



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 22

Monday, October 27, 2014

Pages 1154 – 1211

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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Hon. George Kuksuk
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Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)
Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, October 27, 2014

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 13:31

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut)

(interpretation): Thank you. Can you say the opening prayer, please, Ms. Ugyuk.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, fellow Nunavummiut, members, ministers, and interpreters. Welcome to the House. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 060 – 4(2):
Pathway for Adult Secondary
School Graduation**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and fellow Igloolik residents.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to my colleagues about the expansion of the PASS

program, Pathway to Adult Secondary School graduation.

The Department of Education is working closely with Nunavut Arctic College to deliver this program. Courses use curriculum content from the Alberta Distance Learning Centre, recognized by the governments of Nunavut and Alberta.

(interpretation) PASS helps Nunavut adults over 19 obtain the last few high school courses they need to earn their High School Diploma in their own communities, on their own time, outside of the high school environment.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, PASS is providing adult learners with the in-person support they need from trained facilitators in their community while learning directly from instructors outside of the community.

Mr. Speaker, in 2013-14, 26 students enrolled in the PASS program. PASS was being delivered in seven Nunavut communities and three PASS courses were offered, mostly, English 30-2, Social Studies 20-2, and PASS preparation.

(interpretation) This fall, 52 students are enrolled in PASS and the program is being delivered in six communities. Eight courses are being delivered: (interpretation ends) English 30-2, Social Studies 20-2, Math 20-2, Science 20, (interpretation) English, math, and science preparation courses, and Introduction to Online Learning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, through PASS, Nunavut adults are taking the preparation courses they need

to succeed in this unique learning program and getting the credits they need to graduate.

The PASS program supports our commitment to helping all Nunavummiut get the education they need to achieve their career and employment goals. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 061 – 4(2):
Federal Labour Market
Agreement for Persons with
Disabilities**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that Nunavut has signed a federal labour market agreement for persons with disabilities.

The agreement, which will see up to \$1.25 million transferred to Nunavut, will contribute to better understanding the employment barriers faced by Nunavummiut with disabilities and will help them transition into the labour market. This is a cost sharing agreement, so any federal money spent must also be cost matched by Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, consultations with our stakeholders suggest that there is a lack of accessible space for training persons with disabilities, a lack of support services for young people with disabilities, and a lack of employer education and support for working with and training persons with disabilities.

In short, we know that persons with disabilities face significant barriers to employment in our territory, yet we require more information on exactly what those barriers are and how to overcome them. To that end, this new funding will allow us to work with community groups and organizations on answering these questions and to create programming that will improve the employment outcomes of persons with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 3. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 137 – 4(2):
Harmonizing and Updating
Eligibility Criteria for GN
Programs**

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

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I spoke about this issue during our first session in March, and I was pleased that the Commissioner's Throne Speech that opened our Second Session announced that the government will be undertaking a program review initiative.

Mr. Speaker, an important concern that has emerged during this Assembly

relates to the different eligibility criteria for many of the government's programs, which can be very confusing for Nunavutmiut.

For example, during last Friday's sitting, I pointed out that people aged 60 and over can apply for the territorial Senior Fuel Subsidy Program, which is administered by the Department of Family Services, but you have to be 65 or older to apply for the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Program, which is administered by a different department.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is important that the government's current program review initiative look closely at the issue of harmonizing and updating the eligibility criteria for the government's different programs.

I also believe that it is important that we give some thought and consideration to the question of whether we should move towards a uniform age for the purpose of defining who is or is not a senior for the purpose of program eligibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 138 – 4(2):
Incorporating Inuit Societal
Values in our Government**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern that our government is not truly incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in

the way the people of Nunavut need it to.

Mr. Speaker, I have taken the time to read through the document tabled by the Minister of Culture and Heritage called "Incorporating Inuit Societal Values." This document lists different Government of Nunavut laws and activities that are supposed to reflect *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values.

I see many words on paper, but the actions of many government workers show that they do not use Inuit societal values to do their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I will give you an example. There is a section in the *Child and Family Services Act* which talks about using Inuit societal values.

Mr. Speaker, the core of Inuit societal values lies in the family. The family is the most important force in keeping our culture strong and thriving. Children must be kept together with their family members to learn life skills, Inuit values, how to deal with people, and solve their problems.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): However, this law also gives social workers the authority to pull families apart by taking away their children. The words about incorporating Inuit societal

values in this law are meaningless. They should not even be there. Every time a social worker rips a child out of their family, they are violating the most important principle of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. The law contradicts itself.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Culture and Heritage some questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 139 – 4(2):
Opening of Drop-in Centre in
Repulse Bay**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is to extend my congratulations to the Hamlet of Repulse Bay for the activities they provided on August 29. There was a ceremonial opening by the hamlet council of the local (interpretation ends) community centre. (interpretation) They renovated the building and changed the purpose to serve as a gathering place for youth and elders.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative received a lot of support, and I want to express my gratitude to all the people and organizations who contributed financially. The Nunavut government and the Kivalliq Inuit Association provided funding assistance to purchase equipment and materials required for the activities in that centre for youth and

elders. These bodies were able to assist in purchasing all of the required equipment and household items.

To date, this new centre is being utilized to the full by the people of Repulse Bay and residents are very grateful that it can be used by both groups in the community. With that reason in my mind, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Government of Nunavut, along with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, for their meaningful contributions that resulted in the people of Repulse Bay getting a facility that is useful and the groups now have a gathering place.

For that reason, I want to share this piece of good news and to celebrate this event, especially to thank the people who came up with this initiative, particularly the Hamlet Council of Repulse Bay and the residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 140 – 4(2): Lone
Graduate in Kimmirut**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the people who are listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate the only graduate of grade 12 in Kimmirut: Dustin Joanas.

Mr. Speaker, although the graduation ceremony was held this past summer in June, I want to take this opportunity to extend my congratulation and recognize his accomplishment for graduating high

school. Although it was unfortunate I was unable to attend to his graduation, I take pride in his achievement.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important for people to complete their high school education. Graduation is an important life event and we all know of its importance. Further, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we encourage the children and youth in our constituencies to pursue their High School Diploma, as we know it is a stepping stone towards pursuing post-secondary education.

Additionally, as per my previous statements in this House, many positions in Nunavut can be held by Nunavummiut who have graduated. This also applies to civil service positions. One of the goals of our government is to have a representative level in the public sector, and employment is closely tied to having a good education.

Mr. Speaker, join me in congratulating Dustin on his achievement and completion of his high school courses. We are very proud of him and hope he continues to work towards a better future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 141 – 4(2):
Clarification of Hospital Board
Issue**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to clarify my position on the establishment of a board

of management at the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that many of us are aware that prior to the year 2000, health services across Nunavut, and what was previously the Northwest Territories, were governed by regional health boards. These regional health boards were made up of representatives from every community across Nunavut.

In March of 2000, during the First Assembly of Nunavut, the *Dissolution of Boards of Management Act* received assent in this House and the regional health boards were dissolved.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister of Health's commitment to ensuring that communities remain engaged in the process of delivering health services across the territory, even though health services are now delivered directly by the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, in bringing forward the issue of establishing a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital, I am not suggesting to reinstating regional health boards. That is a topic for another day. Mr. Speaker, I wish to make it clear that I am asking the government to consider establishing a hospital board, a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

As a board of management, a hospital board would have governance and responsibilities in such areas as financing, policy-making, quality of care, performance evaluation, and strategic planning. It could also be made up of directors who are carefully selected individuals with various and

complementary levels of skill, expertise, and experience.

Earlier this session, I spoke of the merits of having such a board and I hope the government will give this issue serious consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 142 – 4(2): The Success of Megan Dialla

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 23 earlier this year, I rose in this House and paid tribute to one of our athletes who were heading out to the North American Indigenous Games. Mr. Speaker, on that day, I spoke of Megan Dialla, a 13-year-old Iqaluit resident who was invited to participate in badminton.

At that time, I made an error. I had mentioned that Megan had not won any medals and I have been stood corrected, Mr. Speaker. In 2012, she won a silver medal in a local competition here in Iqaluit; in 2013, a silver medal in a local competition in Iqaluit singles; in 2013, a gold medal in the Arctic Winter Games Territorial Trials Competition in doubles in Iqaluit; in 2013, a silver medal in a local competition here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very proud to say that Megan did participate in the North American Indigenous Games in Regina. At that time, with her parents Andrew and Sheila watching, in the under 16 doubles with her partner Mina Mannuk from Sanikiluaq, they won the silver medal while both of them playing through injuries to defeat the British

Colombia team. Mr. Speaker, they were both great ambassadors of Nunavut, along with the whole Nunavut badminton team, who won a number of medals under the great supervision of coaches Brad Mains and Tina Chen.

Mr. Speaker, Megan is now training to compete in the upcoming territorials in Iqaluit this November for a spot in the Canadian Winter Games in Buffalo, Alberta. I, and hopefully along with all the members, wish her luck in those games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 4. (interpretation) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 216 – 4(2): Affordable Prices and Food Security in Nunavut

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Inuit and Uqhuqtuurmiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Family Services.

On March 20, 2014, the Commissioner of Nunavut stated that it is essential for our government to continue to advocate for policy and legislation that support access to nutritious foods at affordable prices.

The results of the 2014 Nunavut Food Price survey indicate that the average cost of chicken in Nunavut is \$16 per kilogram. For the rest of Canada, the average cost of chicken is approximately \$7. Similarly, the average cost of apples in Nunavut is \$7 per kilogram. For the rest of Canada, the average cost of apples is \$4 per kilogram.

I recognize that the minister's department is currently involved with the Nunavut Food Coalition, which has released its Nunavut Food Security Strategy and 2013-16 action plan. Can the minister indicate what additional actions her department is taking to advocate for affordable prices for food within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. The department is progressing in the study of Nunavut food prices. As we received that information, we compiled it in August. This information is now available on the website. It affects the efforts to provide food, and I am sure that this program will help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I asked her a number of questions in relation to food security during our previous spring sitting.

On June 10, 2014, the minister indicated that the Nunavut Food Security Coalition would be making a five-year plan to address hunger in the short term. Can the minister describe what other specific issues this five-year plan will address, and when members can expect the plan to be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for requesting clarification on food prices. The program is going ahead and we're trying to see what causes the high cost of food. The program is still under review. We now know the food prices because they have been documented properly after the study. Now we're trying to find out what causes the high cost of food. We still need to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I'll try a different one.

In its 2014-16 action plan, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition indicates that one of its actions will be to "Utilize the results of the pilot Nunavut Food Price Survey...to help align income assistance food allowances with the cost of living in Nunavut."

Can the minister describe what specific actions her department is taking to align the current Income Assistance Program

to the cost of living in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. When the Department of Family Services conducted the homelessness survey, they met with various bodies, such as the bureau of statistics, the Department of CG&S, the Department of EIA, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, as well as with NTI. Due to holding these interagency meetings, we haven't reached the point where we have finalized our plans and action items in a written format.

I want my colleague to understand the point that next month, another meeting is being held here in Iqaluit and this will further our guidance on what needs to be undertaken. That is all I can respond with at this time to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 217 – 4(2): Environmental Health Officers

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Friday, I had some questions for the Minister of Health, Hon. Minister Ell. Mr. Speaker, in my line of questioning on that day, I was questioning on the ability of her department to carry out inspections of retail food sales. At that time, the minister had mentioned that she had to

look into some further information. Has the minister had a chance to look into that further information and could she respond today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services. (interpretation) I sincerely apologize to the members, as my hearing isn't what it used to be and my earpiece isn't working, so I couldn't hear what was said.

(interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Hon. Minister Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. [member] for the question. I would like further clarification. I think he asked me one question this week and it might be on the environmental health officers. If he can clarify his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please clarify your question. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies for not being clear for the minister.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the minister had mentioned that the Canada Food Inspection Agency had some responsibility here in Nunavut on looking at retail stores on outdated food, expiry and best-before dates. I have been led to believe that the minister has received further information regarding that line of questioning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The Canada Food Inspection Agency only deals with manufacturers and when certain foods need to be expired or have a best-before date.

