I can say in relation to the management of the polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to tell Mr. Shooyook, in relation to the opinion, it should not be in Oral Questions. Your first supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The polar bears are increasing as far as my knowledge is concerned. I don't see their numbers becoming depleted because each community would be experiencing.

However, on the contrary, every community, the polar bears are becoming more of a problem because they come right into the communities. It

is becoming quite a concern because the polar bears are becoming a problem.

Why do people like that keep talking about how the polar bears are decreasing in numbers and that their numbers are becoming depleted. So naturally it is only because their numbers are increasing that the communities are experiencing polar bear problems.

It is the polar bears that are endangering people's lives by infringing on their settled communities; they maul people and try to eat them alive and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. This winter, the Department of Environment indicated during the winter session that a lot of activity has been directed to the management of polar bears.

Once the studies and so on have been completed, we will give a summary, an indication on their condition. We do know, as a government, that the numbers have increased. If there is to be a new management review in relation to the polar bears it would be different than what already exists and we would indicate that. We are aware that many hunters have indicated a problem with polar bears coming into their camps.

I will be able to elaborate this more in our fall sitting in relation to their current situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a minister, what is your conclusion, because ever since the 1970s, there has been a quota system imposed and still in existence today because every time the polar bears come into the communities, people try to drive them away and then they break cabins and equipment and yet the hunters are penalized every time there is a self-defence kill and especially so in the summer time when they start to becoming a problem.

If too many polar bears come in during the summer they are disposed of and so their numbers are taken away from the community's quotas and also the polar bears, the studies have been done on them and so their bodily functions become different and when helicopters are tranquilizing them and subjecting them to unfamiliar sounds and so on, they develop aggressive behaviour. When too many polar bears have started coming into communities, the quotas are depleted.

I think that it would be better if...due to the endangering of people's lives do you have any considerations in terms of doing away with counting the self-defence killed bears as no longer being included in decreasing the quotas. 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. I thank the

member for asking that question. In my Minister's Statement, I indicated that when studies are done on polar bears, they will no longer be tranquilized. The use of tranquilizers will no longer be permitted during research.

Mr. Speaker, we are working to revise the policy in relation the polar bears and in different to the provisions of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The government will be utilizing more of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as it pertains to scientific research. What used to be used in relation to research, the community HTOs were able to take part in terms of developing new policies. Once the policies in relation to polar bears are done, we would be able to present a tabled document in relation to that this fall. When it is finally completed and condensed into everything...

At the current time, I still have to listen to opinions and not say in the future I will be making a decision regardless of this or that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 060 – 4(2): Proposed Merger between Canadian North and First Air

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

My Member's Statement spoke for itself, so my questions today will be extremely short and to the point.

Does the Government of Nunavut have a position on the proposed merger between Canadian North and First Air, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. I too will provide a short and concise answer and they too will be clear. I can state today, Mr. Speaker, that we will be preparing our own position. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Government of Nunavut make a formal submission to the federal Competition Bureau concerning its review of the proposed merger between Canadian North and First Air, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated earlier that we will need to be preparing not if they will be continuing to proceed with the merger. We are not dealing with the merger. Other bodies are dealing with it and not us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of policy, does the Government of Nunavut support competition in the airline industry, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can state today that as a government, the transportation with airlines, whether there is one, two, or three airlines, and we know we all use them; everybody uses them. We all use whatever airlines there are because basically we travel by air across each region.

However, we are not responsible for dealing with the merger or reviewing what the pros and cons are of the merger at this time. Another government is dealing with it.

So, due to that, after it has been completed then we, too, will have our say. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 061 – 4(2): Senior Personnel Secretariat

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier, who is responsible for the government's Senior Personnel Secretariat.

Information provided to the Legislative Assembly last week indicated to the government paid just over \$300,000 in performance bonuses to its deputy ministers and heads of Crown agencies during the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Although I recognize that this practice is not uncommon in governments across the country, Nunavummiut need to have confidence that spending of this nature is justified. Can the Premier explain the government's methodology for determining the amount of the performance bonus payments that is awarded to its senior management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the methodology; I can explain that it is a formula based on the pay scale, performance, bonus pay, and merit pay.

Bonus and merit pay will not exceed the deputy head's pay scale. There is a limit to the bonus and merit pays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that we need to attract confident people to work in the government. However, it is also important that we lead by example and to ensure that the compensations that we award are reasonable and affordable.

