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**Thursday, February 26, 2015**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Rankin Inlet South)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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(Aivilik)

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**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Minister of Health; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for Immigration*

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

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

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

**David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, February 26, 2015**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickers, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Hon. Johnny Mike, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and the Premier, along with the visitors to the Gallery, welcome to the House.

At this time, I wish to inform my colleagues about the status of our delayed members. As of today, the Member for Arviat South, Joe Savikataaq, is unable to attend today due to inclement weather. Furthermore, we expect him to be available starting on Monday. Additionally, the Member for Baker Lake, Simeon Mikkungwak, is also stuck due to the same weather system, so he is unable to be with us today. We expect him tomorrow or afterwards, as he is waiting for the weather to clear up.

Today, the Member for Aivilik, Steve Mapsalak, is not able to be here this afternoon due to illness.

Also, the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu is not able to be here this afternoon either, but she will be back on Monday. She has to travel with the Minister of Family Services, Jeannie Ugyuk.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 093 – 4(2):**  
**Minister Absent from the House**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I say "good day" to my fellow Inuit and community members. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that the Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk will be absent from the House for the period February [26] and 27, 2015 to attend the FPT roundtable for missing aboriginal women in Ottawa, Ontario. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 094 – 4(2):**  
**Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit**  
**Training Program Graduates**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the 17 *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* who have completed a valuable counsellor training program

that supports their work in Nunavut schools.

*Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* provide personal guidance and counselling to students to promote a positive attitude to education, personal well-being, and healthy lifestyles. Mr. Speaker, this program is offered in partnership with Langara College in Vancouver, a leader in counsellor training in Canada. Program instructors include long-term, experienced *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit*, Inuit educators, experienced Nunavut educators, and Langara College staff.

The *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* 11-course training program has run over two and a half years. The final course is being completed this month. The program includes practicum experiences in the school after each course. Mr. Speaker, the program content includes *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values, counselling skill development, leadership and professional ethics, communication skills, and personal development.

(interpretation ends) This certificate program helps us achieve one of the goals of *Qalattuq*, the 10-year Educator Training Strategy 2006-2016, and meet the mandate of *Sivumut Abluqta* to “continue to invest in the education and development of all current and potential public servants.” Mr. Speaker, this certificate program gives *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* the knowledge and skills they need to support the learning goals of our students.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing these graduates.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Minister’s Statement 095 – 4(2):  
Hamlets Moving Forward on  
Water Compliance**

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2012, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) issued five letters of direction to the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) and the hamlets of Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, and Kimmirut to bring their municipal water licences into compliance.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, since then, a water compliance working group formed with representatives from Aboriginal Affairs, CGS, the Department of Environment, senior administrative officers, and municipal engineers have been collaborating to identify common concerns surrounding solid waste practices and water compliance that affect all Nunavut municipalities.

The water compliance working group developed short-, medium-, and long-term work plans that were approved by the Nunavut Association of [Municipal Administrators] (NAMA) at their annual general meeting in Rankin Inlet in November of 2014. We anticipate that the short-term plans will start to be implemented in all Nunavut municipalities in the 2015-16 fiscal year.



(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to report to the House today that last month, CGS received encouraging news from AANDC when the letter of direction regarding the five municipal water licences was officially rescinded.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a tremendous amount of work has been done to put together a strategy that will benefit all municipalities. CGS is pleased to see that the letters of compliance have been rescinded as a result of this hard work and collaboration. Although there is still more work to do to bring municipalities into compliance with their water licences, this is a step forward in the right direction.

Therefore, on behalf of my department, I would like to thank Aboriginal Affairs, NAMA, the Department of Environment, SAOs, and staff at CGS for their continued collaboration and cooperation, and look forward to a continuing this positive working relationship as we move forward on implementing these strategies.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Languages, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Minister's Statement 096 – 4(2):  
Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq  
2015**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell you about *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq* for 2015. Mr. Speaker, *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq* is

Nunavut's annual celebration of the Inuit language.

This year, celebrations are taking place from February 16 until 27 and the theme is *Tuqhurausiit/ilaruhiriigut* (kinship terms), which highlights the important connections between our language, families, and culture.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this year, the Department of Culture and Heritage provided Inuktitut resources to every school, day care, and library in Nunavut, including books, flashcards, posters, and information about this year's theme.

Mr. Speaker, in partnership with the Languages Commissioner, we are also currently co-hosting *Inuugatta*, a three-day conference regarding the past, present, and future of Inuktitut. The conference is being held here in Iqaluit, with events wrapping up today. I would like to say "thank you" to everyone who attended this conference and to all of the people whose hard work made it possible and successful.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I call on all Nunavummiut to celebrate this important part of our culture and to use the Inuit language every day. *Tuqhurausiit upigilavut, uqausivut quviasuutigilavut!* (interpretation ends) *Ma'nalluavik, Koana, merci, Qujannamiik*, thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 097 – 4(2):  
Government of Nunavut  
Operational Audit**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At the beginning of my mandate, I promised Nunavummiut that I would undertake a thorough external review of all Government of Nunavut programs. As part of *Sivumut Abluqta*, we are committed to “good government through the wise use of resources.”

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, we need to understand which of our programs are working and which need improvement to better serve our public. I rise today to provide an update on this process and how this review will provide improvements for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the request for proposals for this operational audit has been issued. We plan to award the contract for the work in the coming weeks. As part of the scope of work, we seek input on the Government of Nunavut's 258 departmental programs and 68 corporate programs.

The first phase of this review will be a comprehensive evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of this government's operations. The second phase of the audit involves a more in-depth review, which will yield results and action to improve our programs and ensure they are delivered in a streamlined and economical manner.

Mr. Speaker, this review will give us program information from an operational perspective to assess what we are doing

well or could improve upon. It will also identify which of our programs are duplicative and unnecessary or could be delivered by the private sector or more suitable organizations.

I look forward to reporting on the progress of this audit going forward and being able to take real steps to improve our government's client experience for the people of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 098 – 4(2): Anti-littering – Decorated Bear Bin Project**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, to my fellow residents of Nunavut and Pangnirtung, I extend good day wishes and to all of the visitors in the Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, today, I am delighted to share with you a collaborative project between my department and 20 students from Cape Dorset.

Under the guidance of Department of Environment staff and with funding from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, students from Cape Dorset decorated a number of wildlife-proof garbage bins with colourful designs. (interpretation ends) The bins have been placed around Cape Dorset to offer an alternative to littering and due to their construction, will not attract wildlife.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see young Nunavummiut actively involved in promoting anti-littering and environmental stewardship, and I would be happy to see similar projects initiated in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 206 – 4(2): Successful Search and Rescue**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the people in the Gallery. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to rise.

Mr. Speaker, last Christmas Eve, two of my constituents, Willie Kolola and Tommy Palluq, departed by snowmobile from Iqaluit to head home for the holidays.

As Members of the House are very much aware, although the highway to Kimmirut is well travelled, any journey of this type has risks, especially in winter.

Mr. Speaker, Tommy and Willie encountered mechanical trouble with their equipment less than halfway to their destination. Despite their best efforts, they were left with no alternatives but to attempt to return to Iqaluit on foot.

Mr. Speaker, Tommy and Willie faced a long journey. It was only because of their determination to support each other over the course of a very long night in the cold and dark that they were able to make it as far as they did.

On Christmas Day, search and rescue volunteers located the two individuals just outside of Iqaluit. This was the best possible Christmas present for their families.

Mr. Speaker, although this incident ended happily, not every situation does. It is extremely important that anyone who is going out on the land to be well prepared for the environment, and it is essential that family and friends back home are aware of your planned route.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I didn't hear any nays. Mr. Joanasie, please proceed.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful that my two constituents were unharmed during this incident, and I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the hundreds of Nunavummiut who are involved in search and rescue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 207 – 4(2):  
Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit  
Graduates**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate the graduation of all the students of the Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit School Community Counsellor program. I wish to extend my congratulations, as they will graduate tomorrow.

From a personal perspective, there are a couple of Kugluktuk residents in the course who I want to acknowledge. My nephew, Ken Taptuna, who is in the gallery, as well as Margo Kumik-Nivingalok, whom I also want to acknowledge. Many thanks for your dedication.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, school community counsellors are one of the first points of contact for our students and parents. The position of community school counsellor is very important and a valuable component to the connections between school, parents, and the students.

I also want to recognize the efforts of all partners in making this training a reality. (interpretation) Thank you one and all for your assistance.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, by taking this program over the past two and half years, these graduates now have the training and the skills needed to better equip them with helping our students and communities. This type of

training is truly an asset and aids in the betterment of our children's success.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Ken Taptuna, Margo Kumik-Nivingalok, and all the rest of the community school counsellors who are graduating this weekend. I ask that you and all of us in this House join me in congratulating them on their achievements. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 208 – 4(2):  
Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the school counsellors who partook in the training and who will be graduating this coming (interpretation ends) weekend (interpretation) with the ceremonies held then.

Mr. Speaker, this role is an essential position and it can be very stressful. Nonetheless, even though that may be the case and even though they had to leave their families to undertake this training over a period of about three weeks, for many days, these students have left behind their children, grandchildren, spouses, and immediate family members in order to complete their course highlights their dedication and commitment to their positions. Additionally, this will provide tremendous benefits to our school student bodies.

(interpretation ends) Dealing with issues such as suicide and how to counsel our young people in and out of schools takes a special kind of person. The work of *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* will have a very positive impact on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, two of my constituents, Mr. Mike Gibbons and Mr. Billy Okotok, are graduating this weekend. Mr. Gibbons is a respected elder. He attended each session. He was a leader in and out of the program and ensured that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* was present during the program. I say “thank you” to these two for their hard work and future contributions to our students.