Our environmental health officers are the ones in the communities that actually can go and look at the retail stores and outlets after a concern might have been raised by a community member asking something to be inspected. Once they have that conversation, they can go to certain retail outlets and/or other places to go take a look and investigate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The environmental health officers who participate in these inspections, are there health officers located in every community within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry for standing up before you gave me permission to speak.

We have only five environmental health officer staff. There is one in Cambridge Bay, one in Rankin Inlet, one in Pangnirtung, and two in Iqaluit. That is three in the Baffin region. The position in Rankin Inlet and the one based in Pangnirtung are vacant, and competitions have gone out to advertise

for environmental health officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that leads partially to my next question. Recently, the caucus had a retreat that was held in the community of Whale Cove, I believe it was, and a number of discussion topics came out of that.

While we're all awaiting with bated breath, I might say, Mr. Speaker, on the OAG's report on the Nutrition North program, would the minister be able to inform us of any discussions that were held at the cabinet retreat that focus on helping to provide healthy and nutritious food for all Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what his question is, whether it's to me or to the Premier. I'm not aware that this is a government priority, looking into having more environmental health officers in each of the communities. Currently, our environmental health officers inspect facilities regularly and visit each community at least twice annually.

As I said earlier, other inspections can occur if they are requested to do so. They normally inspect reservoirs, water sources, pumphouses, treatment and distribution of drinking water, water trucks and their operation. They also

inspect sewage lagoons and landfill sites.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 218 – 4(2): Supports for Social Workers

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

Mr. Speaker, after our hearings with the
Auditor General of Canada to discuss the
delivery of child and family services
across Nunavut, it was clear that there
are a number of gaps in service delivery.

Can the minister clarify whether her
department will be allocating any
additional funding or resources to
implement the *Child and Family
Services Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my
fellow MLA for requesting more
understanding on the delivery of child
and family services in relation to the
Auditor General of Canada into social
services activities. We are trying to
address this issue on a priority basis. We
have basically not been given specific
instructions as to what activities to
correct. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I recognize that there are
challenges in hiring skilled and trained
social workers in the Nunavut
communities. Can the minister provide
an update on what efforts are being
made in the area? Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my
colleague for that question. This coming
month, the employees will be having a
workshop and a meeting. The issues in
question will be addressed in terms of
the skill level of the community workers
because we have acceded to what the
concerns of the Auditor General of
Canada have been in relation to the
delivery of family services. Thank you,
Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I realize that the minister just
said that there's going to be a workshop
and some training opportunities coming
up in the near future, but I'm wondering
if you can describe what kind of training
opportunities you have now within the
department and whether or not you're
going to be allocating any additional
resources to ensure that more training
opportunities are made available on a
consistent basis. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Minister of Family

Services, Hon. Minister Ms. Ell.

(interpretation) My apologies. Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: ... (inaudible)...
Today is a good day. That's all I could say.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I kind of forgot the question a bit.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming months, in the workshop that I mentioned, there will be a training session. The staff will be trained in the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* of the communities and Nunavut. They will be able to learn more about their responsibilities and which kinds of systems could be most appropriate in addressing their responsibilities. We will be having discussions with the deputy minister in terms of how their training modules will be arranged. These are important functions of the community staff.

I apologize for being a little giggly today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. It was my mistake that led to this.

Oral Questions. Member for
(interpretation ends) South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

**Question 219 – 4(2): Adequate
Numbers of Health Care Service
Providers**

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

Mr. Speaker, it is widely known that the Department of Health faces challenges in maintaining the staffing levels necessary to provide stable medical services to Nunavummiut in their communities, whether the staff are nurses, doctors, or administrators. The department's challenge is compounded by their mandate as they juggle in trying to meet the needs of medical patients, proper diagnosis, and medical treatment and in arranging follow-up appointments for emergency cases and for ongoing medical treatment.

Can the minister tell us which communities currently have a full-time physician or physicians on staff? That is my first question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the question, I am not exactly sure which documents contain that information, as I don't have the documents containing that information about which communities have physicians.

However, what I can provide is the number of doctors in the Baffin region and there are 16 doctors. In the Kivalliq region, we have seven doctors, including a half-time casual position. In the Kitikmeot region, we have two doctors with another half-time position. We also have one anaesthesiologist here in Iqaluit, including a surgeon on call on a casual basis. We have 1.5 positions for this area. Also here in Iqaluit, we have a paediatrician who generally travels to

the outlying communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's common practice of the department to have a travelling physician or physicians make visits to the communities on a periodic basis when there is no full-time doctor.

Can the minister identify what are the current scheduling arrangements for this upcoming year, 2015, for doctors to make community visits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To reiterate, I don't have that information handy nor is it amongst the documents I have today. Since I don't have that information, I don't know the physicians' schedule for visiting the outlying communities.

However, with respect to hiring doctors, ever since 2003, we have increased the number of doctors. In reviewing the last 11 years to date, reaching 2013-14, the number of days doctors must attend to their duties has increased commensurately, roughly a threefold increase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response, but I would like to ask

another question on medical travel patients, as there are usually many patients from my constituency. Can the minister provide clarification on whether or not physician visits to the communities can be lengthened or the number of visits increased, especially to my two constituency communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As an example, the doctors, family physicians, and other clinicians who travel to the communities provided over 5,000 days of service across our territory. That's per year. I'll give his concern to my officials and take a look at the physician travel into the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 220 – 4(2): Incorporating Inuit Societal Values

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased and happy today because it's an enjoyable day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the Government of Nunavut is not truly incorporating Inuit societal values in the way it delivers services to the people of Nunavut.

On March 6, 2014, the minister tabled the report “Incorporating Inuit Societal Values,” which provides an overview of the Government of Nunavut’s activities and legislation which reflect *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values.

What is the minister doing to make sure that the legislated requirements in the areas of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values are being met by the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Culture and Heritage, Hon. Minister Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. It’s a very good question. I was very pleased to table the information on the progress of the Department of Culture and Heritage. We work with each government department and we try to provide support. When the other departments want to know more about Inuit societal values, they can contact us. We do have an elders’ committee and the language authority committee, and we also use them when we have to consider this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Child and Family Services Act* is one of the laws passed by this government which includes a section requiring that Inuit societal values are incorporated into the social services system.

However, it is clear that the traditional values of Inuit with respect to families and children are not being respected. There are very few Inuit social workers and the actions of social workers do not follow Inuit societal values.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that this law is implemented in the true spirit of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Culture and Heritage, Hon. Minister Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before, I work closely with my colleagues, my counterparts, and we also work with the departments. The legislative authority, for example, is the jurisdiction of each department. We are not responsible for their regulations in regard to Inuit societal values. We do have the opportunity, but I can’t answer for the other departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn’t get an answer to my question on Inuit societal values, and I believe that it is urgent now that we utilize Inuit traditional knowledge. Could you take the lead to make sure that Inuit societal values are incorporated as soon as possible? I would like to get a response since I didn’t receive a response to my question when I asked if you will incorporate Inuit societal values into the law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Culture and Heritage, Hon. Minister Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before, I'm not the minister responsible for his questions. The Department of Family Services has their own legislation to incorporate Inuit societal values. Our department provides support to the other departments when they try to incorporate Inuit societal values. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 221 – 4(2): Full-time Dentist for Rankin Inlet

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

Mr. Speaker, in May, I asked the minister about having a full-time dentist in Rankin Inlet. At the time, the minister indicated that there would be a full-time dentist residing in Rankin Inlet by this summer. Summer is gone and winter is definitely here.

>> *Laughter*

To date, dental services are still being provided by a visiting dentist for three to four weeks at a time.

Will the minister confirm that her department is still committed to having a full-time dentist in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. I haven't looked into this further. I know that we need to have a full-time dentist at this time in Rankin Inlet. I will look into this to see what the problem is because there is supposed to be a full-time dentist in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 222 – 4(2): Suicide Intervention Training for Social Workers

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, social workers across Nunavut are often involved in some very stressful situations. They provide support and assistance to families, children, and parents who are going through some difficult times. I am certain that on occasion, they face individuals who are despairing, without hope and suicidal.

Can the minister clearly explain why social workers across Nunavut are not required to take the ASIST suicide intervention training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for asking for clarification. The regional directors are now setting up this suicide intervention training. The regional directors are now setting the plans for ASIST, the suicide intervention training program, for social service workers this coming fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister just clarify if the ASIST training is going to be part of the seven areas of competencies that are required before a social worker can get their appointment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for requesting clarification on that. Your previous question was erroneous, as I didn't say that, as candidates must first take this training prior to being appointed as social services workers. What I was trying to state was that (interpretation ends) the regional directors (interpretation) make the arrangements for this training for their regional social service workers in applied suicide intervention skills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Education has indicated that even custodial workers within his department get ASIST training. Custodial workers do not face the same kind of stressful interactions that social workers do, yet they are provided with the training to recognize and address suicidal behaviour. Will the minister commit to ensuring that all social workers across Nunavut are given ASIST suicide intervention training as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member, I think, is giving the impression that the social workers don't take ASIST training. There are some social workers who have ASIST training. The regional directors are putting a plan together to have ASIST training for the social workers who don't have the ASIST training that is coming this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 223 – 4(2): Pathway for Adult Secondary School

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut.

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

Earlier during the Minister's Statement, the minister stated that the Pathway for Adult Secondary School program, which is being offered this fall, will have 52 students enrolled and will be delivered in six communities.

Can the minister provide members with a little more information as to which communities will be receiving this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking a very good question. Iqaluit, Sanikiluaq, Gjoa Haven, Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset, and Kimmirut are the six communities that I was referring to in my Minister's Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his information. Mr. Speaker, from reading the Minister's Statement on the PASS program, it seems to be a great way to have more educated people in our communities. Can the minister explain why this program is only being offered in six communities and not all Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These six communities have requested this program to be offered in their municipalities. I want everyone to know that these programs are available throughout Nunavut, so they are available. However, in this calendar year, we have only received the six requests from these communities, but it's open to all Nunavut communities. For example, the program is for anybody aged 19 years and over or anyone who would like to upgrade their education level. It's open to all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 224 – 4(2): Long-term Economic Planning for Baker Lake

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is very much aware, the operations of the Meadowbank mine near my constituency of Baker Lake have had a profoundly positive impact on the community, and I again pay tribute to the hard work and partnerships that have been the foundation of this success.

However, residents of the community understand very well that the mine's lifespan is scheduled to end in 2017 and that work needs to start now to address the long-term economic future of the community.

Can the minister indicate what steps his department is taking to help the community of Baker Lake begin planning for the post-Meadowbank era? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow Nunavummiut. I would like to thank the member for that question.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to economic development in Nunavut communities, the Department of Economic Development will always look at economic opportunities across Nunavut. We’re going to remain in support of the communities. I know that there is going to be a lot more development.

Whether a new mine is opening or one is closing, it will have an impact on the communities. However, we can’t work on these issues alone. It’s going to be up to the community, the hamlet council, and other entities to work together and plan for the “post-Meadowbank era.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Kiggavik mine project has recently taken some important steps forward. Can the minister confirm that this government will support measures to ensure that

residents of Baker Lake and neighbouring communities receive priority consideration for jobs, training, and contracting opportunities at the mine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In regard to mining projects, it’s a huge economic opportunity for people of Nunavut and for employment in the region, including the mine near Baker Lake. They’ve had that mine for quite a number of years now.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, there are a lot of plans that we have to look at. As I also indicated earlier, we will have to work together with the communities, the governments, and the other entities to look at development and economic opportunities. The community governments, regional Inuit associations, and corporations will have to work together to look at economic opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Outside of Rankin Inlet, the Meliadine mine project is also moving forward. It’s similar to the Meadowbank mine project and it’s also moving forward. Can the minister confirm that this government will support measures to ensure that residents of Baker Lake and

neighbouring communities receive priority consideration for jobs, training, and contracting opportunities at the mine? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, the community governments, hamlet councils, and regional Inuit associations will negotiate to make sure that the Inuit are representative in the operating mines. It's the community leaders, regional Inuit associations, and organizations that have to work together to create those economic opportunities. I would like the member to be well aware of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 225 – 4(2): Support for Parents

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought question period was going to be over before I got to ask questions, as Mr. Mikkungwak was going to have two chances.