Can the Premier indicate if the government will make any changes to its system of compensation for senior officials? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Arviat, as always, is absolutely right. We are in competition with the rest of the nation and other jurisdictions. It is very difficult to compete with bigger jurisdictions, like NWT, Yukon, and the provinces.

We do have to try and maintain good quality deputy heads, and this is one way of attracting and retention. At this time, there is no initiative change that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a number of Canadian jurisdictions, information concerning the remuneration for the government's most senior officials is publicly released on an annual basis; this helps to determine waste and abuse. Will the Premier commit to ensuring that information for the Nunavut Public Service is publicly released on an annual basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as MLAs and Cabinet members, we do have to table

our remunerations and our expenses and everything else, so do the regular MLAs.

These are public funds; to be open and transparent; I cannot see why we should not be able to do that with our deputy heads and our senior personnel. It is one of the things that most jurisdictions are doing and it's one of the things I want to see happening because this is public money, this is tax-payer money and we do have to be responsible for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 062 – 4(2): Operations of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask (interpretation ends) My questions are for the minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The community of Baker Lake is proud to be the home of Qulliq Energy Corporation's head quarters. Over 40 employees of the corporation work at the head quarters.

However, the community continues to be concerned that the corporation's most senior executives, including the position of president, are located in the community of Iqaluit.

Can the minister clearly explain why the corporation's own president is not located at the corporation's headquarters in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik.* Hon. Minister of Energy, Mr. Kuksuk. *Mamianaq* Hon.

Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been ongoing for quite some time. Having the president located in Iqaluit and not in Baker Lake gives us a good working relationship. He gives us information on what is going on at the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I just want to advise the member that we are continuing to review the operations of the corporation and we would like to leave it that way for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the government's most recently tabled quarterly employment report, the Qulliq Energy Corporation had a total of three executive level positions and seven senior managers.

Can the minister clarify how many of these executive and senior management positions are located at the corporation's headquarters in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, there are numerous vacancies, so it is difficult to provide exact figures at this time. I cannot inform the member how many of the corporation's headquarters are in Baker Lake, but the

chief financial officer, who is very senior, is in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. According to the government's most recently tabled quarterly employment report again, the Qulliq Energy Corporation had a total of three executive level positions and seven senior managers. However, none of these positions were filled by Inuit. Can the minister indicate what steps are being taken to improve this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question from the member. What we are doing is trying to look for the positions to be filled by Inuit in Baker Lake. We are hiring summer students to pique the interest of young Inuit to work for the corporation. That is what we are doing at the present time with the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 063 – 4(2): Kimmirut Public Housing Unit 1-A

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct

my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, just over a year has passed since a tragedy occurred in Kimmirut involving the deaths of three residents. However hard it may be to deal with, I want to make it clear that I'm talking about an incident where a murder-suicide occurred.

The housing unit where the incident occurred has been left untouched and remains unoccupied. As the minister will understand, this had had a negative effect on the community's healing process, as the abandoned housing unit stands as a daily reminder of the tragic event.

Can the minister provide an update on the discussions that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has had with Kimmirut's local housing association and the municipal council to find a way to resolve this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I agree with the member that this tragic incident that happened in Kimmirut and the housing unit being unoccupied. I can say today that this is being resolved at this time. Nothing has come to my attention with respect to what kinds of stuff they want to resolve. I realize that the relatives of those people have had a hardship and we have to think resolving it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of partners, including the Department of Health, the RCMP and the municipality itself have been working together to help residents of Kimmirut in responding to this tragedy. Can the minister indicate how the NHC has been involved in supporting the community's healing process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that this was a tragic incident for the community of Kimmirut, especially for the relatives. With that, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the local housing authority, Government of Nunavut, the hamlet council, and the relatives of the people that were involved in the tragedy were talking to each other to find out what they want to do with respect to the tragedy that occurred. That house that the member is talking about will be renovated, and be set aside to be occupied. Perhaps it will be used for staff housing for people that go to Kimmirut for short-term work. That is the plan that we have in place at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The local housing association in Kimmirut is elected by residents to decide on local housing

matters. Can the minister clarify if the Local Housing Authority has the authority to make the final decision concerning the disposal of public housing units in situations such as the one that is currently facing Kimmirut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The local housing authority does have the authority on housing matters. Mr. Speaker, I can tell my colleague that for capital items that are owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we cannot direct a community to change the intended use of the building. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act*, they would require legislative approval in order to do that. I would like my colleague to understand that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 064 – 4(2): Support for Nunavut’s Nursing Graduates