Mr. Speaker, for our young people who find school hard or for young people who quit college or drop out from school because they are bored, look at these Inuit who are graduating from the Langara College program. They are from all walks of life: working mothers, grandmothers, grandparents, who show that when you persist, you can succeed.

I am proud of Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Okotok, and I am also very proud of my sister, Mary Tatty, who is also graduating from this program this weekend. On behalf of your families, your communities, and indeed, your colleagues, we congratulate you and celebrate with you on your graduation.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I

didn't hear any nays. Mr. Kuksuk, please proceed.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Thanks a lot.

(interpretation) As I was saying prior to this, I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate the students, as they will celebrate their graduation and their role is to guide and support the students in life skills counselling. With their imminent graduation, I wanted to share this good news and ask all members to join me in congratulating these two individuals, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker. *Qujannamiik*. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Member's Statement 209 – 4(2): Encouraging Volunteerism**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just learned that Mr. Gibbons was a relation of mine when we were talking outside, so welcome to the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some comments today to address some of the endeavours and the goodwill that a number of our teachers and members of the RCMP have in our community with regard to volunteering with our youth. Unfortunately, due to my own time constraints, I haven't been able to volunteer coaching as much as I have in the past few years, but I can attest that a number of my fellow coaches in the past have been members of the RCMP and teachers within our communities. From

what I understand, in a lot of the smaller communities, there is a very high demand for coaching for our youth. Teachers, invariably, are ones that step up to the plate, and I would like to commend them for their activities.

With regard to that, one of the concerns I have with this is that it has come to my attention fairly recently that some of our teachers had challenges getting time off through the administration to attend coaching activities within our youth, including some of our cadet programs with Arctic College. I would just like to encourage the minister of Arctic College and the Minister of Education to take into consideration the community needs with our youth and to applaud the activity and the volunteerism that our educators have in our communities and, where reasonable, if conditions permit, to allow them to participate to their fullest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had mentioned some of the people in speaking about the life skills counsellor course. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again recognize them individually by naming them, as they have been taking courses for a while. The following people will be graduating from this

course and if they could please stand when I mention their names. Firstly, I want to start off with Mike Gibbons, who is from Arviat.

>>Applause

He is 71 years young as well as being my paternal cousin, so I take double pride in his accomplishment and he is the eldest of the group here.

A student from Gjoa Haven is Allen Aglukkaq.

>>Applause

Rosemary Akoomalik from Igloolik.

>>Applause

Annie Isnor from Cambridge Bay.

>>Applause

Iga Kigutak from Grise Fiord.

>>Applause

Eunice Paningayak from Taloyoak.

>>Applause

Christine Porter from Gjoa Haven.

>>Applause

Kenneth Taptuna from Kugluktuk.

>>Applause

Billy Okotok from Arviat.

>>Applause

David Akearok from Iqaluit.

>>Applause

Helen Blewett from Cambridge Bay.

>>Applause

Sam Inaksajak from Kugaaruk.

>>Applause

Mary Kellypalik from Cape Dorset.

>>Applause

Margo Nivingalok from Kugluktuk.

>>Applause

Opah Picco from Iqaluit.

>>Applause

Jane Pudnak from Baker Lake, and

>>Applause

Mary Ulivvaq Tatty from Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

Additionally, I want to recognize the instructors in the program over the last few weeks, and the first person I want to recognize is Elizabeth Fortes.

>>Applause

Raj Gill.

>>Applause

Leslie Kemp.

>>Applause

Heather MacDonald.

>>Applause

Mukshowya Niviaqsi.

>>Applause

Larry Railton.

>>Applause

Sarah Takolik, and

>>Applause

Elik Tologanak.

>>Applause

These are the people I wanted to acknowledge. Thank you for your dedication. I know that they will fulfill their duties and our schools will benefit tremendously with their skills. Thank you again.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not too often I recognize people in the gallery. From my hometown of Gjoa Haven are Mr. Allen Aglukkaq, Ms. Christine Porter, and Mr. Walter Porter. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member from Rankin Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize these visitors in the gallery, my paternal cousin, Paul Sammurtok, and Mary Tatty from Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize ladies from my constituency, Anne Isnor, Helen Blewett, and also Elik Tologanak. They are well loved and respected in our community and in our schools with all the children.

I would also like to make a special recognition to Elik. She has served 25 years with the Government of Nunavut, a long-term service award [employee]. Unfortunately, she had to come here two weeks ago when I was over in Cambridge Bay presenting awards, so I am very honoured to now say that she has 25 plus years with the Government of Nunavut. Congratulations, Elik.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize a visitor in the gallery, my paternal uncle, Mathewsie Kellypalik, and his daughter, Theresa, my first cousin, Theresa Kellypalik. My uncle Mathewsie's wife is also present here to attend the graduation, so I want to welcome her.

Further, Mukshowya Niviaqsi, please feel welcome. She is another resident of Cape Dorset. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I am aware some of the following have already been recognized earlier, but it is rare for people from my community to visit the gallery. While I have the chance, I wish to acknowledge the following visitors and to welcome them warmly, although they were already mentioned.

Mr. Mike Gibbons from Arviat also happens to be my wife's brother, my brother-in-law, so I welcome him.

Also, Billy Okotok, a fellow resident of Arviat, is here in the gallery today and I am pleased to see him here.

Also, the third and final person I wish to recognize, who wouldn't smile at me (interpretation ends) after today (interpretation) if I didn't acknowledge her, Mr. Speaker, is my sister. I have to recognize her, so I acquiesce in acknowledging her just so she can smile back. If I didn't do so, she would pout.

>>Laughter

Thank you.

>>Applause



**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member who acknowledged these people earlier, Aarulaaq, might have overlooked his own wife, Elisapee Quassa.

>>*Laughter*

I acknowledge and welcome her to the gallery.

**An Hon. Member:** Shame, shame!

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): I apologize for that.

I was also asked to recognize a person by a member who unfortunately is unable to be present, my niece representing the Netsilik riding, so I was asked to recognize Eunice Paningayak, welcome to the gallery. As well, Sam Inaksajak from Kugaaruk was the other person she wanted to acknowledge. She also mentioned she sends kisses and love to her aunt Sarah Takolik. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I welcome all of you to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell.

Thank you. My apologies. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I don't have any more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

## Item 6: Oral Questions

### Question 343 – 4(2): Status of Ministerial Approval of Arctic Bay Tourism Initiative

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will be aware, the Municipality of Arctic Bay has submitted a proposal to establish a new community-owned operation to “create, develop and market tourism products...in a sustainable manner.”

Under the *Hamlets Act*, municipalities may “encourage local economic development in any manner it considers appropriate.”

However, the approval of the Minister of Community and Government Services is required in circumstances where the initiative would “result in competition with similar services provided by the private sector.”

Can the minister indicate when he will make a decision concerning Arctic Bay's proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question he raised is something I have only heard about without any written background. If the written document can be forwarded, then our department can provide further assistance. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain how his department evaluates proposals such as the one that has been submitted from the Municipality of Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the hamlets want to develop an economic development plan, it has to be approved by the minister. I will cite this example where the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet operates a facility for elders with disabilities. If any other hamlet wants to undertake this type of initiative, they have to submit a completed document in writing. If a proposal is provided, then we can assist them to work towards that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to providing a response to the community of Arctic Bay within the next three weeks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my

earlier statement, I can only accept a written proposal outlining their request and only at that time would our department be able to respond. I don't have any idea when this documentation will arrive, so I can't really respond until I have seen the information. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 344 – 4(2): School Closure Policy Due to Weather**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Pond Inlet, I wish them a good afternoon as well as to all Nunavummiut. Also, I wish to extend a welcome to our fellow Nunavummiut in the Assembly, as your hard work exemplifies the dedication you hold to assist Nunavummiut and especially their children, so for that I thank you.

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

This winter especially, here in our region, has been abnormally cold and I believe in most of Canada. We hear from the communities that due to the extreme cold weather, schools have had to be closed. Some school closures are seemingly unconnected in that there is no commonality.

Some closures are for extreme wind chill factors while others are just based on a forecast of stormy weather and they are closed as a precaution. Although there may be different reasons for these closures, many of our students are still attending classes. For some of the

younger students especially, it can become a safety concern.

What I want clarified here for the benefit of all Nunavummiut and to ensure we are on the same page is what the usual reasons are for school closures related to weather. What weather-related factors come into play when decisions are made to close schools? Who is the final arbiter of this closure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for that question. Indeed, this is something I have realized in this year that we have had numerous school closures.

There are different factors that come into play and depending on these factors, the decision-makers change with respect to school closures. With respect to weather-related factors, the DEAs make the decision to close local schools if the weather is too extreme. With respect to health and safety issues in our schools, when health becomes a concern, then it is the Department of Health that makes that decision.

Due to these many factors, which I spoke to about the closure of schools, if it is weather-related, then the DEA makes that decision. If a blizzard springs up or if the visibility falls to a specified level or if roads are blocked or if this other rule the DEA follows is related to extreme cold and the figure they use is minus 50 degrees or colder, the DEA makes these types of decisions. Another factor is if local vehicles are directed not

to be on the roads, then the DEA would also make that decision.

In our guidelines, as the Department of Education, we have specific criteria that if reached would result in closure of the school. However, we feel the local DEAs have more expertise of their local conditions that would call for school closures. Another factor that is used to close schools is if there is something wrong with the actual building, as an example, frozen pipes or equipment failing due to extreme cold that causes these school closures.