Mr. Speaker, before I ask my question, good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut.

I would like to go back to the question that I brought up yesterday and I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services.

I will be looking at the *Hansard* just to make sure I got this straight. This is the *Hansard* for October 24, 2014. Mr. Speaker, I know that these are just the *Blues* and they are not final yet.

When I was directing my question to the hon. minister yesterday, which I will read from the excerpt from the *Hansard*, her response was, "This issue is very complex, as it's case by case."

Mr. Speaker, I asked questions yesterday about whether the parents get counselling when their children are taken away. My question was answered by the minister stating that "The reasons vary, depending on each case..." What does she mean by that statement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Tununig for that question. Yesterday, you didn't ask me any questions because it was Sunday. I believe you are referring to Friday.

When children are apprehended by social services, it is done so under different circumstances. There can be a voluntary agreement between the Department of Family Services and the parents.

The second one is the plan of care, where the parents and social service workers have meetings to look at the support services that are out there. Parents can receive counselling that way and they decide whether the child is

going to be under the care of social services.

The third one is going through the court system where the children can be apprehended from their parents. It is at the court's discretion whether the child will be under the care of social services for a certain number of months or if they are going to be under temporary warrant. As a last resort, the Department of Family Services asks the court if the child can be under permanent ward. That is the last resort taken by social services.

Those are the different avenues we use as a department when it comes to children and their apprehension, and that's what I was referring to yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't stop my mind from working overtime. I asked this question the day before yesterday and I apologize if I made a mistake. I must have been thinking about it too much. It seems like yesterday, but apparently it's not.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask this question. There are apparently three different routes that the Department of Family Services uses. Using those three ways, is there one way where the parents are just forgotten about right away? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The

Department of Family Services does not have any policies of not doing anything about children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me ask it this way instead so that it will hopefully make it easier to respond. When children are taken away from their parents, does the Department of Family Services have a policy where the children are allowed to go back to their parents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for requesting clarification on the process to return children to their parents. When a child is apprehended by workers, the first priority is to determine the possible return date of the child.

However, when the process includes a lawyer appointed by the family, the investigation is closed to the public by the social worker. The investigator has the ability to use whichever process they prefer, such as (interpretation ends) family court. (interpretation) The social service workers don't have the discretion to choose the process. Only the investigator has the ability to choose which process will be used. This is generally based on the lawyer's advice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 226 – 4(2): Laboratory Contract Services

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 23, I questioned the minister about blood samples collected by health centres from medical patients for testing by laboratories in the south via shipments. I wasn't clear enough in my line of questioning. To remedy that, I will try to be much clearer with my question.

Mr. Speaker, when samples are approved for shipment, as an example, from my constituency community of Repulse Bay, they are sent to Ontario for testing. This is a vast distance between the two places. Why was this set up in this manner, where the testing is done quite far from the communities? Does the minister know why such long-distance arrangements were undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question on this current system. At the time when blood sample testing and the process for collecting blood samples was set up here in Nunavut, the previous set-up was changed, as the testing was done closer at hand with samples sent to Edmonton.

The set-up was changed to Ontario when the transportation routes were reviewed to ensure the speediest route to southern locations. It became clear that the fastest

way was through First Air, as they have a daily flight to southern locations like Ottawa. In terms of the logistics of sending blood samples, it seemed much easier to use the daily flights to reach the laboratories earlier.

There is still freedom to send samples to other laboratories, especially in urgent cases or emergencies, so they do have that ability to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. That may be, but I live in Repulse Bay and it is also one of my constituency communities within the Kivalliq region, including Coral Harbour. Repulse Bay is only served by one airline, that is, Calm Air, as they are now the only airline flying into Repulse Bay. Additionally, the flight arrives late at night.

However, I would like to know if there isn't a blood sample testing laboratory in Manitoba. Is it due to not having this service available in Manitoba that it is sent elsewhere? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. The health system isn't very fast in processing these types of samples. The member raised that question last week and I committed to looking into the matter regarding Winnipeg as well as

the history of sending samples in the past. I'm still looking into this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 227 – 4(2): Crime Prevention Programs

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wow! I didn't think I would get the second question. Sorry.

My question is for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister is aware, the government's Community Justice Program has a responsibility to establish crime prevention programs in all communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2014-17 business plan, one of the department's priorities for the current fiscal year has been to "Develop a crime prevention strategy for Nunavut and [deliver] crime prevention programs in all regions of Nunavut." Can the minister provide an update on the status of this crime prevention strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to say that the meetings in all communities were attended very well. We compiled a lot of information that we can use to put the plans together. However, I can't fully respond to the question. Only after everything has been reviewed will I be

able to provide more information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ensuring the rehabilitation of inmates may prevent individuals from reoffending once they have been released from a correctional facility. One way to improve rehabilitation measures within the correctional system would be to provide more services to address mental illness and addictions.

The Northwest Territories and the Yukon have both established wellness courts to address such issues in their own jurisdictions. Members were recently informed by the department that the department has been considering establishing a wellness court within the Nunavut justice system.

Can the minister describe what specific actions his department is taking to establish a wellness court within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter is very serious and we can't just jump into it. We will have to review the *Corrections Act* to see how we can input *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit*. We're working closely with the Department of Health to see how the inmates with mental illness can be assisted further. The new facility, Makigiarvik, is going to be opening to help people with mental issues that have

to be confined. This matter is very difficult to work with, but we're still reviewing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information provided by the department indicates that as of February 2013, 74 percent of male offenders in Nunavut committed crimes after being released from the correctional facilities.

Mental illness and addictions can be significant factors in an individual's decision to reoffend after being released from correctional facilities. Can the minister specify what service his department is currently providing to address addictions and mental health issues within the territory's correctional system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we will be reviewing the law some more to see how we can improve the way we handle inmates to better accommodate them. The review will start this coming year. We have to look to see how we can further help people who have mental illness and addiction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members will note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to Item 7. Hon. Minister Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to (interpretation ends) Item 5 (interpretation) in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to (interpretation ends) Item 5. (interpretation) Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Mike.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for providing this opportunity.

The people I wish to recognize are very important pieces of my life and they are currently visiting the Gallery. I want to recognize my wife and daughter. I ask that they be welcomed into the House and to be acknowledged.

I am also quite pleased that my daughter was able to visit us here in Iqaluit, as I call her (interpretation ends) my little girl *Panik*.

(interpretation) I also want it known that I share the title of minister with my wife, Reverend Mike. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): I welcome the visitors to the Gallery. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening

Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation) I'm sorry. Mr. Hickes.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters*

**Committee Report 002 – 4(2):
Presentation of the Report of the Standing Committee on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the 2014 Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think Mr. Savikataaq is very pleased that you made that correction.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the 2014 Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Auditor General's report was tabled in the House on March 18, 2014 and was subsequently considered by the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts.

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 2 – 4(2).

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee held its hearings on the Auditor General's reports on September 16 and 17, 2014. The hearings were open to the public and news media to observe. The hearings were televised live across Nunavut. Transcripts of the hearings are available for downloading from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, the committee was very pleased to welcome Mr. Ronnie Campbell, Assistant Auditor General, and Ms. Michelle Salvail, Principal, from the Office of the Auditor General to our hearings. Both of these individuals have worked extensively on Nunavut audits in recent years and their expertise and input are much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I would further like to acknowledge the participation of witnesses from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Family Services during our hearings. Mr. MacDonald, the Acting Deputy Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mark Arnold, the Deputy Director of the Child and Family Services Division, and Mr. Ambrose Ojah, the department's Child Protection Specialist, appeared on behalf of the Department of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee was extremely disappointed that the director of child and family services did not attend the hearings, as his experience and direct involvement in exercising the specific authorities and duties required to implement the government's *Child and Family Services Act* could have afforded the committee greater insight to and perspective on the challenges facing the Department of Family Services in meeting its obligations to the children

and youth of Nunavut. The absence of the director of child and family services from the hearings raised some concerns.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to consider the historical context of the Auditor General's most recent audit on Nunavut's child and family services. The 2014 audit was a follow-up to the Auditor General's 2011 Report on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut. The objective of the 2011 audit was to evaluate the GN's performance in carrying out its own procedures and following its own laws in a number of areas relating to child, youth, and family programs and services in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the 2011 Auditor General's report included 20 recommendations with 14 recommendations addressing services relating to children and youth, 3 recommendations addressing adoption, 2 relating to public health, and 1 regarding program coordination between departments.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note the committee's disappointment with the lack of progress made by the government in addressing recommendations that were brought forward in 2011 with respect to concerns about services for children, youth, and families in Nunavut. It is important to keep in mind that no matter which Government of Nunavut department now has the mandate to provide services to children and youth in Nunavut, no matter how many changes may occur in reporting structures and no matter how many changes there are in personnel or infrastructure, the statutory requirements of the legislation, in this case the *Child and Family Services Act*, must still be met. As demonstrated in the Auditor

General's 2014 Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut, the level of compliance by the government in meeting its legislated requirements should be much higher than it is.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's 2014 Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut presented six specific recommendations to the government which bring greater focus to issues addressed in the 14 recommendations of the Auditor General's 2011 report. The recommendations in the 2014 follow-up report address the following thematic areas:

- Staffing issues;
- Meeting the standards of service delivery;
- Collecting and using information and data; and
- Engaging parents and communities.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee concurs with the recommendations of the Auditor General and notes that the government itself formally agreed with all of the Auditor General's recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, during the committee's proceedings, members raised many important issues and questions concerning the government's policies and practices relating to the delivery of services for children and youth in Nunavut and a number of themes and issues emerged during the standing committee's review of the Auditor General's most recent report to the Legislative Assembly.

Accordingly, the standing committee makes the following nine recommendations:

1. That the Government of Nunavut as a whole ensure that action plans which are developed to address issues raised by the Auditor General of Canada be provided to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts at the earliest opportunity.
2. That action plans produced by the Government of Nunavut to address such issues as those raised in the reports of the Auditor General of Canada are updated on a regular and consistent basis and that those updates be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on a regular and consistent basis.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee wishes to stress the importance of providing ongoing updates on the government's progress in achieving the objectives proposed in its action plans. The majority of actions proposed in the government's 2011 action plan are still "live" and the standing committee encourages the government to provide updates on progress achieved in other areas addressed in its 2011 action plan, such as the review of its adoption legislation, as soon as practicable.

3. That the Department of Family Services provide to the standing committee in a timely manner copies of all documentation and information that departmental witnesses committed to provide during their appearance before the standing committee on September 16 and 17.

4. That the Department of Family Services work closely with other Government of Nunavut entities to address staffing needs at the community and regional levels.
5. That the Department of Family Services take the necessary steps to ensure that all community social worker staff have the mandatory training required by law.
6. That the Department of Family Services continue to work towards developing and establishing key metrics and benchmarks by which to evaluate workloads faced by social workers and establish relevant and appropriate workload standards by 2015.
7. That the Department of Family Services continue to work towards developing and establishing an electronic case management system by which to collect, consolidate, and analyze information on children and youth requiring and receiving protection and care services.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee would note that this issue was not only addressed in its previous report on its review of the Auditor General's 2011 Report on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut, but was also highlighted in the standing committee's report on its review of the Auditor General's 2011 report. The committee is extremely disappointed at the lack of progress in this area.

8. That the Government of Nunavut continue to work towards developing

policies and practices to establish privacy safeguards for personal information that is provided in accordance with the law to entities such as designated Inuit organizations in the course of implementing the *Child and Family Services Act* or the *Adoption Act*.

Further, that the government review the necessity and effectiveness of the current statutory provisions in the *Child and Family Services Act* and the *Adoption Act* which involve entities such as designated Inuit organizations in the implementation of the legislation.

9. That the Department of Family Services give further consideration to developing programs and allocating resources to engage parents, families, and communities in finding solutions and strategies for keeping children safe, protected, comfortable, and secure within their home communities.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance of the family dynamic within Inuit societal values and society as a whole, it is critical that family and community members are involved in determining the best ways to deliver child and youth services in Nunavut and to ensure the safety of our children. Mr. Speaker, in recent deliberations in the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Family Services herself noted that this is an area which requires further implementation. The standing committee looks forward to seeing progress in this area in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I would note for the record that the standing committee is requesting

that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The report has been received by the House and will be entered into the record as read.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 011 – 4(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the 2014 fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Mr. Savikataaq.