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to warm the minister up for the Committee of the Whole meetings this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the minister’s commitment to employ all Nunavut nursing graduates who complete their course of study at Nunavut Arctic College. I recognize that in order for these individuals to work as

nurses, they must pass the national exam.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide further information on what kind of supports and assistance are provided to our newly graduated nurses to help them prepare for and, hopefully, pass the national nursing exam? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I will attempt to answer the question, but I don’t know all of the things that are done through Arctic College. We want to hire all of the graduates. They get a number of supports from the government in efforts to get them to work for the Department of Health.

Anyone, especially Inuit, get financial assistance for taking the Nursing Program. When they are trying to get a job, they can be hired by the companies that handle the agency nurses. Some of them end up wanting to work for those companies. What kind of support do they get? I will give you more details once I gather the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response and I look forward to that information. Even after four years of intense study and practical training, there is quite a

challenge for any newly graduated nurse in this country to start out in a new job.

Can the minister describe what mentorship positions are established so that experienced nurses can mentor and support our newly graduated nurses until they get comfortable in their new positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) My apologies for calling you Chairman earlier. The nursing program graduates are getting more and more numerous, and we are very happy about that.

Some nurses want to work as casuals and others want to work as agency nurses, and once they hit the workforce, we are trying to see how we can support them further once they have started their careers. We are trying to implement some sort of support program for these new nurses, either at the hospital or in clinics, to see how we can train them and make them more proficient if needed. That is one of the things we will be planning for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased to hear that the nursing at Nunavut Arctic College currently has 20 students registered. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will agree that it would be a terrible waste of time and effort investing in our nursing students if they do not make it through four years of tough and grueling studies only to face

barriers to working because they have difficulty in passing their national exam or do not get additional on-the-job support.

Will the minister commit to putting a comprehensive system in place to ensure that adequate support is available to Nunavut's newly graduated nurses so that they are in the best possible position to become full-time nurses in Nunavut's health care system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are committed to supporting our nursing graduates and our department is committed to looking at opportunities for retention and recruitment of graduate nurses and other nurses across Canada and elsewhere; we will continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 065 – 4(2): Considering a Board of Management for the QGH

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

Mr. Speaker, last week, I asked the Minister of Health whether any consideration has been given to establishing a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital. She

replied that her department had not considered the idea.

I then asked the Minister of Finance where the governance of the Qikiqtani General Hospital would be addressed under the government's upcoming program review. He replied that he would talk to the Minister of Health to see if she was willing to consider it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health whether she would be willing to direct her officials to consider the option of establishing a board of management at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. 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 continues to review its operations to improve the delivery of health care services, including management structures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under a board of management model, decisions can be made much more quickly than they can under a governmental bureaucratic model.

Has the minister been made aware of any issues or situations at the Qikiqtani General Hospital that are taking a significantly long time to resolve because of the slow-moving nature of

our government's bureaucratic process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank the member for that question. I have not heard of any that has created any slowness in our department, but the hospital is managed by the Department of Health and the hospital executive director directs to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations within the department. That is the current status. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that under the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the regional health boards were dissolved and this resulted in changes in how health services across the territory were organized.

I also appreciate that the Client Relations Office is now in place to handle complaints or enquiries about health services.

However, a hospital board of management would not replace either of those entities. A hospital board would be made up of a group of individuals with expertise and commitment to the efficient operation and management of the hospital.

Will the minister agree to work with her officials to consider the establishment of a board of management for the Qikiqtani

General Hospital and report back to this House on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*. Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the creation of Nunavut and the three regional health and services board they were dissolved. Since then the services that they used to provide have been administered through the government's Department of Health and Social Services and now the Department of Health.

As part of the program review, there may be an opportunity to review governance of the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 066 – 4(2): Patient Complaints Review

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the same minister, the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure when it was I asked the minister personally – someone went to Repulse Bay once, maybe not just Repulse Bay. There was a worker that went to check on patients that go to the hospital that say they are mistreated or not treated properly. There was a group of people that came and talked about that.