Also, since we tend to follow the local decisions of the communities, if the local hamlet council closes down their communities, everything else closes as well. These are the different type of factors used to close our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want a bit more information on this issue. I am referring specifically to weather only; I wasn't asking about the other factors that come into play when decisions are made.

I wanted to make it understandable for everyone. This winter, I also noted that the temperature in Pond Inlet was much colder than it was in Iqaluit, yet the schools closed here. This difference is what I am trying to address through my line of questioning so that Nunavummiut have a common understanding of these factors.

I also understand now that the local DEAs are the only bodies that can close

the schools due to weather-related factors. Did I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can only concur with that statement since the local DEAs make the decision to close the schools due to inclement weather. Also, as per my earlier statement, the hamlet council can also close the community down and the schools have to follow that decision as well. Yes, I concur that the DEAs are solely responsible for weather-related school closures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me ask this other question to the minister. I understand that the local DEAs can only close the school due to weather. I understand that part completely if it is weather-related.

This question I want to ask now is: what about the Department of Education, the portfolio under you? Does the department provide guiding principles to guide school closures in the communities that they can use as a foundation for school closures due to inclement weather? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my

colleague as he is trying to clarify the situation so everyone understands the background. The communities are all different and perhaps what I spoke to earlier is yes, there are guidelines that are weather-related. If a blizzard is too strong, they can close the school. If the temperature is too extreme, they can also close their schools. If the winds are gusting too strongly, then they can also close the school. If the roads are closed and vehicles are taken off the road and in most communities, they have taxis now, so when they close, that is another reason for closure.

I can reiterate to my colleague that I have directed my officials to review these guidelines, as I have noted as well that we have had many closures because like you, I live in Igloolik and schools will be open there while schools in Iqaluit are closed. This is where consistency will be important and due to that, I have asked that this issue be revisited. I have stated in the past that our schools have to be more consistent in applying various guidelines to close schools. To date, we have tended to acquiesce to the local DEAs, but we may have to revisit these guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 345 – 4(2): Nunavut Food Security Coalition**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, in my view, a sustainable market for the sale of country food and

other food produced within Nunavut would be beneficial for consumers and harvesters in the territory.

On June 9, 2014, the previous Minister of Health tabled the Nunavut Food Security Coalition's strategy and action plan for 2014-16. This action plan indicates that one of the coalition's goals is to "Promote research that involves assessing the cost-benefit of northern food production."

Can the minister indicate what specific research initiatives his department is currently undertaking to assess northern food production? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish we had more caribou to market here in our territory. I am not the minister for the trade of country food, but I have discussed the issue of transport of country food subsidies with the federal Minister of Health when I met with her recently to see if we could expand the Nutrition North program to assist us in transporting country food throughout our communities. That is the furthest extent I have been involved in this so far. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information provided on the coalition's website indicates that the Department of Health is "working with the Nunavut

Food Security Coalition to develop country food policies and procedures that make it easy and safe for government-funded facilities and programs to serve the country foods they want, however they want."

Can the Minister of Health explain what these "country food policies and procedures" will entail? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We do provide technical and other expertise to the strategy group. However, we also work with other departments to ensure that we follow our laws in terms of quotas for wildlife. Those things have to be considered before we advance this further. I will work with my colleagues and make sure that we complete the studies. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is the minister's timeframe for completing these policies and when will they be made publicly available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the official next to me for providing that information. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, there's a draft that

has been produced and we will be looking at the draft and making sure that each department has considered the draft carefully and adopt it, hopefully, in the near future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 346 – 4(2): Marine Infrastructure**

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

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week, I asked questions about the need for new marine infrastructure in my constituency of Uqqummiut.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the government's business plans for the upcoming fiscal year were presented to this House.

I was very pleased to note that the business plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicates that "a business case has been completed for the Qikiqtarjuaq facility."

Can the minister confirm whether or not this business case has been submitted to the federal government for possible funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. This plan has been completed for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq and it will be submitted in the future to the federal government. At this time, I don't think we have submitted the documentation to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When does the minister expect to receive a response from the federal government concerning this proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to this issue, first of all, the original report for Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River within the (interpretation ends) Small Craft Harbours (interpretation) program requires further studies and we have to complete these plans and the title is (interpretation ends) concept development. (interpretation) That still has to be completed and once this aspect of the plans has been completed, we can move forward. That is the part we have to complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of this business

case in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like further clarification on what I should be tabling in the House before the end of this current winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I'll give you an opportunity, Mr. Keyootak, if you would elaborate further.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of this business case in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank our colleague for that question. The construction of these small craft harbours is primarily intended for fishing vessels. A preliminary report was released by our government and this plan was developed from that report. The (interpretation ends) small craft harbour report, (interpretation) which is the proper name, is the report that is the foundation of this plan and this plan is still a part of the department. The report was compiled in 2005, the plan was

finalized in 2006, and we are still working towards that goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 347 – 4(2): Activities of the Office of the Chief Coroner**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice, whose department is responsible for the *Coroners Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the terms of reference for the independent external review into the death of Makibi Timilak specifically states that the review “will not consider the cause of death of the infant...or any conclusions of the Chief Coroner for Nunavut regarding this case.”

Sections 21 to 24 of the *Coroners Act* provide for the circumstances in which a coroner's inquest may be held.

Can the minister explain what conclusions, if any, have been made by the Office of the Chief Coroner in respect to the Cape Dorset incident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The remains of the infant were sent out for an autopsy and they determined the cause of death. I will make a copy of this report available as it speaks to the cause of death and this

is the coroner's report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm whether or not the independent reviewer, Ms. Peterson, will be meeting with the chief coroner as part of the external review process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, with respect to that, I am open to any suggestion related to this external review, although we have informed her that we will provide assistance wherever possible and we will be available to provide this assistance. If the member wishes to meet with any of the parties, we can facilitate that. We will be available to provide assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what further actions will be taken by the Office of the Chief Coroner in respect to the Cape Dorset incident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the report

outlines the findings of the autopsy, so our information is derived from that. However, with respect to the external review, it will only focus on the operational side, as we already know the cause of death. We would like further answers as to how this slipped through the health care system. That is what we will review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 348 – 4(2): Status of the Debt Cap**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a couple of questions to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I found it noteworthy yesterday in the Budget Address that nowhere were the words “debt” or “borrow” mentioned. It is no secret that the government is looking to ask Ottawa for an increase in our borrowing limit. Can the minister clarify for us today what the status of this request is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. I met with Minister Oliver in Ottawa at our federal/provincial/territorial finance ministers' meeting in December. I presented him with a proposal to increase it from \$400 million to \$750 million. I have not spoken to Minister Oliver since. I'm hopeful that they will give good consideration and we will get



an increase, but I haven't heard from him yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to a recent news article, the minister was quoted as saying that at the end of this fiscal year, we will be approaching \$305 million in debt. I have to presume that when we ask Ottawa for an increase in our debt cap, they would ask us to explain what we plan to use the additional borrowing room for. Can the minister clarify what specific proposals the government has? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes again for the question. Mr. Speaker, with the \$400 million debt cap that we have now, it will allow us to complete the Iqaluit airport. We don't have much room for debt beyond that.

During devolution negotiations, there's a possibility, if the agreement is signed, that at some point, we may take on capital leases from the federal government, so we would definitely need the increase. At the same time that I presented Minister Oliver with proposals for our debt cap increase, I gave him two proposals for \$300 million for additional housing and \$200 million for investment in energy in Nunavut to upgrade our power plants.

If we're unsuccessful in getting \$300 million or \$200 million for all those

other projects in our proposals or a similar amount, then we could potentially use some of the increased debt cap to invest in critical infrastructure in Nunavut. I don't have any specific proposals at this time, but it gives us that flexibility and I believe we can service our debt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response to that one. Speaking of serving the debt, when ordinary people make purchases on their Visa or MasterCard, they eventually have to pay the money back or find themselves in a lot of financial trouble.

Although I recognize that government borrowing is not exactly the same as household borrowing, the basic concept of paying your debts is fairly simple. Can the minister outline how the government plans to service its debt over the coming decade? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a fairly simple explanation. We're going to be very prudent financial managers, all of us here in the House and in all our government departments and public agencies, and spend within our means and hopefully produce annual surpluses that allow us to service the debt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 349 – 4(2): Compliance with Duty Travel Directive**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance regarding part of the question I asked yesterday.

I stated yesterday that in 2011, the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposals for a standing offer agreement for medical travel and duty travel on scheduled airlines.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut government's request for proposals indicated that "annual duty travel business is estimated at \$26 million across Nunavut in 2009-2010."

Mr. Speaker, to put it another way that is understandable to the average citizen, the Government of Nunavut forecasted their duty travel expenditures at approximately \$70,000 daily just for travel purposes within one calendar year.

What I want to ask the minister about is this: can the minister tell us today roughly how much the government spends annually for duty travel for their employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the information. I don't have the specific details, but I do know that, as Mr. Enook clearly stated, we do spend a lot on duty

travel. This is a large territory and I don't need to go into the details, but to deliver our programs and services, our people do need to go to the communities or travel to Iqaluit or travel to meetings down south.

All duty travel, as I pointed out to Mr. Enook, has to be approved by the supervisor and it has to be accounted for, so it shouldn't be for frivolous types of trips; it should be for trips that are necessary and promote the delivery of programs and services to this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that the minister will agree that it is only prudent for the government to be fully in compliance with its own duty travel directive, which requires that air travel must be "at the lowest practical fare."

Yesterday, the minister informed the House that GN departments and Crown agencies have been made aware of the rules surrounding duty travel, but he could not tell us if they are all in compliance with the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he is able to respond today about which departments are in full compliance with this directive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I'm not sure I understand Mr.