Motion 012 – 4(2): Extension of Review Period for Bill 1, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Sorry.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

WHEREAS Bill 1, the proposed *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, received second reading on March 20, 2014 and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

AND WHEREAS Rule 68(1) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* provides that bills referred to a standing committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of the committee or 120 days pass from the day the bill was given second reading;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is presently considering Bill 12, which mirrors the provisions of Bill 1;

AND WHEREAS both Bill 1 and Bill 12 set out a proposed new legislative framework for the continuation of the Northern Employee Benefits Services

Pension Plan, which was originally established in 1979 by the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of both Bill 1 and Bill 12 impact a significant number of employees and employers in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the appropriate standing committees in both legislatures have been considering amendments to both Bill 1 and Bill 12 to address concerns that have been raised by members and stakeholders;

AND WHEREAS it is essential that the new legislative framework for the continuation of the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan be harmonized to the greatest practicable extent between the two jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS an extension in time for the standing committee's review period will allow for coordination between the two jurisdictions concerning the consideration of Bill 1 and Bill 12;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 1 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. Mr. Savikataaq will speak to his motion.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Chair of the Standing

Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to take this opportunity to speak to the motion before us today.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my motion, Bill 1, the proposed *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, was referred to the standing committee for consideration following its second reading. At the same time, our counterparts in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories have been considering Bill 12, which mirrors the provisions of Bill 1.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the situation where two different legislatures in two different jurisdictions are considering essentially the same piece of proposed legislation is quite unique in Canada.

The last time that this situation occurred here was in 2007, when both the Nunavut and Northwest Territories legislatures considered a new *Workers' Compensation Act*. This "mirror legislation" initiative was necessary because of the fact that the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has continued to be shared by the two territories, a decision which has been beneficial for both jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, the situation with the NEBS Pension Plan is essentially the same. Employers and workers in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories participate in the plan. This type of plan is referred to as a "multi-employer public sector pension plan," and it has been in existence since 1979.

In 1999, NEBS was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation. At that time, the plan was regulated under the federal

Pension Benefits Standards Act. In 2004, the federal Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions determined that the NEBS Pension Plan no longer qualified for regulation under federal legislation.

Consequently, work has been underway for a number of years between NEBS and the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop new legislation for both jurisdictions which would establish a clear legal framework in which the NEBS Pension Plan will operate into the future. The product of this work is the two bills which are currently before both legislatures.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that all parties agree on the necessity to establish a clear legislative framework for the NEBS Pension Plan. However, it is also important to recognize that concerns have been publicly expressed in recent weeks by a number of northern organizations concerning specific elements contained in the two bills, and members do not wish to dismiss these concerns out of hand.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important to recognize that today's motion [should] in no way be interpreted as opposition to the idea of introducing new legislation to govern the NEBS Pension Plan. It is also very important to recognize that the NEBS Pension Plan will continue to function and pay benefits to retirees as we work towards finalizing our consideration of the bill. However, given the shared nature of the pension plan between two jurisdictions, it is essential that the two bills which emerge from the two legislatures be as harmonized as possible.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes things are easier said than done.

In the case of lawmaking, it is important to recognize and respect the fact that legislatures in Canada are essentially sovereign. Consequently, any amendments that may be proposed to either Bill 1 or Bill 12 should be carefully considered and discussed by committee members in both legislatures as well as by the sponsoring ministers in both jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, although some organizations have publicly called on both legislatures to kill both bills and go back to the drawing board, we have also heard calls from other parties to pass both bills without any amendments or improvements whatsoever. Mr. Speaker, members of the standing committee do not believe that either extreme is necessary or desirable at this stage.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, the motion before the House today gives all of us the opportunity to get the job done right, and I urge all members to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister responsible for this bill, I can assure you that the Department of Community and Government Services is working closely with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northern Employee Benefits Services Board, as well as keeping Nunavut municipalities informed of the progress being made.

Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to move the legislation forward to ensure that municipal corporation employees are covered by a pension and can enjoy a good standard of living in their retirement years, as this is the essence of this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. Abstained. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:27 and Committee resumed at 15:47*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order.

Before we proceed, Nunavummiut listening to the radio and watching the

televised proceedings, welcome to your Committee of the Whole.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the capital appropriation for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the Department of Education and, if time permits, the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree to continue with the review of the capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2015-2016 – Economic
Development and Transportation
– Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk is at the witness table. Does the committee agree to bring in his witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Kuksuk, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut.

With me today to my right is my Deputy Minister, Pauloosie Suvega, and to my left is my Assistant Deputy Minister, Jim Stevens. Those are who we are. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the House, Mr. Suvega and Mr. Stevens.

We will now continue with our review. On Friday, we were on Economic Development and Transportation, page K-3. Mr. Mikkungwak was asking questions and I advised him that he would be asking questions first. Mr. Mikkungwak, you may now proceed.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. During our committee review last Friday, I was going to ask this question and with this opportunity today to ask further questions, I will be asking about the MVIS (Motor Vehicle Information System).

In relation to the budget figures requested by your department for this program, can the minister or his officials indicate whether or not the funds will improve this system? There are quite a number of Inuit who are awaiting new cards, with some people waiting for six months or even surpassing a whole year. Will the funding improve the system so that the waiting times are shortened? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. Yes, the MVIS is quite outdated and our department has continued to request the replacement of the information system and to get new software. However, what I can tell the member is that once the new system has been put in place, it will alleviate the problems and shorten the waiting times we face today. It is obvious there will be an improvement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Any update will result in improved times and that seems obvious.

I now want to ask about the waiting times faced by our residents in applying through the existing MVIS. Will the new system lead to faster service and processing of licences? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per my earlier response and we continue to reiterate that yes, it is clear that as we replace the components for the system, we will see an improved service once the new technology is up and running. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Following my list of names, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for recognizing me for a second time on this line item.

Mr. Chairman, last week, I had some questions and I became fairly focused on the Inuit employment component and the land transfer, and I nearly forgot my favourite topic that, inadvertently, Minister Ugyuk reminded me of through her Minister's Statement today.

One of the barriers that people with disabilities, in my opinion, face is the second they get off the plane when they come to Nunavut and at that time, and as I have been harping on repeatedly every chance I get, is the implementation of a jet walk into the airport project.

Mr. Chairman, I brought this up a number of times and it has been stated in the past that it is in the future plan of the airport project to add this feature at a later date. Until I get a clear yes or no that this is going to be part of the initial construction build of the new airport terminal, I'm going to continue to ask this question.

Mr. Chairman, is there an update able to be provided by the minister on the status of the implementation of a jet walk into the construction project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Regarding your question for an update on this issue, I will refer it to Mr. Stevens. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the continued use of combi jet aircraft by the airlines now serving the Iqaluit airport, the plan is not to install them at this time. However, the design allows for their future installation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I appreciate the response that, at the current time, there are more combi aircraft coming up than full passenger configuration, as most members are aware, we've had meetings with our main two airlines that service the north. Both of them, at this time, do provide some full passenger configuration flights.

I had a fairly firm commitment that, as long as the need is there, they will continue the usage, if not even enhance, of full passenger configuration flights coming to Iqaluit. I think a little bit of proper foresight into servicing our residents, especially our residents who have mobility issues, could and should be addressed now. I understand there is potential for three jet walks to be installed at a later date.

The minister may have a challenge convincing me that an initial build construction of having one jet walk is not a valid focus. Could I get the minister's commitment that they will look a little bit harder at their budget line and the costs associated with implementing, in the construction phase

currently, of adding one jet walk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I commit. I will make sure that we work on this issue. We will also write correspondence to the appropriate entities to make sure that something happens along that line. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If, at such time, it is decided by the minister's department to not pursue the construction of a jet walk during the initial phase, what other alternatives to assist our residents, with the dignified manner of exiting and entering the aircraft, are on his table? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure, so I will refer this question to my Deputy Minister, Mr. Suvega. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister alluded to, we will continue to pursue all options, including working with industry and perhaps a variety of different partners that could make that investment possible. As a bit

of a backup, we currently do provide some busing services with some handicapped features that are available on these buses. We hope to continue to use that given some of the extreme environments that passengers face on the ramp. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for that response. Within the response, basically it talks about once the passengers are on the ramp. In a previous lifetime, I was a cargo person with an airline and I've had to assist carrying people down and up to enter and exit the aircraft. What I'm asking for is: are there any other alternatives that the department is exploring to assist people with mobility issues in entering and departing aircraft? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have Mr. Suvega to supplement his earlier response. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do continue to look at alternative methods of servicing the disabled. We're continuously looking at different types of options, such as scissor lifts or other lifts and escalating devices. We are proactively trying to work with industry and a variety of other partners. We're also trying to learn the best practices of

other jurisdictions that have to deal with any extraordinary measures for dealing with disabled people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Kuksuk and your officials.

Mr. Chairman, let me know if I get out of line on this. I just made it back to this community last week Wednesday and I don't recall if this was asked. For all of Nunavut's airports, are you resurfacing only all the runways, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If I understood you correctly regarding the airport, they're just resurfacing the runways. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your planning process, are you also extending any runways, and which runways would those be within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure which communities

they are, but Mr. Stevens can provide a proper response. Thank you very much.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Mr. Stevens, please provide a proper response.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, there are no additional runway lengthenings being planned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stevens. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would you consider a project like that in the near future, lengthening of some runways that need to be? I believe that would allow larger aircraft into our community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the lengthening of runways, we will look into it. If there is a need to lengthen any runway, we will have to do a study first to see if there is any requirement in any community. Thank you very much.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask a couple of more questions since Mr. Mikkungwak asked about the MVIS system and I just want to get some more clarification, if I could. Earlier, the minister stated that this new system would improve the services to our communities. I wonder if the minister can explain how this new

system will improve the delivery to our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There are going to be a number of improvements. For example, our employees will be trained on exactly how the Motor Vehicle Information System works and operates. We all know that these systems were first started in the early '70s to date. I'm sure it's going to make an improvement and it's going to provide better services. We would possibly hire employees from the communities to operate this system. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a letter that the minister recently wrote to me concerning one of my constituents who was having issues obtaining their identification cards, which took many months, and you listed several unacceptable delays in the process... . In part of the letter, you stated that there are still 65 documents outstanding from my community. Is this a common theme throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No, (interpretation) they are not all like that. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister can update us today on how many communities are having issues with the MVIS system that is presently operating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Once I have the information about the numbers in all of the communities to which the member is referring, I will be able to give him (interpretation ends) that information. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the reasons for these lengthy delays in getting the identification cards and driver's licences out to my community is because of our geographic location. All the information has to go from Sanikiluaq to Gjoa Haven to Iqaluit, then the picture-taking is done in Ottawa, and then they're sent back to Iqaluit for distribution where, in this case, it sat there for two months before it was mailed to my community. Will this new system be moving away from having the picture-taking and the documents done in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To get a fully detailed response about picture-taking and documents being done, when we may be able to move away from Ottawa to do that, I would like Mr. Suvega to respond to that, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Speaking specifically on the manufacture of the ID cards through Ottawa through Canada Bank Note, it is an arrangement we expect will be there for quite a while. We don't have manufacturing capabilities within the territory to produce the permanent cards.

However, it is our hope that, with the new system, we will be able to issue temporary cards or temporary pieces of ID by printing them with a photo identification that will allow individuals to not just get drivers licences but also general ID cards with a temporary photo and temporary capabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, one of the reasons for delay is because of the mailing from Ottawa to Iqaluit and back to Sanikiluaq. What is the reasoning for these IDs having to go from Ottawa up to your Motor Vehicles Division in Iqaluit and then out to communities? Why can't the organization in Ottawa mail it directly to our communities and save a lot of time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Suvega answer the question on why there is a problem regarding the mailing of these IDs from Ottawa to the communities. I don't have that information. I will have Mr. Suvega answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Primarily, they are for security reasons. These pieces of ID contain sensitive and personal information, and our staff have to verify the accuracy of the IDs being produced and record them within our systems, and then they are distributed to the individuals who have applied for these pieces of identification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That leads me up to my next question when you mention GLOs because, in the letter, it stated that the person I was trying to enquire about the ID card is now to be with the GLO to be distributed. What do you do in cases where there is no GLO in place? At present, we don't have a GLO in our community. Where is this person's ID sitting at this moment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would

respond to that if I could, but I will have to get my Deputy Minister, Mr. Suvega, to respond to the question.

(interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are carried out by existing Motor Vehicles staff within the department. We also try and work proactively with other departments as they try and hire vacancies, such as government liaison officers. Ongoing training is an important component to our existing Motor Vehicles staff as well as any staff that take on motor vehicle functions, such as government liaison officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In cases where you mail the information out to clients in the community and it goes to the GLO office and when there is no GLO in place or he steps down or whatever the case, have you given instructions to municipal liaison officers, if they are able to access your office, to pass this information onto the clients who are waiting for it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the details as to why that is and I will have my Deputy Minister, Mr. Suvega, answer the question.
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do, as mentioned, try to work proactively with a variety of partners, including hamlets with municipal liaison officers, with EIA, and with the government liaison officers. If and when we do find out that there is a vacancy of any GLO office, the standing direction, really, is the existing Motor Vehicles staff have to process the applications and continue to work with hamlets in expediting and trying to get pieces of ID to specific individuals in communities.

If there is, perhaps, let's say, and this is just a hypothetical situation, a breakdown within the hamlet, on a very odd occasion, we might turn to you, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, to assist us in maybe getting a hold of individuals in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had no more questions, but because of the response just now, I do again.

Mr. Suvega just stated that they can't mail the IDs directly from Ottawa for security reasons. I can't think of a document that is more secure than a passport and those items are mailed directly to the individual. I just want an explanation on what the difference is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Suvega responded to questions on this matter, I would like him to complete his response. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't respond to the passport side of the question because that is a federal responsibility.

On the driver's licence and general ID cards, the complete processing of any pieces of ID must be processed within the territory. Again that is largely why those IDs land up in the administration centres. Motor Vehicles staff have to record these IDs coming in and verify the accuracy of the information as well as the identity of the individual applying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can verify that individuals do get their passports mailed to them because that's how I always receive mine. As for you're asking if the information is correct on the driver's licence or ID, you stated that you're doing training for your staff. Isn't all the information checked to see if it's accurate before it leaves? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like

Mr. Suvega to continue his response.
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the normal processing process, yes, all information is verified before it is sent out. It is again double-verified when it comes back. Just as an example, a common area where errors can occur is when last names are being registered. There are a lot of common last names throughout the territory and it is easy, as part of the processing process, that last names could be mixed up because their Inuktitut names are a little bit more difficult to verify in southern centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to dwell on this, but it shouldn't matter what the last name is on anybody's identification. They just copy whatever information they received. Isn't that correct? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, but I was looking for a response and I didn't hear your question properly. Would you mind repeating your question, please, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please repeat your question, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Suvega stated that, due to the last names being different up here, it's harder for southern companies or people to verify if the information is correct. What I stated was, "Isn't that information all checked out here already?" It doesn't matter what a person's ethnicity of their last name is. The information that is received down south should be the information coming up. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Perhaps it makes more sense now. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As we stated earlier, the many surnames in Nunavut is one of the reasons and there are other reasons as well. There are different reasons for the applications not being completed properly, not just the names. If there are mistakes or if there are things that they don't understand, although people may think that they completed it, sometimes they are not completed and they have to be sent back. That's the only response I can give the member. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister just stated that if the information is wrong, it goes back and forth. After spending \$4 million, is this going to be corrected where the information does not have to go back and forth and it's corrected at the source before we have problems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is for these reasons that we have been working on a new system. I regret if I haven't been answering to the satisfaction of the member. Mr. Suvega can elaborate on that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the hope and the intent. Of course, with any regular application process, there is an occasional hiccup. We do our best to respond to any errors made, whether it's by an act of the applicant or by our staff and/or by our contractors producing the cards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. We are on Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$81,426,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page K-5. There aren't a whole lot of numbers here. Are there any questions on this page? Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's five-year capital plan indicated that it would spend approximately \$7.45 million to construct a new Kivalliq regional visitor centre in Rankin Inlet. Although your

department's [substantiation] sheet for this project states that procurement and construction will commence in the 2015-16 fiscal year, your department's five-year capital plan indicates that funding will not be included for this project until the 2016-17 fiscal year. Why has the timetable for this project been delayed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at the question here and perhaps Mr. Suvega can elaborate better on the cause of the delay. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Suvega, please elaborate on that.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the funding pressures in terms of capital projects, that basically was deferred by another fiscal year to allow time for, perhaps, the government to catch up on things like capital carryovers and other capital funding pressures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: In June of 2014, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$577,000 capital carryover for this project. What is this funding currently being spent on? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Suvega to continue. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of that is for preplanning and design work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing I notice with this budget line is that there is no budget associated with it.

One of the things that really concerned me over the last period of time is communication and data as far as Internet access goes. If the committee will indulge me, I'll just read a couple of quotes.

In the Prime Minister's message, speaking to Digital Canada 150, he is quoted as saying, "Recent years have offered us a glimpse into the incredible power of digital technologies to improve the quality of our lives, the productivity of our businesses and the strength of our economy."

Mr. Chairman, also, I've got a quote from the ACIA report, quoting on page 88, "No matter how you slice it, delivering affordable bandwidth to Arctic communities is an expensive business, that cannot be borne by the purchasers of service alone, nor by private sector providers that require a return on their investment to stay in business."

Mr. Chairman, I've got a number of newspaper articles in here that go on to state a number of different challenges that the north and the Arctic in general experience. The title of one is "Fast, affordable Internet? The North is still waiting."

Mr. Chairman, I have looked up a number of different packages that are available across Canada, for one, but into the three territories as part of it as well. A comparable in the NWT, a fairly basic commercial package is approximately \$80 a month, which is about 25 gigs of download at 5 megabytes per second download speed. In Nunavut, we have a 1.5-megabyte per second download speed and only 20 gigs of bandwidth available and it's at \$260, exponentially higher than other jurisdictions. In Ontario, an unlimited, slower speed, only 10 megabytes per second is \$46 a month.

One of the questions to me is: why is there not any work from the Department of Economic Development to assist Nunavummiut, business, commercial, small business, and major industry in enhancing our Internet access to actually develop our economic development department and our economic status across the globe? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Relating to the computer system, cellphones, telecommunications, bandwidth, and those kinds of things, it is obvious that the system in the Arctic can be slow and more technical glitches

develop in the kinds of things they have to use like satellites and uploading and downloading. They have better systems down south.

We don't have specific responsibilities and so on, but we could provide some funding in partnership with others and we will continue. We understand that these things can slow businesses down compared to operations in the provinces where there are fibre optics and all those other kinds of things that could be used. We are restricted in what we can do up north. We do have a partner and our partner in the Arctic would be what we would work with to develop the improvement of these kinds of systems. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. One of the things that I'm trying to get at is that it's not so much... Maybe there is an opportunity for a program to assist small business and industry with bandwidth. I also understand that the major responsibility lies with the Department of Community and Government Services.

The Government of Nunavut's presentation to CRTC in 2011, from what I understand, highlighted the high cost of Internet and basically telephone and all communication methods across the territory. At the same time, the government has done very little to encourage access to other bandwidth methods.

I realize we are limited to satellite access to bandwidth, but there are options that

I'm aware of in the last four to five years that require some infrastructure spending to adapt our systems to be able to access other bandwidth through access points from different satellites. I guess I would like a commitment on the minister's part that he will work with his colleagues in cabinet to maybe revitalize that exploration.

I notice that the Minister of Community and Government Services is looking across from me at the floor here and I may have some questions for him in the House at some point later on this sitting.

At this point, I would like a commitment from the Minister of Economic Development to really work to enhance economic development opportunities in Nunavut. I think one key component of that is communications. Could I get a commitment from the minister that he will work with his cabinet colleagues to work towards improvements on that matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department and other departments will continue to work for improvement in the telecommunications area and we will also work with the service providers in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) I don't have any more names on my list. We will go back to page K-2. Department Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Detail of Expenditures.

Total Capital Expenditures.
\$81,426,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) we finished suddenly.

>> *Laughter*

If you have any closing remarks, you may now proceed. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The person, I suppose, is really anxious to come here, and we don't have any more things to talk about. I would like to thank my officials. We want to tell you that we have noted all of your questions and comments. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

While they're setting up, please remain here and we will take a short break until we prepare for the next departmental review and the witnesses have been escorted out. We will wait for the anticipated minister to go to the witness table. We will be reviewing the capital estimates of the Department of Education.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2015-2016 – Education –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome, Minister Quassa. As we commence our review of the capital estimates for the Department of Education, I would first like to ask if you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have witnesses that I would like to bring to the table. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Quassa, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today to my left, who is probably well known by now, is my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, and to my right, who is now well known, Barry Cornthwaite, Manager of Capital Planning for the Department of Education. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Welcome to the House, Ms. Okpik and Mr. Cornthwaite. Minister Quassa, as we proceed at this time, if you have any opening

comments, you may proceed. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present the proposed 2015-16 Department of Education capital projects budget.

Under our current government definition, capital projects are any improvement that increases the value and life expectancy of a building. With 43 schools throughout Nunavut, this represents a significant capital investment. Our schools host a total of 9,329 students from kindergarten to grade 12: 1,681 in the Kitikmeot region, 3,057 in the Kivalliq region, and 4,591 in the Qikiqtani region.

We know that children begin learning long before they start school. My department is committed to providing space dedicated to early childhood programs in any renovated or new Department of Education building. Early childhood programs include licensed child care facilities, such as preschool programs and full-time daycare, language nests, Aboriginal Head Start programs, and/or parents and tots programs.

We have planned for space for early childhood programs in the Arviat, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, and Repulse Bay projects.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed capital budget for 2015-16 is \$37,755,000. The majority of \$37.5 million for this upcoming fiscal year will be allocated to a number of existing projects.

I'll be speaking in English, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) Capital projects across Nunavut that will continue during the 2015-16 fiscal year include:

- The new middle school in Arviat is tender-ready, with a plan to tender during the fall of 2015. We have allocated a budget of \$250,000 for project evaluation before the project is tendered to be used if necessary.
- Work is continuing on the planning of the new middle school in Baker Lake with a budget of \$100,000.
- Renovation of the Qiqirtaq School in Gjoa Haven will continue with a budget of \$11.5 million.
- Work is continuing on the design of the new high school in Igloolik with a budget of \$250,000.
- The new high school project in Repulse Bay is in the construction stage with a budget of \$18.5 million.
- The Inuksuk High School renovation project has been completed and we have budgeted \$100,000 for the second year of a three-year warrantee review.
- The IT Infrastructure Project will continue with a budget of \$800,000. This project involves replacement of Internet-capable devices that require regular replacement to ensure they are capable of working with updated software, such as computers, modems, routers, SMART Boards, and printers.

In an effort to develop a more cost-effective and cost-efficient school design, my department is working with the Department of Community and Government Services to develop a standardized school design that meets the needs of the students and staff.

(interpretation) Beginning in 2010-11, we initiated a program to assess our schools. This assessment was in the area of both special needs and the overall condition of the structures. All of our schools have now been assessed.

Mr. Chairman, now that the assessments are done, my department has action items for repairs and upgrades for each school. This year, we have budgeted \$125,000 for this work and together with Community and Government Services, we will act on the items identified in the action item list.

We have budgeted \$5 million for the ongoing lifecycle repairs initiative. Lifecycle items are the major components of a building, such as foundations, boilers, generators, roofs, siding, flooring, wall finishes, windows, and air-handling units, which need periodic replacement based on the length of time these items should last in a building. With the assistance of the Department of Community and Government Services, this initiative allows us to prioritize issues within our schools and prepare a repair or replacement program in a proactive manner. These projects are approved by the deputy minister.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, my department has a minor capital budget. This budget covers projects that are primarily health and safety related, as

well as small projects not identified in the capital planning process. We have budgeted \$700,000 to cover repairs, renovations, and upgrades to be approved under the minor capital budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year. These projects are approved once again by the deputy minister, or should I say “my deputy minister.”