Can the minister explain what happened during these visits, the results of these visits, please? Thank you.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to respond properly to my colleague's question, however, maybe you should approach me personally and not through a sitting of the House. Tell me who the person was, when this happened, and what was the purpose. I'll be able to respond to him personally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members will note that the time for question period has expired. I have no more names on my list for Oral Questions. Thank you. Item 7. Written Questions. Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like permission to return to Item 5 on the orders of the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Ell is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Ell.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not often I recognize a sibling in the House, and I'd like to recognize my brother, Jerry Ell. Welcome to the Gallery. He has done so many things and does a lot. I'm not going to attempt to name what they are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Questions. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 013 – 4(2): Legal Services Board of Nunavut Annual Report 2012-2013

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Annual Report of the Legal Services Board of Nunavut for 2012-13. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2 and Bills with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:14 and Committee resumed at 15:39

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2 and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Health, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Health?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that Minister Ell's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please allow the witnesses in the Chamber.

Minister, for the record, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is

Rosemary Keenainak, Deputy Minister, and on my left is (interpretation ends) Interim Director of Corporate Services Johan Glaudemans. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are ready once again to go line by line with the budget. Please turn to page H-4. The floor is now open for questions on page H-4.

Before we start, I would like to remind members that I am going to be exercising my discretion as Chair to enforce Rule 77(2) in order to allow members to ask questions more than once but not until all members who wish to ask questions have done so. Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and thank you. Welcome, hon. minister and your officials. I think we are on page H-4. I have a question in relation to telehealth. We have discussed that we will be using telehealth one day. In the interest of fidelity, we have asked questions in relation to this.

Some of us have said that telehealth is underutilized. I would like to be enlightened as to how they promote the use of telehealth as a means of communication, for patients visiting hospitals, or where patients could be talking with their counterparts using telehealth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Telehealth has been operational in the 25 communities. For

example, total usage was 5,386 hours last year. The frequency of use has increased over the last three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask about the [3,586] hours of use. Is this a lot or not? Can there be an increase? Along this line, Mr. Chairman, if you can allow me to ask these questions together, as this is being implemented, for patients who otherwise would have had to travel for treatment at a hospital, has this resulted in cost savings that would have been incurred? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stated that the total usage was 5,386 hours. We anticipate an increase in the number of hours of use ever since its use. Telehealth has actually decreased the number of trips patients could have taken. In 2012, for example, 50 patients who would have required kidney operations were diagnosed through telehealth. That is just one example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Enook drew attention to the telehealth program, which I have spoken to a few times in this Assembly, and I truly recognize its value in alleviating patient travel.

The number of hours that were mentioned of use over the past three

years, how many of those hours were health professionals communicating with their southern counterparts to actually alleviate patient travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact numbers in front of me, but Health had partnered with health care providers in Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, and Manitoba to expand telehealth programs and services and offer our staff best practices in monitoring services. Health has migrated to a new telemedicine network, which allows for more network use, improving the telehealth service available for health care providers and their patients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was recently speaking to a young mother from an outlying community and she stated to me that she was very appreciative of the telehealth infrastructure, as she used it to communicate with her husband, who wasn't able to travel down to Iqaluit for the birth of their child.

Do you have any numbers on how often telehealth is used for patient communication with families back at their home communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a breakdown, but the usage across all categories - clinical

services, education, administration, and family visitation - is up by 24 percent in 2013-14, with clinical services accounting for 53 percent of all traffic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names. Department of Health. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$23,200,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch Summary. Health. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$17,857,000. Agreed? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page H-5, I thought this was included. It mentions public health in the English copy. If dental and eye examinations are included in there, Mr. Chairman, I have some questions on those subjects.

Mr. Chairman, it is very expensive to bring in eye specialists, dental therapists, and so on. I have mentioned that their visitation is not very long, even if there are a lot of people who need to be seen. People have taken as long as two years between the specialists coming into their community.

You may not be able to answer, but how are you considering on making improvements on the visitations of specialists like dentists and ophthalmologists, who provide glasses, and so on, to increase their number of visits, especially for the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Community visits are pre-determined. As to the number of days they could be visited, for budgeting purposes, the federal government identifies how many trips they can be funded. They occasionally increase the budgets a bit.