Enook's question with respect to what he means by compliance. All the departments are aware of the FAM directive, they're all aware of the contract with the two airlines, and they have all been reminded of the codes.

I checked with my officials yesterday. Again, they reassured me that our comptroller general, who is pretty senior in this government, has sent the information and reminders to all the departments and all the public agencies that this is the contract. He also sent them information on "Here is how much you have spent on the two airlines."

Our department has the ability to track what the usage is on a monthly basis and if they're using their corporate credit cards. We will continue to do that and remind them that there are some serious discrepancies in some departments. We have urged the deputy ministers and our officials to monitor very closely and correct those deficiencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is that due to our questions or due to the information you receive? Does the minister or his department have specific details about our departments, our Crown agencies, and whether they are complying with this directive? What measures do you use to determine compliance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I wasn't getting a clear translation, but if I understood what was asked, again, our comptroller general has sent some strongly-worded directives to the departments to ensure that their staff use both airlines in a fairly even manner. We will continue to monitor it and if we don't see any improvements, then our comptroller general has some tools at his disposal to bring departments into compliance or improve their use of both airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 350 – 4(2): Comprehensive Review of NNI Policy**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question today for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, whose department is responsible for the government's NNI Secretariat.

Mr. Speaker, I asked this question to her predecessor to the position and I'm sure the minister has been kept up to speed on this topic since she took over the portfolio.

A little over three years ago, the government announced that it would be undertaking a comprehensive review of the NNI Policy in cooperation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. At that time, the government announced that it would also be conducting a comprehensive internal review of public procurement practices.

In September of 2013, the report of the NNI Review Committee was formally tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This report contains recommendations on almost two dozen issues.

Can the minister update the House today on what the government's next steps are with respect to the review of the NNI Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Tasiluk. (interpretation ends) As he mentioned, the NNI comprehensive review has been completed. The NNI Secretariat is currently working with NTI and other GN departments to draft a new policy which will better support Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. We're hoping that this new policy that supports the development of Inuit and Nunavut businesses and employment of Inuit workers, and so forth, that the final policy will hopefully be released and ready for the spring of 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing that final review of the policy.

Mr. Speaker, one of the recommendations in the report of the NNI Review Committee was that the government's current system of bid adjustments for Inuit owned firms, Nunavut businesses, and local

businesses should be restructured. Can the minister indicate what the government's position is on that recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Revisions to the NNI Policy that are being considered by the review committee, which is Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and our NNI Secretariat, are currently reviewing several recommendations that have been put forth. One of them is looking at the changes to the bid adjustments. Currently, they're analyzing what new formulas might be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I understand one of the challenges why this has been taking so long is that there are a number of stakeholders involved in the process of the review of this policy.

I would like to get the government's position on one of the other recommendations from the report recommending that the current system of bonuses and penalties under the NNI Policy should be reviewed. Can the minister indicate what decisions the government has made on this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Currently there is a bid cap when bids are being put together and that is also under review by the review committee. What they are looking at is whether the cap can be flexible so that the businesses that would like to make bids under the Inuit Employment Plan can have more opportunities to hire more Inuit that they would like to hire during their bid to the government, whatever that might be. Currently that also is only for goods. Currently, the committee is looking at whether that would also include goods as well as services that can be provided under bid adjustments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 351 – 4(2): Staff for Corrections Relief Structure**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm on a bit of a roll here. I don't like leaving time on the clock during Oral Questions.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

Recently, he had arranged to have a tour provided for the social wellness committee to tour the correctional facilities here in Iqaluit. It was very much appreciated to give us a real hands-on look at the conditions of the facilities that are here.

What I would like to get to in my question here today is the overcrowding relief structure that is anticipated to be opening fairly soon. I would like to get an update on the status of staffing that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, the staffing has been quite well planned. My officials have travelled throughout the communities seeking applicants for positions at Makigiarvik, the new facility which should be open very shortly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that. Mr. Speaker, the Inuit Employment Plan for the Department of Justice has indicated that it wishes to promote active and regular recruitment of employees for positions in correctional facilities through an open ad for casual employment.

Can the minister indicate how successful this strategy has been in recruiting Inuit beneficiaries to positions at BCC and other facilities in this city? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There has been limited success with our traditional methods of

recruitment, so we tried something different with the Makigiavik. I must say that the results have been very impressive. I think that we are reviewing both and making sure that we find the best combination to recruit as many Inuit into our facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I asked similar questions almost a year ago, the minister responded that there are a little over 20 employees that will be working in the new facility. As of now, how many of those positions are filled and how many are beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have all the details on that question so far. I'll make sure that I provide that information to the House as soon as I get it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Hickes.

#### **Question 352 – 4(2): Palliative and End-of-Life Care Services**

**Mr. Hickes:** I don't like leaving time on the clock, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question a question for the same minister but under his health portfolio.

In the past, I have asked a question regarding providing end-of-life care and I just want to warm the minister up for the continuation of Committee of the Whole this afternoon.

I would like to ask the minister: in addressing the growing need for training and support to provide palliative and end-of-life care to Nunavut residents and their families, can the minister describe what programs and services are currently available to providing support, training, and care to address palliative and end-of-life needs across Nunavut's communities, and to what extent palliative and end-of-life services are currently being delivered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, there are two dedicated spaces that are used here in Iqaluit for palliative care as and when they're needed. That's all the information I have for now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I asked the minister's predecessor in that position almost a year ago, she had mentioned that there was a program on palliative care education and training, and I'll quote, "is being planned for home and community care workers and continuing care workers" for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The first delivery was to take place in the Kitikmeot area. Would the minister be able to update me today

on how that palliative care education and training program is being run across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm sure it's somewhere in my other binder that I'll be using in Committee of the Whole, so I look forward to answering that at that time. I apologize that my other binder is not with me. (interpretation) I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that notation, I'll save this question for Committee of the Whole and I can assure the Chair that I'll probably be using my full 10 minutes allocated and maybe even a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

### **Question 353 – 4(2): Water Licence Compliance Issues**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like Mr. Hickes, I want to raise my questions prior to the end of question period while I have the chance.

I want to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

While we were in Ministers' Statements, he announced that four communities or hamlets are operating without a water licence. I would like to first ask the minister why these communities didn't have valid water licences they need to provide water services. That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my earlier statement today spoke to the five communities without a water licence and they are Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, and Kimmirut. I doubt they are the only ones, but these communities had some issues with their licences and our department was working with the communities to bring the licences up to date.

At this time, I can now say that the hamlets are moving towards compliance and the federal government is happy with the work we have done. They will be able to get new licences upon completion of the paperwork and recommended work. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard that AANDC sent out correspondence to the communities, but what I now hear is that the correspondence has been returned or (interpretation ends) rescinded.

(interpretation) What plans does your department have for future community water licences so that they can retain

them? How can these licences be rescinded or will your department ensure that no future water licences contravene these requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, currently we have completed these plans for every community in Nunavut, not just related to water licences but all legal requirements the hamlets have to comply with. We will continue to work with the communities to ensure that their water licences comply with these requirements. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize I made an error since the minister highlighted five communities: Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, and Kimmirut. I thought he mentioned four communities, but now I know there are five. For my final question, I want to ask the minister if every community in Nunavut has a valid water licence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually these five communities were the most complex in trying to comply with the regulations, but there were other

communities who fell short of these requirements for their licences. However, the correspondence we received from AANDC showed the deficiencies and the result was a review of every community water licence for compliance.

At this time, we are still working with the communities to ensure they get valid water licences both for water delivery and sewage services. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 096 – 4(2):  
Response to the Standing  
Committee on Oversight of  
Government Operations and  
Public Accounts' October 29, 2014  
Report on the Review of the 2012-  
2013 Annual Report of the  
Languages Commissioner of  
Nunavut**

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' October 29, 2014 Report on the Review of the 2012-13 Annual



Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 097 – 4(2):  
Response to the Standing  
Committee on Oversight of  
Government Operations and  
Public Accounts’ Report on the  
Review of the 2012-2013 and 2013-  
2014 Annual Reports of the  
Information and Privacy  
Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut’s Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts’ Report on the Review of 2012-13 and 2013-14 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Tabled Document 098 – 4(2): Nunavut  
Wildfire Annual Report for the  
Period January 1, 2014 to  
December 31, 2014**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Wildfire Annual Report for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Tabled Document 099 – 4(2):  
Environmental Rights Act Annual  
Report for the Period January 1,  
2014 to December 31, 2014**

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Annual Report for the *Environmental Rights Act* for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Moving on. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Item 18: First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 14 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
3, 2014-2015 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 14 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 15 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-  
2015 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-2015*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 15 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 17 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-  
2013 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 17, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-2013*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The bill is in motion. (interpretation) I'm sorry.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) The motion is in order. I knew you would smile on that one. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 17 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 18 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
1, 2015-2016 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 18 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the  
Workers' Compensation Act –  
First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 19 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20.

[Consideration in] Committee of the

Whole on Bills and Other Matters. Bill 16 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 15:17 and Committee resumed at 15:44

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): I will now call the committee meeting to order. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, the people watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome to your Committee of the Whole.

We will now proceed. We have the following item to deal with: Bill 16. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the review of the O&M appropriation for the Department of Health and, if time permits, the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree that we continue with our review of the main estimates for the Department of Health?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Health – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement to have Minister Okalik's witnesses return to the table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Minister Okalik, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you and good day, Mr. Chairman. With me again today are my Deputy Minister, Colleen Stockley, and Assistant Deputy Minister Rosemary Keenainak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Also, prior to commencing our opening comments, I directed staff to research some of the issues raised in the questions we couldn't answer yesterday, but we have some information available now. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I can provide them now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Welcome, Ms. Stockley and Ms. Keenainak. We're on page H-6. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) at this time, I will give you an opportunity to provide responses to the earlier questions from yesterday so that we can all hear the information. You have the opportunity now before we

proceed. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we couldn't provide the information yesterday members enquired about and we stated we would look into them.