We also budget for special needs assessment to ensure that students with special needs are able to access our schools. This year, we have budgeted \$100,000 for this very important initiative.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, we gather information from hamlets, district education authorities, communities, schools, and the Department of Community and Government Services to develop, plan, and manage our capital priorities.

Through our comprehensive facilities database, we are able to analyze school utilization, building physical condition, and planned program requirements to determine our ongoing and future capital requirements.

Each year, we review requests for school buses and departmental vehicles. In 2015-16, we have budgeted \$250,000 for approved vehicle requests. This past fiscal year 2014-15, my department bought new buses for Taloyoak, Hall Beach, and Clyde River.

I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion as we review the Department of Education’s capital budget for 2015-16 and the subsequent four years. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments?
Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2015-16 include six community-specific projects which are ongoing from capital plans of previous fiscal years and six projects which will be allocated to meet the department's Nunavut-wide capital needs during 2015-16.

Mr. Chairman, members have noted that a number of projects listed on the government's 2015-19 five-year capital plan, which was included with the 2014-15 capital estimates that we approved earlier in January of this year, are no longer listed as future projects in documents accompanying the department's 2015-16 capital estimates. While members recognize that funds need to be realistically allocated within any given fiscal year, it was felt that the government needs to be more transparent in providing information regarding the status of future projects that may have been realigned or deferred. Members would appreciate regular updates and notifications of any progress or changes to plans for building or renovating educational facilities in their constituencies.

Members have noted that some projects have been underway for many years and ongoing delays have had a negative effect on the final costs. Members encourage the minister to work closely with his counterpart, the Minister of Community and Government Services, to ensure that projects proceed in the most timely and cost-effective manner possible.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the committee to discuss his department's draft capital estimates for 2015-16, the minister and his staff indicated that the assessment of all Nunavut schools has now been completed, and that a list of departmental assets and action items has been prepared. Members look forward to reviewing the relevant documentation in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, the lack of adequate housing for education staff is a longstanding issue. Members remained concerned that in some communities, the ability to hire and retain staff has been greatly affected by the availability of adequate housing, which in turn has had an impact on the quality of programming that can be delivered to Nunavut's students. While it is recognized that the government as a whole faces many pressures with respect to housing needs, standing committee members encourage the minister to establish a long-term housing strategy for education staff across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee appreciates the minister's commitment to dedicate space within any new or renovated school facility towards the Early Childhood Education Program. Members encourage the minister in his

efforts to provide support and assistance to ensure that early childhood programs can be delivered in a safe and effective manner in all communities, whether they are located in schools or other facilities. Members further encourage the minister to work closely with district education authorities and other community representatives to ensure that there is adequate space for the delivery of programming, such as adult education, community recreation, or even to provide shelter in the event of a community emergency.

Mr. Chairman, computer technology is becoming a standard for the delivery of educational courses across Canada. Members are in full support of the minister's plans to update the necessary equipment across Nunavut's schools as technology evolves. Members note that the Department of Community and Government Services will play a significant role in this process, including the disposal of old and surplus devices.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. As we proceed, are there any general comments to the opening comments? We will move on to the Department of Education's capital estimates on page G-3. Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've just got a couple of quick questions.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this year, information provided with the 2014-15 draft capital estimates in the Department of Community and Government Services had a preplanning section which included projects in Resolute Bay, Iqaluit's French school, and Taloyoak. What is the current status of these projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Hickes for his question. At this time, we are still in the preplanning stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response. Thank you. I just have more of a comment. I don't think I have any other specific questions. I'll let my colleagues get to it.

One of the things I noted is that the budget lines for minor projects, the Nunavut school assessments and the ongoing lifecycle repairs, have somewhat similar characteristics to the budget line. I'm just wondering if it would not be more feasible for the department to propose those budgets lumped together to give them a little bit more flexibility to deal with some of the lifecycle and ongoing repairs, especially in light of the Office of the Auditor General's report on safety in schools and child care facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that question. In the Department of Education, once we get to the 2016-17 fiscal year, we want to put them together into a budget called minor projects. (interpretation ends) Education will be combining the budgets for the 2016-17 capital plan for consideration into the minor project budget. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening statements, you said that you have planned for space for early childhood programs in Arviat, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Igloodik, and Repulse Bay. What are the total needs for space for early childhood programs in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, the larger communities are still on the waiting list. I don't have the numbers in front of me at this time. I'm sure they hear about them. Every time we are planning to build a new school or if we are going to be renovating a school, we are always going to be installing daycare centres into them.

Up to now in Nunavut, we have many names on the waiting list. Right now, there are 863 names on the waiting list. If we can divide that up, there are (interpretation ends) 228 infants, 382 preschoolers, and 253 school-age children. (interpretation) That is the

breakdown of the waiting list. These are children who haven't gone to school yet that are planning to go to school. The majority of them are in Iqaluit. Right now, in Iqaluit, (interpretation ends) 162 infants, 308 preschoolers, and 253 school-age children are on the waiting list. (interpretation) That's just in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that great number in mind, not every community is going to get a new school any time soon; some are. How are we going to meet the needs of those that are not receiving new schools? What is the plan? What are the plans of your department to address that need if a school is not being built any time soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question and I thank the member for asking the question. It's very true in saying that there are many communities that still need to get daycares. Some communities have a daycare, but it is not enough. They need more and we are aware of that.

The education department has available funding to start up daycares and also everything that the daycare centre would need like the resources. However, we don't have any funding to construct the actual daycare building for them. Let's be aware that... . How should I put this?

We are also encouraging the communities to get more daycares started because we have funding support available. We do that to all the communities. What we do as a department is explain to the communities. The local education authorities promote this as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With these communities that are going to be told this year that they are going to get space for early childhood programs, Arviat, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, and Repulse Bay, which communities are next on the list after that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, there are many communities that need daycares. Even though they have a daycare, they still need more. To date, Arctic Bay's daycare really needs to be renovated or fixed up. In Iqaluit, the Nakasuk School needs further renovations, including the schools in Taloyoak and Whale Cove. Those are the communities that will be looked at next. Perhaps I will also state that in Arctic Bay, the kindergarten to grade 12 school, the Inuujaq School, is going to be renovated. Including Taloyoak and Whale Cove, those are the four communities that will go next. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening comments, you talked about the Inuksuk High School renovation project. What was the total cost of the renovations to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have spent \$22,000 on that school project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Pretty inexpensive, isn't it?

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): My apologies, I didn't see the rest of the zeros. We have used \$22 million to date on that project. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your clarification. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the renovations, were any contaminants such as asbestos found? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that very important question. Yes, there was. There was remediation on mould and asbestos. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When asbestos was found during renovations, were parents informed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever we work on buildings that were built in the 1960s and '70s, the older buildings generally have those things. We also know that the Nakasuk Schools is one of the older schools. The district education authorities in Iqaluit were kept well informed and they found the asbestos in the crawl space.

Let us be aware that as long as you don't touch the top crust of asbestos, it can be safe. However, it can be dangerous if you disturb it. I just wanted to add that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments, you also talk about developing more cost-effective and cost-efficient schools. How much money do you think you will save by going this method? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. We always have to consider the price because schools were

built with very different costs. Right now, we are trying to see if we can build middle schools or high schools at around the same cost as a standard, for example, the siding, flooring, and the building materials. I know that other departments are looking into that as well. How can we build it cheaper? That's what we try and think of and that is our objective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask the minister if this method is being used at the present time or if it's something that you're going to be using in the next year or so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not just thinking about it. We have started using it. What we're using is (interpretation ends) what we call repeat designs. (interpretation) For example, Joamie School in Iqaluit and the Arviat high school are very similar to each other, so the prices for them are pretty much the same. That's all, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. I would like to ask for my follow-up question to that: when you talk about repeat designs, are you talking perhaps that as a department or maybe with CGS, you are better able to forecast new costs

versus actually saving? I'm just trying to get how that saves money. If you can elaborate a little bit more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, most definitely, so that we could be aware of the known costs. Not only that, we would also know what kind of design it is, how big it is, what capacity it's got, and that kind of thing in terms of future reference.

We know that communities aren't all of the same size, so the sizes of the communities and the population would be considered. We have high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools. There are various designs for buildings like these that have been taken into consideration. Perhaps there could be savings in common designs. Communities also need to have land lots reserved.

We know that pretty much everything needs to come by ship. What is the most cost-effective way of bringing up the material? The companies bid and they are trying to get contracts. We have to take those into consideration because communities aren't all the same. We have to look at all the factors and put everything into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about land costs, when you build a new school,

what kind of land costs do you incur in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of times, the land where the schools will be constructed on are already on reserved lands for future development, schools, and things of this nature. We also have to take into consideration what kind of water delivery or sewage pump-outs, and so on, the disposal systems that they've got, the sewage pump-outs, the kinds that need sucking vehicles. Let me conclude on that, Mr. Chairman. I hope I understood you properly.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many new schools does your department foresee over the next five to ten years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do [have] a database that we follow and that is what gives us more directions on that because we do have a very good database on... . As I said earlier in my speaking notes, we've got databases such as enrolments, school capacity, technical assessments, and historical school information, so this is what we rely on heavily. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With enrolment changing, perhaps from year to year, depending on the population of a community or the interest of students and parents in sending their children to school, does that change the forecast for new schools and, if so, by how much? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for her question. Up to now, whenever we speak about new school needs in a community, we generally follow criteria such as the number of students enrolled in the school and look at future needs.

As an example, just to show the process and make comparisons, a school should not be at 100 percent usage. . . . Hold on. In wanting to make a proper response, I got a bit confused. The figure listed is 85 percent capacity. Whenever a school reaches the level of capacity, the department uses that as the baseline figure that triggers the process to either construct a new school or to enlarge the school. This is our baseline that triggers this process.

Further, the other criterion used is the age of the school. As an example, in Arctic Bay, the school is quite old and dilapidated. In that situation, even before the school reaches the 85 percent capacity, due to the age of the current school, our department may speed the

process up to replace the school with a newer building.

These are the two main criteria that are used by our department to trigger the process for a new school to replace the existing facility. Furthermore, we work with the communities, as they are intimately aware of the community situations. We are in constant communications with the DEA committees and sometimes with the municipality. They are also cognizant of their local needs.

At this time, there are some communities in this (interpretation ends) preplanning (interpretation) stage and they are Coral Harbour, Resolute Bay's gymnasium, and the (interpretation ends) French school (interpretation) here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments, you also talked about the assessment that has been done on all schools to get a good idea on the "overall condition of the structures." Can you tell us which schools did the assessment identify as needing the most work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't get into the details earlier. However, the school assessment process identified the various needs of each facility, such as which areas need maintenance or where they need renovations. All the schools

were assessed, as there are different designs, but I can't say which facility would be next in line.

However, one of the issues I identified within this funding that we have set aside includes funds for larger costing considerations. Where is that? I apologize. I am looking for the information.

Okay. These are the funds as an example. In trying to provide the right response, in my written reports, I believe I stated that there was a \$700,000 fund related to larger renovation projects. As per my earlier response, it is primarily for equipment replacement of furnaces, boilers, and other equipment that require immediate replacement for these major repairs.

The entirety of the fund for all of Nunavut stands around this amount that I can identify, roughly around \$5 million, for all of Nunavut for these (interpretation ends) ongoing lifecycle (interpretation) repairs for the 2014-15 fiscal year. I hope I was clear and understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the assessment find any matters that were identified as real urgent that needed immediate attention? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are aware

that boilers need to be replaced. They are becoming quite dated. We became aware that we need to replace the heating systems in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the replacement of boilers been done or are any schools in the situation where one might need to worry about the safety of our students or have they all been replaced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having mentioned that the safety of the students is our priority, the replacement of boilers is one that takes safety into consideration. We cooperate well with the municipalities and with the school boards, whether they are generators or boilers. In the next three years, we figure \$500,000 will be needed. In terms of replacing boilers, we think that \$350,000 would need to be spent, the first one being generators.