We are always trying to work in improving the delivery of dental health. For example, there has been an increase of 132 days with dental-related visits and 25 days for the Kivalliq region for the small children who needed sedation in order to have their teeth either fixed or filled.

Since March 31, 2013, there have been more dental services, and we would like a reduction in dental cases for small children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She stated that there has been an increase of 132 days. Which year was the increase? Where do the 132 days come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. This is a number of days that the dentist could visit each community in the Baffin region, and it was increased by 132 days for the dentist to visit the 13 communities in the Baffin region. The grand total is much more than that looking at this year. There are

people who need dental surgery done, denturists, and paediatric dental work needed to be included. The total number of days for the Baffin region is 308. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the contract for dentistry, there were a number of contractors competing to provide dental services. I don't know if your department was involved, but I would like an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. At this time, in the Kivalliq and Baffin regions, there is a judicial review. The government is in the procurement process to provide contract services for the travel of those dentists, which are under judicial review at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know when this judicial review will be over. If I can continue, Mr. Chairman, during the judicial review, what is the impact to the dental services being provided here in the north? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to say that the Department of Health is going to continue providing dental services under the Non-Insured Benefits

Program. I can't really say anything while it's under judicial review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is aware that we had a problem in Pond Inlet with respect to dental services. I'm not sure whether the other communities have any problems similar to us. You usually send people, for instance, to Churchill, Manitoba for dental services. Can you give us a brief description of whether this is going to continue and at what stage you are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's usually some funding available from the federal government to send people south for dental services to make sure that dental services provided to children are not as many. It was good that we were provided funding by the federal government, but we're in discussions with the federal government for us to request some funding to continue to send those people down to Churchill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that this is going to continue as long as funding is provided by the federal government? Is it okay for the other communities to have problems in their community with respect to dental services as long as it's good enough in the eyes of the

Department of Health? Do I understand that to be the case? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked my department from the legal department to see what else we can do and we were told that we can't do anything else and we're going to continue to provide those services that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's unfortunate. The communities, as you know, want to resolve their problems, that it should not be the only priority of the department to do those things. The minister has stated that this is going to continue, but unfortunately, for our community, there is no other way to do it because the minister has stated so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were told that if we tried to look for other things, it would infringe on the Charter of Rights. We're talking about the elders. We were advised by the elders and we have to think about the people in the communities. We could just ask them to do it, but to make sure that the elders will have to tell us what infringement might occur. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we're going to serve

the public, we have to be aware that there are going to be problems that arise and we have to be involved. That's what I believe in. We have to provide better services to the people of Nunavut and if the services are not provided properly, then we have to try to help them out. As the minister, you said that we will not be looking at this again to see how it would be dealt with a lot better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The Department of Health has a job to provide medical services to the public to lessen their illnesses. Young people have dental treatment and that's what we're trying to provide so that less young people can have dental services provided to them. We're trying to eliminate them and we have to try to make sure that elders who are provided medical escorts in Churchill... We have told those medical escorts that they have to make sure that they have to be aware of what is happening when they provide medical escorts for children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand your response, but what my question is, is that we want to provide good medical services for the people of Nunavut and we have to provide a better service for them, but the way it is right now, it's not adequate. We don't follow what we're supposed to follow. I think we have to look for a better way of providing those kinds of services for kids with respect to

escorting children for dental services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond to that question, Ms. Keenainak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, we have to talk with Health Canada as to how we can resolve this. I know that at the hospital here in Iqaluit, there are a lot more children who are given anaesthetic to provide dental services for them and we're trying to look for a better way to deal with it and to make sure that they don't go as many times to Churchill, Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last question, Mr. Chairman, if I get a good response, I won't ask a question again. The hon. minister said that and I understood her to say that there's no other way that we can provide dental services for children. However, the deputy minister stated that you will have to talk to Health Canada with respect to dental services for children who have to be given anaesthetics. How am I going to respond to the people of Pond Inlet with respect to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are administering on behalf of Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I able to tell the people of Pond Inlet that the Department of Health is just providing what they have to according to what the federal government wants? Can I tell them that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the member can clarify his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): It doesn't matter whether I make... . What I'm trying to say is that the way it is right now, there is a problem. Can you look into exactly what the problem is? The way it is right now, it's not adequate and we feel that it's not adequate. Is there any other way that you can resolve it? That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut is delivering the program on behalf of Health Canada and we are the ones who provide the funding. We're provided additional money to deal with the backlog paediatric dental issues. We can approach them and talk to them about how we can reduce the waiting list.