First of all, with respect to the High Arctic and Repulse Bay medical travel delays and specialist visits to the communities where people can't make appointments, what we can respond with on this issue is that we concur with the need for longer visitation periods so that all who need it are seen. We will start planning the extensions, but I doubt that it will be done right away as we need to do more research to make these improvements.

We also heard yesterday about the Repulse Bay patients who are bumped off due to the airline focusing on freight delivery and not passengers, so we will meet with the airline companies and stress the importance of this service and try to have regular meetings. We will now work on that.

Another question was raised about the boarding homes where medical patients board in during their travel. They have to comply with regulations. Any boarding home has to comply with specific legislative requirements. Further, if any patient were to be injured in the boarding home, our department has to be immediately notified. The regulations are primarily geared towards health and safety practices to protect the patients at the boarding facilities and they are inspected for compliance. Yes, these meetings aren't on a daily basis, but we will be looking at setting regular

meetings, perhaps four times a year when inspections occur. That is what we have now planned.

Another concern was raised regarding mental health workers and whether they receive adequate training. The training fund was depleted. However, we are aware of the need to train more of our employees. That is another plan we will work towards, a training plan for the mental health workers. We will use what are called in English (interpretation ends) training ladders (interpretation) to progress them through Arctic College. We will plan this through Arctic College because we know that we need to conduct more training in this field.

Another question was related to the time period that doctors and specialists spend in the communities. From what I understand, 1,340 days was spent in Nunavut to date within this calendar year. This is the total number of days they spend in all communities in Nunavut and as far as I am aware, this figure is also not adequate for our needs. We will need to revisit this in the future.

Another question was raised about the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program for aboriginal people and we know people are tired of waiting for this change as we try to complete our work, but we do know that it is a complex situation as this program is specific to non-insured people. Additionally, this program is operated by another level of government, so we have to review this in a different vein. We also know it will increase the costs to this government, which is why it requires careful scrutiny. We have yet to finish this work, but we will continue to work towards that in the immediate future.

These are the main questions we couldn't respond to, but I know there will be many questions from my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I am also quite grateful for your department's quick turnaround to the questions raised by the members yesterday and for your responses to them. It is now easier to understand. On behalf of the members who raised those questions, I thank you as they will now be able to review these responses.

We will move on. We are on H-6. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his officials. I guess I'll carry on from where I was in question period today.

Mr. Chairman, I realize I brought this topic up under H-4, but I would like to revisit it under the Health Care Service Delivery page because I believe it has an impact.

From the response to the written question that I had given the department to the minister in the last session, I spoke yesterday about 10 positions on internal assignment, of which almost three-quarters of them were quite senior positions. I had mention yesterday on how it was a concern of mine that so many senior officials within the department were on an acting basis.

One of the concerns that I've got regarding the health care service delivery is that whenever there is an acting position, it creates a domino effect for the position below them. If

somebody moves up to fill an acting position, that position is empty.

If I take this under the numbers that I have in front of me of 10 positions in acting, really, there are at least 20 positions that are impacted, which creates even more work for the fellow staff at the lower level that report to these positions. Their work obligations are a lot higher.

I would just like to ask the minister: how many of these acting positions have been posted in the last six months? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) We post regularly, so I don't have all that detail with me, but I know that we do have about 1,000 employees and 10 positions on transfer assignment. Yes, that's too many. Comparing the numbers, it's a challenge and we are working with the Department of Finance to make sure that we fill up those positions that need to be filled. We understand that it creates additional challenges when we aren't able to staff up, so we are working with the Department of Finance on those areas. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure some of us come from the public service and I myself have worked in director positions in an acting capacity and I know, at that time, you're dealing

with a director's position, it's different than dealing, in my circumstance, it was policy. When you're a policy analyst or even a senior policy analyst, the directorship is still a different skill set that is needed.

What concerns me the most out of these is there are so many senior positions. There are at least six directors and ADM of operations. These are very senior positions within the department. There is the territorial director of mental health and addictions. You can't take a mental health worker and all of a sudden assume that they've got the ability to direct the division. The executive director of Iqaluit health services, depending upon the position of where the individual came from, doesn't necessarily give them the skill set to manage the Iqaluit health services across our whole city. It brings a lot of concerns.

I would like to see a little bit more action on filling the positions and backfilling the positions underneath if the people that are in the acting capacity do end up with the indeterminate position. It is more of a comment, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will allow the minister to respond to that before I go to my next question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If you want, Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I fully agree with my colleague that we need to create more stability and permanency within our workforce. It is not that we are not trying. I have met with the federal

minister. I have met with Canada's Mental Health Association, for example. We are trying to do what we can to find the best people for all the positions that we need in here in our territory. That will continue.

I appreciate my colleague's concern and I share that very much. I hope that within the coming year, we will be in a better position and that those indeterminate positions will be filled. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing some progress in that avenue.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to one of the questions from my colleague, Ms. Angnakak, who is travelling today, regarding patient relations office. I think I understood where she was kind of going on the tracking process of completion. Thinking about it overnight kind of made me wonder.

I understand that they are tracking the amount of calls and the purpose of the calls, but I'm wondering if they are tracking the successful completion or if there is a call where the patient was unsatisfied, satisfied, or very satisfied. I'm wondering if they're rating that tracking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We haven't had the

capacity to survey our callers yet, but I think we track the successful results in some way. We can get that information, perhaps. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure Ms. Angnakak, myself, and the rest of the committee members will look forward to that information.

I had a question regarding some of the responses yesterday from the minister to my colleague, Mr. Rumbolt. If he doesn't mind, I'll elaborate a little bit on it. In one of his responses to the 24/7 additional health care professionals, he stated that they are not looking at increasing more PYs, but looking at adjusting their hours to accommodate the level of care that they are providing now.

From my information, when we were looking at the allocation of the new PYs that are being applied for, I have listed 27 positions in health centres. Maybe if the minister could elaborate on which statement is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I said, the additional PYs will definitely assist us in delivering better services throughout our territory. The nurse practitioners in numerous communities will assist in reducing the burden faced by our health care workers throughout the territory. It

has been very successful in Pond Inlet. It will help us in relieving some of the stress faced by our nurses in those communities.

In terms of 24/7 care, we do offer it now. The nurses have regular hours from 8:30 to 5:00, but they are always on call and they designate a person who will be on call after hours, so they are on 24/7 for emergency cases. I want to be clear on that. We are trying to work on adjusting the hours where they are busiest so that it reduces the overtime that they may face for the coming year. That will take a bit of time, as negotiations with the union will be required on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify the statement that you said that you're not looking at increasing more PYs, you are looking at increasing PYs under this pilot program that was done in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The pilot project in Pond Inlet was to look at improving services and diagnostic skill sets through nurse practitioners and that was very successful. We are spreading it to the other communities so that we have those additional tools that will allow us to diagnose patients quicker and this will increase our capacity throughout the

communities. It's not increasing the hours; it's just providing us with an additional tool to assist the nurses on the ground. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With these 27 positions in the health centres across the territory, again I'm going to use that word I don't like, Mr. Chairman, assume that you've had discussions with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on staff housing availability across the communities for these positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, there are five additional PYs for psychiatric nursing in Qikiqtarjuaq, Kimmirut, Iqaluit, and a shared position in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, one community wellness worker here in Iqaluit, and 22 positions in Cambridge Bay for residential treatment. Those are the 27 I believe my colleague is referring to. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I sincerely thank the minister for clarifying that for my information, but maybe he could elaborate on the discussions regarding staff housing allocations that are going to be needed

for these positions in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, a lot of these positions are there already and some housing has been provided to them already. I think that the issue of housing has been addressed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to a response from Mr. Rumbolt again yesterday, he had asked a question regarding, and I'll quote from the *Blues*, "...I wonder if you can explain why your department needs another \$5.56 million in order to provide a service that you're already providing." In the response, the minister is quoted as saying, "Those are more monies that may be needed to deliver the service."

I have been in this position for a little over a year now, but I don't think we approve monies too often that may be needed. Maybe if the minister could elaborate a little bit more on the need of those dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank my colleague for that question because



we're trying to stay ahead of the curve. My colleague may be aware that on average, the Department of Health requests an additional supplementary appropriation of about \$20 million a year, on average pretty much. We're trying to get ahead of the curve and look at our actual spending on overtime and other things that we face throughout the year. We're trying to stay ahead and hopefully we may have less or hopefully none for a supplementary appropriation in the coming year. We're trying to stay ahead and actually ask for the money that we may need for the coming year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know I have gone on rants before in this legislature on the need of coming back for supplementary appropriations from all departments, but I have specified the Department of Health in the past.

I still have a question regarding the dollar amount. If it's anticipated that there is that much overtime being used or needed on an annual basis, why aren't more PYs designated to offset the positions so that you're not having to have staff work so much overtime? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We try our best and hire as many nurses as we can. With this budget, it will assist us in hiring

additional support for nursing which will definitely help us in relieving some pressures.