Maybe perhaps identifying communities in the Kitikmeot, in Kugluktuk, the generator needed to be replaced and was replaced. In the Kivalliq region, boiler replacement took place in Rankin Inlet, Arviat needed a new generator, and Coral Harbour needed a new generator. In the Baffin region, the Ulaajuk School needed a generator. Quluaq School needed a generator replacement. I'm sure there is a name for generators in Inuktitut. Nasivvik School is said that on

Baffin Island, the generators are the weakest design. Qaqqalik School needs a generator. Umingmak School needed a generator replaced. Inuujaq uses and needs to have two boilers installed. There are other boilers that need to be replaced. Umingmak School's boilers have become quite dated. The Sam Pudlat School boiler will have to be replaced.

Those are the ones that I can elaborate on, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the assessments that you have just completed on schools also made reference to special needs. I'm wondering: can you tell us if all schools meet the needs of those with physical or mobility challenges? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not all schools, well, just some of the schools, although we have been working on some schools on building some ramps to make sure that the special needs people can access buildings. We're working on the ramps for the schools to be used by people with special needs.

When we were doing an assessment with the school railings, we found out that the school railings are not up to code and the washrooms should not have too many things around it. I also spoke of school ramps and these ramps have to be situated away from the snow build-up.

Those are the items that we are working on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments, you also talk about gathering information from hamlets and other people in the community to develop, plan, and manage your capital priorities. How does this kind of information gathering take place? Can you explain what the process is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Quassa, can you elaborate, please.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work very closely with the Department of Community and Government Services and we work with them to do our assessments and visit the communities. We meet with them and either the municipality or the DEA at the community. We work with both of these entities.

Also, the community DEA is involved from the beginning for the actual work. They are involved and the community DEA makes their motion. Through the motion, they have to elaborate where the site should be. I can even tell you that the DEA chooses what colour they want their school to be. I'm just mentioning a few of them. That's what we go through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go on to ask a question about buses. In your opening comments, you say that you review requests for school buses. This year, the department has bought new buses for Taloyoak, Hall Beach, and Clyde River.

Here in Iqaluit, we have a private business that provides a busing service. Is Iqaluit the only community that has this kind of set-up when it comes to providing a busing service? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It varies in all the communities for providing bus services. Iqaluit is contracted by the DEA. In some communities, they do provide the busing services. It varies. Iqaluit isn't the only community with contracted services. Rankin Inlet also has contracted busing services. I only know of Rankin Inlet.

For example, in the community of Igloolik, the hamlet has the contract to provide busing services. In Pangnirtung, it's Qijuk Construction Ltd. that is providing the busing service. In Pond Inlet, the Tununiq Sauniq Co-operative is providing the busing services. It varies in communities and not just in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to these new buses that were bought for Taloyoak, Hall

Beach, and Clyde River, who do they belong to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These buses are owned by the Nunavut government. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us, when a private business runs the busing service for schools, do they have to provide their own buses or is it something that the department provides on their behalf? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they have to provide their own buses for those private contractors. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain, then, these new buses that were bought for Taloyoak, Hall Beach, and Clyde River, is that because there is no private business running the busing service? Are these communities where the government has had to provide that service on their own? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community DEAs make the request themselves. They need proper storage and a proper driver. They need to maintain the bus. Not all communities can get a bus automatically. We can only provide busing services, providing that they have proper storage and a driver.

In regard to your question, when some DEAs order a bus, if they cannot provide the services, they can contract the services because it varies from community to community. I'm not too sure if I responded to your question or not. For example, in Clyde River, the hamlet council provides the busing services. They have contracted it out, likewise in Hall Beach. We're just waiting for the entity in Hall Beach to tell us who is going to be providing the busing services.

Let us be aware that all of these buses are GN assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we all know, buying buses costs big bucks, it costs a lot of money, and it's a lot of investment for a small business provider to carry. If a business that offers such a service required another bus to meet the needs, could they get their DEA to ask and say, "Our community needs another bus," so that the private business can use it to offer

that additional service that's required? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank you for a very good question. As I stated earlier, the DEA can make applications or make their request any time. They can make additional requests to our department if they want an additional bus. They can make the application. As we alluded to earlier, bus sizes and costs vary. Some have 42 seats while others have 72 seats. Baker Lake, for example, requested an additional bus and that's under review now. We are considering it.

Let us be aware that they look for ways that they can get additional buses. (interpretation ends) There are various factors as to how one community gets a bus or can also request for another bus. There are certain criteria that have to be met. It is transparent across Nunavut. There are different various factors. As I said earlier, the number of students, maintenance requirements, storage, seasonal temperatures, safety, these are some of the factors that we consider when a bus is being requested.

If a private company is the contractor, such as what we see here in Iqaluit, and if another bus is required, it would be up to the private company to buy the bus. If a community DEA requests for another bus, we can increase the contribution agreement for that.

I don't know if you got the answer that you wanted. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It may feel a bit confusing because for one, some communities that have private businesses are buying a bus because the DEA has requested it. Does the DEA give the bus to the private business to use, and could they do that here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local DEA committee makes the request, and upon their request, as per my earlier statement, we can reconsider their request and possibly increase the amount of funding allocated towards that local DEA needs.

However, in situations where private businesses such as here in Iqaluit hold the contract, our department wouldn't make the purchase of the equipment. The business would have to purchase the new vehicle upon the request of the DEA. This would only apply where private businesses hold the contract, as they would purchase the new bus if they are (interpretation ends) private contractors. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully I'll get more time later on to ask a few more questions in that area, but I'm just looking at the clock here.

I want to ask a question about staff housing. I think it's an issue that we have heard of over the last year about staff across the GN in some communities having to share accommodations because of the lack of housing. I think that teachers have had to have that as well happen to them because of the lack of housing.

Can you describe how the lack of staff housing affects your department's ability to hire and retain staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that issue again. Yes, indeed, staff housing is an important issue to many communities and our department. Yes, I can make some comparisons perhaps in one circumstance here.

In Whale Cove and Repulse Bay, these two communities in particular are ones where we have noted this in this school year. Even though the school year was about to start and we had already hired teachers for the positions, due to the lack of housing, it became quite problematic, especially where it impacted the students.

We have also realized in other situations where teachers have to share accommodations in a single unit. In facing this matter, we are not involved in identifying staff housing for the communities, as that is the purview of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. At this time, we have initiated discussions

with them to see how we can resolve this challenge. It is due to the fact that our student body should be adversely affected by operational issues or difficulties faced by the community.

As well, past issues that have cropped up revolve around housing shortages where two new teachers who are strangers are forced to share accommodations and this has created immense difficulties. It can lead to one or the other resigning due to their inability to share accommodations. This is a situation that we are now familiar with and thusly why we have started to work with the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation (interpretation) in order to deal with it. As per my previous comment, we are working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to resolve this.

Perhaps I will use another example here. Just to provide the information, such as a case where a teacher may be forced to share accommodations with their supervisor, the principal due to severe housing shortages, (interpretation ends) the principal and teacher... . (interpretation) It is unfortunate, but due to our many challenges, we face that. In another scenario, two teachers with one being a female and the other a male, who are strangers to one another, are forced to share accommodations and we have had to face that before.

Due to a myriad of issues we face in this area, we are trying to collaborate with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to rectify the housing shortages we face today. I have great expectations that we will resolve this down the road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. Pursuant to Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and I will report progress to the Speaker.

Thank you, Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

When we resume our meeting tomorrow, Ms. Angnakak will be the first one on the list. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus tomorrow morning at 10:30 in the Tuktuk Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 28:

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

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 28, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

Appendix – October 27, 2014



**Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills
and Other Matters**

**Standing Committee on
Oversight of Government Operations
And Public Accounts**

***Report on the Review of the
Report of the Auditor General of Canada
to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the
2014 Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in
Nunavut***

**George Hickes, MLA
Chair**

**Alexander Sammurtok, MLA
Co-Chair**

**Tony Akoak, MLA
Pat Angnakak, MLA
Joe Enook, MLA
David Joanasie, MLA
Steve Mapsalak, MLA
Simeon Mikkungwak, MLA
Allan Rumbolt, MLA
Joe Savikataaq, MLA
Isaac Shooyook, MLA**

**Fall Sitting
2nd Session of the 4th Legislative Assembly
October 2014**

www.assembly.nu.ca

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of presenting the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the *Auditor General of Canada's 2014 Follow-Up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Auditor General's report was tabled in the House on March 18, 2014 and was subsequently considered by the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts.

The Standing Committee held its hearings on the Auditor General's reports on September 16 and 17, 2014. The hearings were open to the public and news media to observe. The hearings were televised live across Nunavut. Transcripts of the hearings are available for downloading from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee was very pleased to welcome Mr. Ronnie Campbell, Assistant Auditor General, and Ms. Michelle Salvail, Principal, from the Office of the Auditor General to our hearings. Both of these individuals have worked extensively on Nunavut audits in recent years and their expertise and input are much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I would further like to acknowledge the participation of witnesses from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Family Services during our hearings. Mr. MacDonald, the Acting Deputy Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mark Arnold, the Deputy Director of the Child and Family Services Division and Mr. Ambrose Ojah, the department's Child Protection Specialist, appeared on behalf of the Department of Family Services. The Standing Committee was extremely disappointed that the Director of Child and Family Services did not attend the hearings as his experience and direct involvement in exercising the specific authorities and duties required to implement the government's *Child and Family Services Act* could have afforded the Committee greater insight to and perspective on the challenges facing the Department of Family Services in meeting its obligations to the children and youth of Nunavut. The absence of the Director of Child and Family Services from the hearings raised some concerns.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to consider the historical context of the Auditor General's most recent audit on Nunavut's child and family services. The 2014 audit was a follow-up to the Auditor General's 2011 *Report on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut*. The objective of the 2011 audit was to evaluate the GN's performance in carrying out its own procedures and following its own laws in a number of areas relating to child, youth and family programs and services in Nunavut. The 2011 Auditor General's report included twenty recommendations with fourteen recommendations addressing services relating to children and youth, three recommendations addressing adoption, two relating to public health and one regarding program coordination between departments.

The 2011 Auditor General's report was tabled and reviewed during Nunavut's Third Assembly. In June of 2011, the Minister of Health and Social Services tabled an *Action Plan* in response to the Auditor General's report (Tabled Document 59 – 3 (3)) with short-term, medium-term and long-term plans to address each of the Auditor General's recommendations. The Standing Committee also presented its report on the review of the Auditor General's report which including a number of recommendations echoing those in the Auditor General's report, as well as encouraging the department to invest in "appropriate information management and reporting systems". The Standing Committee also requested that regular updates on the status of the implementation of the *Action Plan* be tabled in the House.

In September of 2011 and September of 2013, the Minister of Health and Social Services tabled the government's responses to the Standing Committee report including details on progress made towards addressing some of the recommendations which had been brought forward. I would note, however, that no further updates on the implementation of the 2011 Action Plan have been provided to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that there have been a number of initiatives in recent years to address issues relating to child welfare and the safety and protection of children and youth across Nunavut.

In 2010, the *Knowledge Sharing Forum* brought together community residents from across Nunavut to discuss child welfare practices. The *Forum's* final report included a number of recommendations with respect to the state of child protection in Nunavut with a focus on the need to incorporate Inuit societal values and have greater involvement from communities and families.

In 2011, a review of Nunavut's child welfare practices was conducted by the Child Welfare League of Canada and their report, *Nunavut Social Services* review, made a number of recommendations which focused on including culture, communities, families and the involvement of elders and youth in developing strategies and solutions.

Between 2011 and 2013 the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut approved a number of amendments to Nunavut's *Child and Family Services Act* such as; providing for a judicial hearing within a limited time in all cases where a child is apprehended; revising references to aboriginal children and organizations to more clearly reflect the population of Nunavut; ensuring that the Act be interpreted in accordance with Inuit societal values; providing protection for children in cases of child pornography and family violence; providing for support agreements for youth up to age 26 and prohibiting malicious and false reports.