The issue is the availability of specialists is limited. We don't have them in Nunavut, but we are trying to see, as I indicated, with an increased usage of the operating room here in Iqaluit right now, dialoguing with Manitoba and Health Canada. The best place at the moment is the Churchill health facility where they have the facilities and the specialists that we're able to access.

Moving forward, we can bring the issue of the incident that happened in Churchill, particularly for the residents of Pond Inlet, and we can talk to them about options to try to reduce the number of children who are on the waiting list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deputy minister, are you telling me that I can tell the people of Pond Inlet that you are just representatives of Health Canada and you will have no choice but to go to Churchill for dental services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): I can't respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I thought you were working under an agreement. How many years will that agreement stand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated, it's one-time funding and we got it and it was already over. It ran and ended. Right now, we're trying to come up with a new agreement in an effort to reduce the number of children who need dental surgery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we go to the next member, I just want to remind members that the purpose of our meetings during Committee of the Whole is the review of the GN's proposed 2014-15 budget. I suggest to members that we stick to the issues as they are related to the proposed budget. Thank you.

Next, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the contract for dental services is done through the Government of Nunavut, I believe that it is relevant to continue on a couple of questions. There are a couple of numbers that were given to my colleague, Mr. Enook, that kind of piqued my interest.

When this charter had to take place to go to Churchill, from what I recall, 120 children were flown to Churchill to receive paediatric dental services.

When I looked at the RFP for the dental services for the Baffin region that was

issued on November 30 of 2012, I see a number for the paediatric dental services as a minimum of 48 days at the Baffin Regional Hospital in Iqaluit.

With these services that were provided in Churchill, is that in addition to what's necessary under the contract or is that exempting services being provided here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the specific details that the member is referring to, but we do have a very high waiting list in the regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The minister led right into my next question. How extensive is that waiting list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking for that figure; I saw it somewhere, how many are on the waiting list. Hold on, please.

Just so I don't have you all waiting, Mr. Chairman, we will give you the details once we have them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the number of days that dental services are to be provided to Nunavummiut under this contract for the

Baffin region itself, I took the liberty of going through the RFP.

Using my calculator, Minister Peterson, I was totalling up the days of dental services from the different categories from general practitioner denture services, which my colleague, Mr. Sammurtok brought up recently, orthodontist services, oral surgeon services, paediatric dental services, and treatment planning for dental services, the total I came up with is 1,088 days of dental services across Nunavut per year.

Just for the Baffin region itself, I know I realize that's stretched out over a number of different communities, but to me, there should almost be a dentist going full time and then some in the Baffin region alone.

Is the minister able to assure me that these commitments under the RFP are being met by the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to mention, the total number of contracted general dentist days for the communities per year totalled 1,692. In Iqaluit, it was around 50.

With your question, I'm not a doctor, but I can tell you that the dentists, oral surgeons, and things like that need a facility. They can't just be going to the communities. Right now, the services are not available.

Children between the ages of zero to seven years need to be assessed by a dentist for oral health issues and referrals

need to be made to the dental professionals for preventative and restorative procedures. You need the clinical profession and with that, you need a group to deal with the oral surgery that has to take place with some of these children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that it needs an oral health care group and, again, I've got a listing from the RFP that was put out late in 2012. I won't bore everyone with the listing of all the practitioners, but when you're stating that those services are not available here, isn't that a condition of the contract that's in place right now to provide those services and those professionals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the contract that the member is referring to in front of me, but I can assure you that Health Canada and Health meet regularly to review the contracts, including the days that are needed in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you again, Chairman. I do understand, Minister Ell, how challenging it is sometimes to get professionals here, but at the same time, one of the things that you mentioned is a lack of ability for the hospital here to take care of the operating room and the clinical room.

We have quite a fairly new wing to our hospital right now, and I have to question how our infrastructure here in Iqaluit is not capable of handling dental services. Would the minister maybe be able to educate me on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this is a clinical question, but the new wing that he is referring to, at the present time, is being taken up by offices for the doctors and renovations are still continuing up at the hospital where they would be.