As I said, we are looking at reducing overtime, but that requires more discussion with the union so that we can reduce the amount of overtime. We are looking at innovative ways to try and adjust our ways in reducing the dollars that are expended at Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Chairman will allow me a little bit of flexibility here, as the minister brought up supplementary appropriations, I realize it's not under this budget line. Is there an anticipated supplementary appropriation that is going to be coming to the House from the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, it is your discretion.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to ask: are we projecting for next year or this past year? I just want clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clarification please, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** It's both years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Laughter

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Okalik, your discretion.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There will be a request for this past year, but as I said, we are trying to keep the numbers as low as possible for the coming year by planning ahead. That's what we are trying to do and we are trying to avoid supplementary appropriations hopefully for the coming year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiiktauq*, Hon. Minister. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to that day.

>>Laughter

I'm going to jump now to the same page that Ms. Angnakak brought up yesterday in the appendix A-IV-2, Detail of Projects Funded under Third-Party Agreements. The very first header under that is the Health Portfolio Wellness Contribution Agreement. According to the main estimates, this amount will be decreased for 2015-16 despite an increase in the revised estimates amount from 2014-15 of almost \$9 million. How is this amount of federal funding provided for this program determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, on April 1, 2012, Health entered into a five-year funding agreement with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada for community-based wellness programs. Communities have been and are provided with the opportunity to access multiyear funding for community wellness programs upon receipt of their community cluster plans and further proposals.

Funding from Health Canada (Northern Region) totals \$87.5 million over five years. Under this agreement, Health has the ability to move unspent funds from one fiscal year to the next until March 31, 2017. At the outset of the agreement, the funding was broken down to approximately \$17 million per year. However, various budget adjustments have been made throughout the year.

In addition, as Health has the ability to carry forward funds, the total yearly amount expended may be higher or lower upon the amount that may be estimated. This accounts for the differences between 2014-15 and 2015-16, as presented, on the Health Portfolio Wellness Contribution Agreement line under H-8. That's what I have so far. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response and I'm pretty sure I understand, but maybe just for clarification, the main estimates in 2014-15 estimated a little over \$19 million

coming in under that and the revised estimates came up to a little over \$26.5 million. Those are monies that were expended that fell under the criteria of this fund, so the federal government funded it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Yes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes, Mr. Hickes, go ahead.

**Mr. Hickes:** Short and sweet. Thank you. If only my questions were so short sometimes.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to touch on the Medical Transportation Division. Since the 2014-15 budget, the amount hasn't really increased or decreased and yet, I know that in this House, we have talked about a number of different initiatives, the CT scanner, telehealth, to offset some of the medical travel. What steps have been taken to better predict the cost in this area, and how are some of those initiatives working if we're not seeing the budget amount decrease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The benefit of the CT scanner is that it allows us to get an earlier diagnosis and allows us to provide earlier treatment in a lot of cases. It may not reduce the amount of travel, but it allows us to diagnose

earlier, which might also increase travel to Ottawa, for example, to get proper treatment for the patient. That's probably why you don't see a lot of reduction in travel there because we're actually just improving our services. The earlier we treat diagnosis, the better the result for both the patient and our department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pretty sure I know some of this information, but maybe if the minister could... I'm going to talk specifically about cancer identification and early treatment. It has been brought up a number of times in the legislature here that too often, our residents, by the time they find out they have cancer, it's too late to treat in a manner other than extending their life on a short-term basis and it's too late to eliminate the cancer in their bodies. What steps is the Department of Health taking in early identification of cancer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The CT scanner has definitely assisted us in providing an earlier diagnosis. For example, we will probably have sent about 300 patients to Ottawa for the same type of test. We have done about 1,300 tests here in Iqaluit, for example, which allows us to diagnose earlier and easier in our territory. It definitely has helped us in providing a better service for those who

may be at risk. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the priorities in the business plan, and sorry I don't have my page open to it, but in the 2015-16 portion of the priorities in the business plan, it speaks to developing and "pilot a primary care model at the Qikiqtani General Hospital." Can you describe what kind of model is currently in place at the hospital, and how a primary care model will change the current way services are delivered for Iqalumiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** We're just trying to locate the page at this time. (interpretation) I'm sorry.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What we are planning to do is to assign a team to each patient, which will allow for continuum of care. If one of those team members cannot attend to the patient, at least an additional person will be able to assist in caring for that individual that requires treatment or some medical work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That partially answered my question, I guess, but I'll leave it at that for now,

Mr. Chairman. I've got another question that I would like to get to.

On page 110 of the business plan, it talks about the budget for Hospital and Physician Services increasing from \$71.7 million to \$75.5 million. Have the costs for services increased under this category or are more services being delivered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I said in my opening comments, the CT scanner, for example, has been a very useful tool for our hospital and we will need additional resources to support it like a scheduler and additional technicians to work the scanner, so this budget reflects that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Mr. Hickes, you have noticed that your time has run out. I will recognize other people for now and I will get back to you. I'm going to go to another member. I also will hand over the Chair at some point so I could ask one question, but I want to ask a question.

Some people say "tarraqtuutiit" in Inuktitut for the CT scan, but you say that it is quite useful. I would like to ask this question. Because it is based in Iqaluit, perhaps there will be one in the Rankin Inlet Health Centre or the Cambridge Bay Health Centre. Are you having that in your plans in the future? I wanted to ask that question. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that we all know the usefulness of it and how it could be used in other communities. We are looking into that, but right now, we are also looking at it in terms of Iqaluit only. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): I don't think they want to hear my question.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I want to ask about is the (interpretation ends) home care providers. (interpretation) In our community, I sometimes listen to the radio and hear about the facility and that has now closed. I want to know if this program is successful throughout Nunavut. That is what I want a response on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this program has provided a benefit to our department and we haven't identified it as a concern as we are quite satisfied with the operation of this program, as it provides tremendous benefit to people with disabilities and elders. This program has been successful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to move to a different item.

With respect to our elders, yesterday, you were reading a statement where I believe you stated that there are possibly 30 elders in Nunavut still waiting for this. In Rankin Inlet, while you were speaking, I wrote down a few notes with a (interpretation ends) rough estimate. (interpretation) I believe we have at least seven or more elders who require assistance. What plans does your department have for the Kivalliq regional (interpretation ends) elders care facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is within our plans and will provide a tremendous benefit to our elders and proper care. Due to the availability of an unused building in Cambridge Bay, we will be using the funds to convert the building for that program. We are also in the planning stages for a facility in Rankin Inlet, as we are aware of the number of people waiting for home care. We have put it in our business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move to the next issue. With respect to the (interpretation ends) mental health transition home, (interpretation) I believe it was last year where plans were made to develop a (interpretation ends)

mental health transition home. (interpretation) They closed the facility housing the (interpretation ends) children's group home (interpretation) in Rankin Inlet to convert it to that. What is the status of that project that was to convert this building into the (interpretation ends) mental health transition home (interpretation) in Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it is in the capital items, so I will speak on that at some later time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are going to move along. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start with a brief preamble regarding the health budget, as it seems obvious that priority has been placed on the mental health services. There were several additional amounts added and I thought it was good to hear about. There are many people in our community that experience mental health issues. This is part of the government plans and that it isn't a simple exercise.

However, let me first ask this question on his department's 2015-16 main estimates. It speaks about collaborative work with other bodies on suicide prevention. This was identified in January 2014 that the chief coroner would hold an inquest on suicide prevention. What does the Department of Health provide to the coroner's office

towards this objective? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if these move forward, we are open to providing any assistance as necessary in order to ensure that the review is comprehensive and wherever we can provide assistance, we will be available to provide this assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another item in the priority list speaks to this issue more than once in the health department's plans. I am aware you are working with different organizations on the suicide prevention initiative. We also recently heard that... .

**Chairman**: Sorry, I have to ring the bell because we have no quorum.

Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): I'm sorry. Let me continue with my line of questioning. I want to ask about the priorities identified by the health department within the plan for 2015-16 and 2016-17, and I believe this is for future plans of the department.

Regarding the suicide prevention program and the fact you are required to work with different organizations along with some news we heard recently about the expiration of the plans based on the agreements, when will the minister provide the details on the end date of the

agreement? I believe it is set to expire at the end of March. Can the minister respond to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously this will not end, even if the plan has expired. However, we are currently reviewing this issue to see how much of a benefit it will provide. If it requires adjustments, we will have them ready. This is a personal concern to me and I am meeting with various organizations. We plan to hold a major meeting with our circumpolar arctic countries that are concerned about these issues and this is set for the end of March here in Iqaluit. That is how we are trying to make ourselves open by always looking for better practices and this will continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. I have one more question on another matter. Does the Government of Nunavut have other funds aside from this fund approaching \$1 million through (interpretation ends) Vote 4/5 (interpretation) allocations which are directed to this program? This is the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Family Physician Residents program. (interpretation) That is the title. I wonder how many physicians benefit from this fund to assist Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is something we want to see continue, as it assists us in our recruiting efforts. The undergraduates who are nearing completion of their medical studies work as residents to complete their training while assisting the doctors. At this time, I believe there is one person in residency and we have plans for one more. We will seek another resident to provide more help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. I want to move to another matter related to their plans on page 110 listing (interpretation ends) Medical Transportation. (interpretation) Do the funds, although it was discussed earlier, keep increasing? As an example, there are various programs under the health department with preventative care, such as the CT scanner that was mentioned earlier.

I believe it was last year that we heard that the policy had changed and here I refer to the (interpretation ends) Medical Travel Policy. (interpretation) From the time the policy was changed, have you realized any savings in your expenditures or has it led to higher expenditures? Hopefully I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the program funding for medical travel hasn't changed significantly, although

the policy was changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many people had concerns about this policy and with the changes enacted, particularly with respect to the escorts where medical patient escort policies were changed, the funds haven't changed much. It was stated that a review would be undertaken. What about the review? Have you started the review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just to remind the minister that you have a mute button if you need to discuss with your staff. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is, indeed, in the planning stages to hold a review down the line and to deal with this in the future. We continue to prepare possible improvements for this review. Yes, we have heard loud and clear the concerns expressed by certain people. This policy is one that looks like it needs addressing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I want some clarification on whether the (interpretation ends) Medical Transportation (interpretation) includes accommodations while patients are travelling where they require boarding in their travel. I wanted to know if I can ask this question here and whether the Chair will approve this question. I ask for your direction.