The Act was also amended to mandate that the director of child and family services must respond to certain recommendations if a child in his or her care dies or is critically injured and provides that the director's annual report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in 2012, legislation was introduced in the Legislative Assembly to establish the Office of Nunavut's Child and Youth Representative which, guided by Inuit culture and Inuit societal values, would advocate for the rights and interests of children and youth and assist the Legislative Assembly and the Government of Nunavut in ensuring that the needs of children and youth are met. Nunavut's first Children and Youth Representative, Ms. Sherrie McNeil-Mulak, was appointed on June 2, 2014 and the Standing Committee was pleased to note her attendance in the gallery to observe our recent hearings on the *Auditor General of Canada's 2014 Follow-Up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, in April of 2013, the government created the new Department of Family Services incorporating the Social Services division from the former Department of Health and Social Services as well as a number of other divisions from other departments. The establishment of this new department allows for a more dedicated focus on issues relating to child, youth and family services than may have been possible within the overall mandate of the Department of Health and Social Services where the delivery of acute health care services and other health-related needs often demand high levels of resources and attention.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note the Committee's disappointment with the lack of progress made by the government in addressing recommendations that were brought forward in 2011 with respect to concerns about services for children, youth and families in Nunavut. It is important to keep in mind that no matter which Government of Nunavut department now has the mandate to provide services to children and youth in Nunavut, no matter how many changes may occur in reporting structures, and no matter how many changes there are in personnel or infrastructure, the statutory requirements of the legislation, in this case the *Child and Family Services Act*, must still be met. As demonstrated in the Auditor General's *2014 Follow-Up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*, the level of compliance by the government in meeting its legislated requirements should be much higher than it is.

Mr. Speaker, I have highlighted the historical context of our recent review of the Auditor General's 2014 audit to show that, despite a significant amount of effort, changes in governance, and the ongoing dedication on the part of our community social workers and the Department of Family Services as a whole, much work remains to be done.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's *2014 Follow-Up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*, presented six specific recommendations to the government which bring greater focus to issues addressed in the fourteen recommendations of the Auditor General's 2011 Report. The recommendations in the 2014 Follow-Up Report address the following thematic areas:

- Staffing issues;
- Meeting the standards of service delivery;
- Collecting and using information and data; and
- Engaging parents and communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee concurs with the recommendations of the Auditor General and notes that the government itself formally agreed with all of the Auditor General's recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, during the Committee's proceedings, Members raised many important issues and questions concerning the government's policies and practices relating to the delivery of services for children and youth in Nunavut and a number of themes and issues emerged during the Standing Committee's review of the Auditor General's most recent report to the Legislative Assembly.

Accordingly, the Standing Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. **That the Government of Nunavut, as a whole, ensure that Action Plans which are developed to address issues raised by the Auditor General of Canada be provided to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts at the earliest opportunity.**

The Standing Committee was pleased to receive the Department of Family Services' *Quality Protects Action Plan* at the outset of the proceedings. However, there was little opportunity for Members to review the document prior to the hearings themselves and adequately question departmental officials on its contents.

The Department of Family Services' *Quality Protects Action Plan* proposes a total of nineteen actions in response to the six recommendations in the Auditor General's *2014 Follow-Up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*. During the Standing Committee's hearings, departmental witness noted that a number of issues raised by Members would be addressed in the department's *Quality Protects Action Plan*. However, a more fulsome discussion may have been possible had Standing Committee Members had the opportunity to consider the proposed actions in advance.

Members further noted that Action Plans should be titled to reflect their specific purpose rather than using 'catch phrases' or 'slogan'-type language. It was noted that the phrase "Quality Protects" was in fact the title of a

program implemented in another jurisdiction to address shortcomings within its own child care system. This led Members to question whether the contents of the Department of Family Services' 2014 Action Plan reflected other aspects from the out-of-jurisdiction's program. The Standing Committee appreciated the clarification the contents of the out-of-jurisdiction program have not been incorporated into Nunavut's program. Standing Committee Members were given to understand that the department's intent in using this phrase was simply to convey its commitment to ensuring a level of quality in the services it delivers.

2. **That Action Plans produced by the Government of Nunavut to address such issues as those raised in the reports of the Auditor General of Canada, are updated on a regular and consistent basis and that those updates be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on a regular and consistent basis.**

In June of 2011, following the Standing Committee's April 2011 hearings on the Auditor General's 2011 *Report on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut*, the Minister of Health and Social Services of the day tabled a comprehensive action plan outlining his department's short-term, medium-term and long-term objectives to address each of the twenty recommendations raised in the Auditor General's report.

Of the many objectives proposed in the government's 2011 Action Plan, very little update has been provided to the Legislative Assembly to date.

The Standing Committee does note however that one key objective, to transfer all correctional services to the Department of Justice so that social workers no longer have to perform these duties in conjunction with their other duties, has been successfully achieved. The Standing Committee wishes to commend the government for its efforts in this area.

During the recent September hearings, the Department of Family Services' presented its *Quality Protects Action Plan* to the Standing Committee proposing a further nineteen actions to address the six recommendations in the Auditor General's 2014 report.

The Standing Committee wishes to stress the importance of providing ongoing updates on the government's progress in achieving the objectives proposed in its Action Plans. The majority of actions proposed in the government's 2011 Action Plan are still "live" and the Standing Committee encourages the government to provide updates on progress achieved in other areas addressed in its 2011 Action Plan, such as the review of its adoption legislation, as soon as practicable.

The Standing Committee further encourages the Department of Family Services to provide regular updates on progress achieved under its *Quality Protects Action Plan*. Given the paramount importance of ensuring the safety and protection of Nunavut's children and youth, the Standing Committee suggests that semi-annual progress reports on both Action Plans be tabled in the House.

- 3. That the Department of Family Services provide to the Standing Committee, in a timely manner, copies of all documentation and information that departmental witnesses committed to provide during their appearance before the Standing Committee on September 16 and 17, 2014.**

During the Standing Committee's hearings, departmental officials made a number of commitments to provide additional information, reports and other supporting documentation to the Committee in response to questions asked by Members.

The Standing Committee recognizes that, in the absence of the Director of Child and Family Services, departmental witnesses may not have been able to provide fully comprehensive responses to Members' questions. Committee Members appreciated the witnesses' commitments to make such information available to the Committee as soon as practicable and were pleased to receive a number of items just last week. Members look forward to receiving further information that witnesses committed to providing such as the department's 2013 Residential Care Action Plan, the results of audits performed by departmental directors and other items.

- 4. That the Department of Family Services work closely with other Government of Nunavut entities to address staffing needs at the community and regional levels.**

The Auditor General's 2011 Report and 2014 Follow-up Report both focused extensively on staffing issues and the need to address the training, recruitment and retention of social services staff.

Standing Committee Members have noted that the 2011 Action Plan proposed a number of actions in this area and again look forward to learning of progress in meeting those objectives.

During the September 2014 hearings, departmental witnesses indicated that some consideration had been given to hiring a full-time dedicated staffing consultant to focus on this area. Departmental representatives will need to

work with representatives from the Department of Finance to establish such a position or to find alternative solutions to hiring practices.

During the hearings, it was suggested that the Department of Family Services work more closely with Nunavut Arctic College to revise the Social Worker program to allow for the development of the professional qualifications necessary for candidates who wish to follow a career in social work in Nunavut.

Standing Committee Members note that, similar to the situation faced by other front-line government employees, such issues as the lack of office space and the lack of housing have negative impacts of the department's ability to hire and retain community social services staff. The Committee encourages departmental representatives to continue to work with representatives from the Department of Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to develop strategies to meet needs in these areas.

5. That the Department of Family Services take the necessary steps to ensure that all community social worker staff have the mandatory training required by law.

During the Standing Committee's hearings, Members were somewhat concerned to note that a significant proportion of staff working as social workers did not yet have the mandatory training and certifications required by law. The Standing Committee has raised concerns in the past regarding individuals being hired to work under 'Letters of Authority' in the absence of the appropriate training and certification. Members remain concerned that the practice of issuing such "Letters of Authority" compromises the quality and level of service that is being provided to Nunavut's children and youth and feel strongly that this situation must be addressed as soon as practicable.

6. That the Department of Family Services continue to work towards developing and establishing key metrics and benchmarks by which to evaluate workloads faced by social workers and establish relevant and appropriate workload standards by 2015.

During the course of its hearings, the Standing Committee noted that the department has made little progress in defining standards by which to evaluate caseloads faced by social workers. Recognizing that caseloads are often determined by the types of situations faced by both clients and staff, Members nonetheless felt it important that steps be taken to determine the appropriate levels in a measurable and quantifiable manner.

The Standing Committee appreciates that the department needs to develop and implement a system that can adequately record and document services delivered in order to be able to conduct the necessary assessments. Members note that such a tool would provide the supporting validation should additional resources be required to deliver such services as well as providing a means to track staff training requirements and certification.

- 7. That the Department of Family Services continue to work towards developing and establishing an electronic case management system by which to collect, consolidate and analyze information on children and youth requiring and receiving protection and care services.**

Throughout the Standing Committee's hearings, departmental witnesses continually stressed the need for a robust electronic system which could be used across the territory to enable the department to collect and track data and information regarding the services provided to children and youth.

The Standing Committee would note that this issue was not only addressed in its previous report on its review of the Auditor General's 2011 *Report on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut* but was also highlighted in the Standing Committee's Report on its Review of the Auditor General's 2011 report. The Committee is extremely disappointed at the lack of progress in this area.

The Committee notes further that appropriate systems have been developed and implemented in such service delivery areas as health, income assistance and education and would support a similar investment with respect to the delivery of social services.

- 8. That the Government of Nunavut continue to work towards developing policies and practices to establish privacy safeguards for personal information that is provided in accordance with the law to entities such as designated Inuit organizations in the course of implementing the *Child and Family Services Act* or the *Adoption Act*.**

And further, that the government review the necessity and effectiveness of the current statutory provisions in the *Child and Family Services Act* and the *Adoption Act* which involve entities such as designated Inuit organizations in the implementation of the legislation.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts recently addressed the issue of ensuring that privacy safeguards were in place with respect to personal information of social services clients during its hearing on the Auditor General's 2014 *Follow-up Report on Child*

and Family Services in Nunavut as well as during its September 2014 hearings on the 2012-2013/2013-2014 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee would note that this issue was addressed in its previous report on its review of the Auditor General's 2011 *Report on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut* and is extremely disappointed that the government has not made more effort to address this issue to date.

During our hearings, the Acting Deputy Minister of Family Services did not appear to be aware of the issue. Testimony provided by the Information and Privacy Commissioner during her appearance before the Standing Committee indicated that consultations with her office had not occurred to address this issue. Witnesses from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs did not provide any further clarification on what progress the government has achieved on this issue to date.

Standing Committee Members further noted that with the lack of Inuktitut-speaking community social service workers, staff are often obliged to involve interpreter-translators or other personnel in working with clients. In addition, Members have raised concerns that social services staff working under 'Letters of Authority' may not have the necessary knowledge with respect to the specific implementation of the legislation and particularly with respect to confidentiality, which may further compromise the privacy considerations for clients.

9. That the Department of Family Services give further consideration to developing programs and allocating resources to engage parents, families and communities in finding solutions and strategies for keeping children safe, protected, comfortable and secure within their home communities.

The Standing Committee notes that the engagement of parents and communities in addressing the core issues that lead to the intervention of social services workers in ensuring the safety and protection of Nunavut's children and youth has been identified as a critical issue for several years. This was a key recommendation in the Auditor General's 2011 Report and is re-iterated in the Auditor General's 2014 Follow-up Report.

The Standing Committee also notes that similar recommendations appeared in the 2010 Report of the *Knowledge Sharing Forum* as well as in the 2011 *Nunavut Social Services Review* prepared by the Child Welfare League of Canada.

Following the Standing Committee's hearings, Members are concerned that there appears to be an ongoing lack of focus on the part of the Department of Family Services on working with parents and families after children have been apprehended to ensure that parenting skills, family situations or life circumstances are improved upon so that children can return to their homes as soon as possible.

Given the importance of the family dynamic within Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit and society as a whole, it is critical that family and community members are involved in determining the best ways to deliver child and youth services in Nunavut and to ensure the safety of our children. In recent deliberations in the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Family Services herself noted that this is an area which requires further implementation. The Standing Committee looks forward to seeing progress in this area in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by noting that the Standing Committee, pursuant to Rule 91(5), formally requests that the government table a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Standing Committee be received by the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.