Currently, there are two operating rooms for surgeons. Those also have to be used for emergency basis, but I do know that there are discussions on how best to proceed with using that facility to include oral surgery. I do know of a few cases that will be happening here in Iqaluit next month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I as well do not have a copy of the contract in front of me and I understand there is some litigation that you mentioned earlier, but in the RFP, which is to meet what the contract would be based upon, it states that the contractor will submit to the regional dental coordinator, territorial dental coordinator, as well the benefits coordinator for health insurance programs on a quarterly basis an updated travel calendar. Is that calendar being submitted on time and is it being adhered to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer that question to my assistant deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister had previously indicated, Health Canada and the Department of Health do meet on a regular basis to ensure that the contractors are abiding the number of contract days in each community.

There are also meetings with contractors and the reports that they provide on a regular basis to make sure that they are meeting the obligations that are set out in the contract that was advertised in the RFP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand correctly, those meetings are occurring on a regular basis so that means that that calendar is being adhered to and all these community visits are happening as scheduled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Yes. I would like to get my deputy minister, Ms. Keenainak, to respond to that.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say an affirmative until I confirm with my staff. For sure, when the last meeting was, and things

like that. We can provide that at a later time, just to confirm. Based on the information that I have, there are regular dialogue with Health Canada on the contracts, as well as with the contractors. To actually confirm the type of information, I would have to get back to the member through the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I totally understand, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for that response. I look forward to the information.

I am going to switch gears and go into the Public Health portion. According to the department's business plan the Public Health branch no longer has a stand alone TB and nutrition provisions. I'm assuming that these are being looked under more of a division of the Department of Health.

How is this organizational change improved the education and the access to healthcare under TB and nutrition across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will hand this over to my deputy minister, Ms. Keenainak.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reorganization under the Chief Medical Officer of Health I think has provided better leadership around health promotion and protection. These particular files are quite active still within the Department of Health. We do

still have specialists that are dealing with tobacco and also tuberculosis. I don't think there has been a reduction in the level of work that's happening. Actually, there is more activity and better leadership on those particular files. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 101 of the business plan in the priorities of 2013-2014, the very last bullet; it talks about as part of the Public Health Strategy to develop priorities to support the strategies and goals that was tabled in 2010-2011. In the status it is work is underway on the next phase of the consolidated public health program.

Can the minister update the members on what status currently is on that strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will hand this over to my deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is working on the public health renewal rather than calling it strategy, which usually has a set timeline. We're working on something that's called public health renewal. It's going to be replacing that. Some of the activities we're doing is we are integrating public health protection and public health strategy initiatives and how it's organized in the main estimates now. The intent of the renewal is that it's going to strengthen public health

programming that is more evidence based and more responsive to community needs.

We are hoping that the department will be able to present something in the upcoming year. As an example, internally there was a stake-holder meeting held in October to move forward on some ideas and initiatives that would be part of the healthcare renewal program. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last question. I am sure a number of my colleagues have questions on medical travel and a number of other issues under this category. Also, on the business plan, page 101, it is introducing a new public health act in 2013-14; it had proceeded through the legislative process. When can we expect to see a legislative proposal to look at the public health act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are expecting that this public health act could be rolled out in 2015.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on my list is Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is how many health inspectors do we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I hand

this over to my deputy because I do not exactly know how many inspectors we have.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to make any assumptions so I will have to get back to the member through the minister. I know there is at least one environmental health officer in each of the regions, and I think there may be two, but I would rather confirm that information for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How often do they inspect and monitor activities and the premises that may affect public health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the frequency of inspections of buildings that needed to be inspected, we do have them. However, I cannot locate them right this minute. Could the member ask a different question and I will get back to her later on this one?

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am told that in reference to the public facilities the inspections are frequent and they usually they visit or inspect them twice a year.

As far as the environmental health officers are concerned, (interpretation ends) the public facilities are regularly

inspected. Inspections occur a minimum of twice yearly, and are conducted by environmental health officers. Inspections occur without prior notification. Environmental health officers provide guidance and recommendations, and may issue an order to remediate or a closure order based on the findings of a risk assessment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I am just wondering as to how often they visit private businesses in the business of selling and serving food. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can tell the member that public facilities inspected regularly, but if concerns are identified during a routine risk assessment and/or if complaints are brought forward by the public, additional inspections can occur.