**Chairman:** Yes, go ahead, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Whenever a patient is travelling outside of their community for medical treatment, they sometimes are required to find accommodations. As an example, here in Iqaluit, they have a boarding home called Tammaativvik. However, whenever it is full, patients sometimes have to stay in the hotels. I would like some information as to how many times accommodation has been required due to overcrowding issues. Do you have any figures related to patients who have had to find other accommodations when no space is available at the boarding home? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have contractual agreements with various hotels when space is at a premium and this is governed by the agreement. As to the actual numbers, I don't have the figures for hotel stays. However, we can look into that by reviewing last year's figures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. Another issue relates to the occasional need to find accommodations for medical patients due to unforeseen circumstances. Are patients required to find their own accommodations? Does the minister know if that is the case? If my comments are understandable, that is, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.



**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In those cases, if the patient has family members, they are asked if they would prefer to stay with their relatives while in Iqaluit. This happens occasionally here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Another issue relates to the medical travel planner who looks after travel and accommodation needs of the patients. Are there any workers available during the weekends to handle weekend arrangements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is an emergency, those people are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This isn't really a question but more of a comment. Here I am thinking of the people who need to travel to other communities with their air travel and accommodations arranged. It was brought up earlier that the department is trying to get 24/7 positions. Can this be taken into consideration as well for the medical travel personnel to be available on weekends?

Airlines don't stop flying on weekends. Sometimes people need to travel home and if weekends were used, it would probably benefit some of the medical appointments and scheduling. If this

were possible, I wanted to just comment on it, but I would like the minister to respond to this if he is able to. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. This is a comment only, but if Minister Okalik would like to respond, he may.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this isn't a simple process as doctors have to conduct a thorough examination of patients to ensure treatment has been completed. Sometimes they require another checkup before they can be released. I can't just answer that question at this time, but I can only respond that his comment about weekend availability has been noted and we can try to consider that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it. With the new Chair, I get a new line of questioning. Thank you.

To pick up where I left off a little bit regarding the medical travel costs, one of the programs in place to help offset some of those challenges is telehealth. Last year, I had asked the then minister of the day for some statistics of usage across different categories and she responded with clinical services, education, administration, family visitation, and that usage had increased from the previous year by 24 percent, with clinical services accounting for 53 percent of the traffic.

Mr. Peterson has accused me of being a calculator guy. I guess numbers assist me in helping me make my decisions. I

was wondering if the minister would be able to update me on today's statistics for telehealth use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Minister Okalik, you've got a mute button.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) I don't know how to work this very well.

>> *Laughter*

So far to date in 2015 to February 23, 3,371.95 hours have been used on telehealth. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking for the number that I had had in the past. I thought it was around 4,000 hours, but I don't have it in front of me, so I'll move on to my next question. Maybe the minister might have some of that information in front of him. Is that an increase or decrease of use by telehealth from the year previous to this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation end) As the year is not complete yet, I can't answer, but it appears to be an increase from prior years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will probably follow up with the minister either later on this sitting or probably in the next sitting to get those updated numbers. Thank you.

Also last year, I had asked the minister of the day regarding the health care gap analysis that was being done by the department looking at optimizing staffing levels and service delivery approaches in each community. At the time, the response I got was that "We are putting together what we are going to be doing" was the main point of the response. What has been put together in the last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** From what I understand, it is still not done, but we are working away at it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From a lot of the responses, you guys are working away at a lot of things and I appreciate that. I know things don't happen overnight. The wheels of bureaucracy don't turn as fast as we would like sometimes, but I think optimizing staffing levels and service delivery for each community would be a very key component to making sure that your budgeting is accurate and that the needs of Nunavummiut are being met.

I'll move on to my next question. I'm going to actually ask about something that I don't see in the business plan or in the budget. There is an increase in

therapeutic services, such as surgical aftercare and rehabilitation services. I recently was reading an article and I was trying to think of it earlier in which jurisdiction. I believe it was one of the eastern provinces that have identified massive amounts of savings from the health care service by increasing the services provided for therapy, after surgical care, and rehabilitation services.

I can speak from experience here in Iqaluit that our rehabilitation services are very good, but there is quite an extensive waiting period. I think I got a call about six or eight months after I needed my own rehabilitation services after some initial appointments. To me, that showed that there is a real backlog in that.

I think they would alleviate a lot of the stresses for your department if people would be able to rehabilitate themselves with proper trained individuals. Why is there no increase in funding if a dire need is identified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Although we can't handle all those situations, we are working better at coordinating our efforts a lot better with southern health care providers by arranging travel better. Those are improving.

We are also providing some good therapy at the Public Health Centre, 155. I toured that facility and even though the space is small, they're making do with a lot of good work for the community here.

There's some good work that's happening, but I'm sure that we can do more. We need to coordinate our efforts with the southern providers of health care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a recipient of some of that great care, I can assure you that they are doing a lot of great work with the resources they are given. It is something that I will continue to follow up on. I think it's a missed opportunity to address some of the cost savings that could be addressed in your overall budget.

I would like to go on to my next topic right now where, again, it was a question I had asked last year about the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Now, I realize I'm treading a thin line here, Mr. Chairman, but I believe it is directly related to health care service delivery of improving the orientation, mentorship, and professional development opportunities for our nurses. At that time, there were still recommendations being considered for some of those improvements. What work has been done since last year on that endeavour? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What we have done so far is that recommendations are being considered for the recruitment strategy that includes improvements to hiring and human resource practices, orientation mentorship, and professional development. We're also looking at

improving supports available for nurses as well as working cooperatively with Nunavut Arctic College to support the nursing students and graduates to enhance their ability to be recruited and retained here in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that this just goes to some other comments the minister has made previously that there are a lot of things being worked on and I acknowledge that, but that's basically the same answer I got last year.

Just to use an example, if you've got a health care practitioner in Nunavut that takes professional development opportunities that's paid for by the Government of Nunavut, whether it be specialization into a certain field or expanding upon their existing knowledge base, what types of supports are being put in place by your department to not only acknowledge that continuing professional development, but to utilize those skills that you have paid for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I acknowledge that there's some more work that needs to be done, but I must say that we have an indeterminate HR director now, so that's an improvement from prior years. She did a presentation for me upon my appointment and she is working away, and I was very impressed with her level of knowledge and expertise in this area. I'm looking forward to some good work.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that we're all looking forward to further good work by the Department of Health, but again, just going back to my example, what actual opportunities are being supported by the Department of Health to take advantage of these learning opportunities that health care professionals take upon their work week from their home and family life to further their own education for the better of Nunavummiut and Nunavut patients?

What is being done to make sure that those skills stay in Nunavut after we spend money to basically bolster their resumé? Most education practices that I have seen that don't require an educational leave don't have any obligation to the Government of Nunavut to stick around to utilize those skills that are being gained at the Government of Nunavut's expense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We offer assistance, about \$3,000 a year per nurse, for nurses for continuing education. If they require travel outside, we offer that as well with return of service. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'll leave that alone right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're at Health Branch Summary. Health Care Service Delivery. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$271,584,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to page H-3. Department Summary. Health. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$317,439,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that this department is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Okalik, you got any closing comments? Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I want to express my gratitude to my ministerial colleague, my predecessor at Health, Minister Ell who prepared all of the documentation and made it really easy to present the work. With respect to this portfolio, it seems I am just receiving the benefits of the hard work done earlier. However, I want to express my thanks and these are good things to move forward with.

Moreover, I would be remiss in not mentioning my two officials at the witness table with me, so I thank them for their assistance as without them, I wouldn't be able to go ahead with this review.

As well, thanks to my colleagues for expressing the issues and concerns, and for voicing the needs we are still faced with. We will use that to start planning for the next fiscal year. Obviously, we won't be able to provide immediate answers to all the questions, but it assists our planning and that is how we can enact changes. I thank you for providing more direction to the department and for your contributions. For that, I thank you.

That concludes this aspect, but it is obvious that I will return in a different capacity in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Okalik and officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out. We will take a five-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 16:55 and resumed at 17:06*

### **Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. We will now be considering the Department of Community and Government Services. At the witness table will be Minister Sammurtok. Welcome. We will move on. I would first like to ask if you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree to bring in the minister's officials?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Roy Green and to my left is the Director of Finance, Gershom Moyo.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Welcome to the House, Mr. Green and Mr. Moyo.

Before we go to the page-by-page review, I would like to give you the opportunity, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) to make your opening comments. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be reading my opening comments in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee of the Whole to review the Department of Community and Government Services' 2015-16 main estimates and business plan.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services

continues to manage programs and services for local government, government services, petroleum products, procurement, protection services, informatics, property and asset management, and sport and recreation.

When the Petroleum Products Division revolving [fund] is included, CGS has an overall annual budget of \$456 million with nearly 375 positions spread out across Nunavut.

Our projected budget includes a net increase of \$10.2 million over last year's main estimates.

The Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the fuel provision mandate for the GN. As a direct result of efforts made by my department's use of the early purchase of petroleum products in the face of volatile global fuel prices, we have been able to maintain the current price for fiscal year 2014-15.

Mr. Chairman, given the significant decline in the price of crude on world markets, Petroleum Products has purchased approximately 70 percent of the 2015-16 supply of fuels through the early purchase program, which has resulted in savings to the GN in excess of \$32 million compared to last year's resupply costs.

On April 1, 2013, CGS rolled out the new Municipal Funding Program. The funding formula is subject to review every three years. CGS will undertake a program review of the Municipal Funding Program to ensure the sustainability of the funding program during fiscal year 2015-16.

CGS continues to strongly support the activities of the Municipal Training Organization (MTO). MTO has been providing much needed training for municipal employees for over 10 years now. The training provided by MTO allows municipal employees to gain skills that assist them in delivering services to residents with training costs that are low and affordable to municipalities. CGS remains MTO's largest funding partner and we are pleased to continue our funding levels to MTO.

Our Sport and Recreation Division has just completed its support activities for Team Nunavut's participation at the 2014 North American Indigenous Games and is in the final stage of... We are actually participating at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George as of now.

Mr. Chairman, we continue our work on the development of a regulatory framework for the Nunavut *Building Code Act*. The department is undertaking the development of the regulations, which is expected to be completed late fiscal year 2015-16.

CGS continues to work on improving core municipal services, such as water, wastewater, and solid waste, in each of Nunavut's communities. The partnership with Dalhousie University on wastewater is providing insight on factors that may impact the performance of treatment systems. This study will be completed in fiscal year 2015-16, which will allow Nunavut to provide preliminary recommendations to federal regulators in the development of appropriate effluent quality standards for Nunavut and the Far North.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to advise members that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development has revoked the letter of direction issued to five Nunavut communities in 2012 due to the progress that is being made by CGS and the working group in addressing compliance issues with municipal water licences.

Our Property and Asset Management Division continues to pursue process improvements to ensure that the GN's preventative maintenance and lifecycle renewal initiatives will support higher performing and longer-lasting buildings.

We are currently undertaking a program review to update our maintenance management standards and to examine gaps in existing delivery standards.

Mr. Chairman, CGS continues to invest in government operations by increasing funding to support our IT infrastructure. The number of people on the government network continues to expand due to decentralization and other factors. In addition, the number and types of devices that users need to work and communicate continues to increase.

CGS is committed and continues to strive to improve telecommunications for the government as a whole. This commitment has allowed the government to build telecommunication infrastructure capable of managing over three times the amount of bandwidth since 2010 to improve program and service delivery. With forward-thinking and new technologies, CGS will continue enhancing our telecommunications network to provide even better government services to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the department's Protection Services Division has been working hard to improve search and rescue response programs available to the public. We will continue with our ongoing commitment to train community SAR organizations, hamlets, and individuals in assisting the RCMP and military in responding to searches.

The number of search and rescue incidents is on the rise in Nunavut. In 2014, there were 216 searches for over 443 individuals. We continue to promote the use of SPOT devices and increase awareness of safety preparedness measures for all individuals going out on the land or water.

The territorial emergency plan along with the Department of Community and Government Services' emergency plans have been completed and will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this year. The department has also completed a guidance document to assist others in developing their emergency plans.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my comments give an appreciation of the progress that my department is making in addressing the goals of this government. CGS is a service-based department and we will strive to improve our service to all our clients. We will work collaboratively with all departments and our municipal government partners to meet the goals of *Sivumut Abluqta* as we step forward together in building Nunavut.

I would now be pleased to answer any questions you may have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. At this time, I

would like to give the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development an opportunity to make his opening comments. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon to the minister and his officials here today.

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget of \$230,969,000 has increased by approximately 4.6 percent since the introduction of the department's 2014-15 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 375. This is an increase of seven positions from the 2014-15 estimates.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The standing committee notes that the organizational structure of the department has changed significantly since the introduction of its 2014-15 main estimates. The department's 2015-16 organizational structure includes two newly added branches and a number of new divisions. The standing committee recognizes that the organizational changes presented in the department's 2015-16 main estimates do not



significantly affect its roles and responsibilities.

During his recent appearance, the minister indicated that a number of the department's organizational changes have been made to improve the lines of communication between the department's community support offices and municipalities. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that municipalities receive all necessary information and support from the department in a clear and timely manner.

The department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that a draft legislative proposal to introduce amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* has been completed for review. The issue of amending this legislation to provide for the regulation of cheque-cashing fees, money transfer fees, and payday loans has been raised in the Legislative Assembly on a number of occasions and the standing committee looks forward to the timely introduction of these amendments.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services has the lead responsibility for the Government of Nunavut's procurement function and is responsible for preparing its annual reports on contracting, procurement and leasing activities. The Minister of Community and Government Services is responsible for ensuring that these important annual reports are tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner.

The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for the government's primary municipal

funding programs, including the Municipal Funding Program, the Water and Sewage Funding Program, and the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program. The department's proposed 2015-16 main estimates include projected expenditures of approximately \$60 million on its five major municipal funding programs.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that a number of the department's policies in this area, including its Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy, appear to have expired. The standing committee encourages the minister to ensure that these key policies are reviewed on a periodic basis and that any updated versions are made publicly available at the earliest opportunity.

The Nunavut Emergency Management office is responsible for a number of initiatives, including the development of emergency response plans, coordinating the government's emergency operations, and providing support to community search and rescue volunteer organizations. The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for preparing an annual report on the activities of this office under section 32 of the *Emergency Measures Act*. The standing committee notes that the department has not yet tabled its 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports under the *Emergency Measures Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for the administration of the government's Community Search and Rescue Organization Support Policy and Community Based Search and Rescue Contribution Policy. The standing

committee notes that these policies appear to have expired. The standing committee encourages the minister to ensure that these key policies are reviewed on a periodic basis and that any updated versions are made publicly available at the earliest opportunity.

The standing committee strongly supports initiatives on the part of the department to work closely with community-based search and rescue organizations to address such issues as training and equipment needs.

As members will recall, the Legislative Assembly's Full Caucus held a retreat in Kugluktuk in February of last year to establish a number of priority areas. At that time, caucus announced that a territory-wide plebiscite will be held in 2016 to determine if the current restrictions applying to the disposal of municipal lands should continue.

The department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Plan for the preparation and conduct a land plebiscite" in each community and that this plebiscite is currently scheduled to take place in 2016. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of keeping the Nunavut public fully informed on this issue.

The department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that the department has completed work on an accurate inventory of assets and condition ratings for all facilities. It also indicates that two of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year are to finalize and implement "a strategic plan for addressing the maintenance of community and government assets."

On May 9, 2014, the department issued a request for proposals titled "Asset Management Program Review." Information provided by the department indicates that a contract was awarded for this project on July 10 of 2014. The standing committee encourages the minister to table a copy of its new facilities inventory and condition ratings report in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity. This information will be of benefit to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and will serve to complement and update information that has been previously published in the integrated community sustainability plans that have been produced for Nunavut's municipalities.

On February 28, 2014, the department issued a *Request for Information for Potential Planning for Solid Waste Management Methods for Nunavut Territory*. The RFI closed on March 28, 2014. Testimony provided to the House on May 30, 2014, during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the department's 2014-15 main estimates, indicated that a final report on this initiative had been provided and that the department was in the process of evaluating that report.

Mr. Chairman, given the heightened public awareness of the need to address Nunavut's aging solid waste management infrastructure and to explore new technologies, such as incineration, the standing committee encourages the minister to report to the House at the earliest opportunity on the results of his department's *Request for Information for Potential Planning for Solid Waste Management Methods for Nunavut Territory*.

Mr. Chairman, a related issue concerns water quality in Nunavut. On May 29, 2014, during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the department's 2014-15 main estimates, testimony that was provided to the House indicated that a number of communities in Nunavut were not in compliance with the terms and conditions of their water licences. The department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that a "Compliance plan has been developed in collaboration with AANDC and the Nunavut Water Board." It also indicates that this plan is "currently being used to address new water license renewal applications that require a compliance plan."

The standing committee also notes that one of the department's goals for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Propose appropriate effluent quality standards for Nunavut to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment."

As a note, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to note that earlier today, the minister did do a Minister's Statement on water compliance. Just to note that.

Mr. Chairman, MLAs have spoken on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly about the importance of drinking water safety and quality in Nunavut.

The standing committee continues to recommend that the department prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive annual report on water quality in all Nunavut communities. The standing committee also notes that there are a number of water testing requirements currently provided for in

the Public Water Supply Regulations made under the *Public Health Act*.

Mr. Chairman, a new *Building Code Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2012. The department's 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Finalize the establishment of regulations for the Nunavut Building Code Act." Sections 23 and 24 of the *Building Code Act* came into force in September of 2013. These sections provide for the establishment of a Nunavut Building Advisory Committee. A number of members were appointed to this committee in March of 2014. The standing committee recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the activities of this committee.

Mr. Chairman, in April of 2014, Members of the Legislative Assembly held hearings on the Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Safety of Schools and Childcare Facilities in Nunavut. The department has previously indicated that it would "work with the Department of Education to finalize and implement the *Fire Safety Planning Guidelines for School Facilities*" and "begin to develop an implementation plan to broaden the *Fire Safety Planning Guidelines* to include other facilities in other departments."

The department's 2015-18 business plan indicates that "Fire Safety Guidelines for School Facilities have been developed and will be implemented in the new fiscal year." The standing committee encourages the minister to table these guidelines in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Well read. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to move a motion to report progress.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out. Thank you.

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

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Allan Rumbolt. The motion is in order.

All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*Orders of the Day* for February 27:

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

## 19. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 14
- Bill 15
- Bill 17
- Bill 18
- Bill 19

20. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters

- Bill 16

21. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole

## 22. Third Reading of Bills

## 23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) This House stands  
adjourned until Friday, February 27, at  
9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:37*