The environmental health officers can be reached through regional Department of Health offices, community health centres, or by contacting Public Health in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have often heard people talking about buying bad food at one of the stores, meat that is rotten, etc. Is this something that a health inspector would inspect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Environmental Health Officers assess the general sanitation of public facilities. Inspection requirements differ by the type of establishments, such as food premises, establishments that prepare, cook, store, or serve food, including caterers.

They also do tourist establishments, hotels, bed and breakfasts and tourists' homes, daycares, recreational facilities, gyms, community halls, pools and areas, personal service establishments, such as barbershops, hair dressers, tattoo parlours, massage parlours, tanning salons, and spas. Public housing units may also be inspected if a complaint is received.

The department is developing a communications plan to better communicate the function of the environmental health officer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is quite a list. I am wondering if the minister can provide with a list of the number of facilities that the health inspectors have inspected over the last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have that information in front of me, but I can commit to providing that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. That would be great to know.

Under population health, one of the services is to deliver public health programs, including food security and school health. Does this include breakfast programs for schoolchildren? If not, how does the Department of Health address this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The food security program includes breakfast programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I don't have any question, but I just wanted to state that I'm very glad to hear that because I think this should be a priority of the government to ensure that when children go to school that they have something to eat. It just leads to kids attending school more often and being able to learn better with a full tummy. Thank you. (interpretation) That's it.

Chairman: That was just a comment. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question, while we are talking about the subject of health on page 100. I know some of the members have asked questions in the same area, but I will ask from some other perspective regarding inspections, such as the water inspector that inspects drinking water.

There are reservoirs that trucks are used. My first is are those inspected too; the water reservoirs?

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy minister to answer the question. The first question had to do with the school breakfast programs. I just want to get my deputy minister to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add on to what the minister said about the breakfast program. It is funding that the department provides. It is community driven. So if the community identifies that as a priority that is one of the ones that the department would fund. I can also add that its part of the Food Coalition's food security strategy is one of the working groups under that food security are specifically on breakfast programs as well.

Onto the issue of environmental health officers, and inspecting municipal facilities like water treatment plants, that is what they also do as well. I forgot the rest of your question. Sorry, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions were answered. I would now like to ask a question about the water utilidors. In many Nunavut communities many do not have water utilidors, although they

have asked for them. Has the department looked into getting utilidor in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We don't have the response in front of us. I look into the member's question and get back to him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. On another topic that was asked by my colleague, do they just inspect the public houses that are being run by the housing association or do they also inspect privately owned houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): It's just got to do with public houses. We do not have anything written down that talk about private homes, but after we find out we can provide information to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. When they do inspections of public houses, do they do renovations? Do you do inspection of building codes as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The building code is not part of our job, but we provide anything to do with health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask a question in English. (interpretation ends) The *Public Health Act*, would that not impact the building codes when they are environmental health inspections? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I already answered the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are talking about the *Public Health Act*, in 2014-15, how many changes will you be making to the *Public Health Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is asking what changes will be made to the *Public Health Act*. The Act has been in existence since 1957. We want to make some changes to the Act to ensure that this is a new Act because today, human rights legislation have to be considered as well when we are making changes to the *Public Health Act*, promotions, and other changes to make it a little bit more new for today.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her answer. I will change my line of questioning. While we are talking about many peoples' health... I know that in Baker Lake they have a health representative committee. The health committee in Baker Lake works very hard. (interpretation ends) The grants and contributions section of your draft main estimates includes \$250,000 to be allocated to community-based health committees or councils. Does every Nunavut community have a health committee or council? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community health and wellness committees are active in most communities. Community health development coordinators are also working with some communities, like Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Rankin Inlet, Sanikiluaq, and Gjoa Haven to start with their community health and wellness committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community health representatives in communities receive money, but the money is inadequate for their operation, and once they have spent their money, the health services integration fund, you have an amount of \$822,000. Can those committees access funds from that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlets receive a grant of \$10,000 each year to support them with their community health and wellness committee operations. The community health wellness centres can also apply for additional funding to support their health promotion projects and activities.

In terms of the health service integration funding, training framework for community health development coordinators is being developed, which will provide capacity building to support the community health and wellness committees this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here in Iqaluit, we all know that there is a fire at the dump and we are affected by the smoke coming from the fire. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Rumbolt. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder to all members that there's a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 29:

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

11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 29, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:58*

