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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Rankin Inlet South)

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
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Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Environment

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

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(Quttiktuq)

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(Tununiq)
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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
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(South Baffin)

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

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Quassa.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut, members, ministers, and Premier. Welcome. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 144 – 4(2):
Nunavut Arctic College Nursing
Accreditation**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today to update my fellow members about the recent review by the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut with respect to the accreditation of our

Nursing Program. Our Nursing Program has received a three-year extension to the 2017-18 academic year.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Nursing Program, developed collaboratively between Nunavut Arctic College and Dalhousie University, is a four-year program that focuses on nursing in Nunavut. The degree is conferred by Dalhousie University. Since the establishment of our Bachelor of Science in Arctic Nursing Program, 39 students have graduated, most of whom were hired by the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the program is designed to prepare graduates as entry-level practitioners to work in a variety of settings, to include hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community-based agencies. The curriculum emphasizes awareness and respect for Inuit culture and prepares nurses to be leaders in the health care system of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, education is the number one priority of our government. Working together, in partnership with our institutional partners, we look forward to building on the strong foundations we have established to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 145 – 4(2): Davis Strait Polar Bear User-to-User Meeting

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and residents of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that officials from my department are attending the Davis Strait polar bear user-to-user meeting in Montreal from May 26 to 28. This meeting brings together organizations and governments from across Nunavut, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Representatives will attempt to determine the most effective allocation system for the total allowable harvest established by the respective wildlife boards for the shared Davis Strait polar bear subpopulation.

Mr. Speaker, this is yet another example of the efforts and collaboration between parties to ensure the success of our co-management approach for wildlife species which migrate across our man-made borders. Working together with experts from all the regions concerned, we will be able to ensure the sustainability of the harvest from this polar bear population into the future, and I am proud that our government is part of this cooperative approach to wildlife management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 146 – 4(2): Annual Report on Poverty Reduction

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my constituents and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today, I will be tabling the first Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction.

Mr. Speaker, guided by *Sivumut Abluqta*, the Department of Family Services is focused on building healthy families through strong and resilient communities. We are investing in community-based solutions to improve health, social well-being, and local economies.

Mr. Speaker, the annual report describes 65 different programs, policies, and initiatives delivered by our departments and territorial corporations that contribute to reducing poverty in its many forms.

Our communities continue to face social challenges on a daily basis. Nunavummiut's reliance on income assistance and public housing, our challenges with food insecurity and homelessness, our struggles with mental health and addictions are well known.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this report shows that we are working together with my colleagues to continue progress towards reducing poverty in Nunavut. I invite my colleagues to consider this report and enter into a conversation on what is working well, what needs improvement, and what is missing in order to focus our resources in better

supporting our children, families, and community organizations.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Family Services will continue to partner with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in leading the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

Mr. Speaker, we will lead the work to review and reform our Income Assistance Program. We are working to improve the capacity of our communities to better help Nunavummiut facing the crisis of absolute homelessness and family violence. We are building and facilitating partnerships to improve food security. We will focus on finding ways to better support *Inunnguiniq* (parenting and child development). We want to strengthen our local non-governmental organizations and community groups.

The reduction of poverty in our territory will be an important measure of our success in providing the combination of programs and services that support Nunavummiut in times of need, but also challenges and encourages them as they work to build communities and livelihoods, educate and train themselves, and raise their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 147 – 4(2):
Hivuliqtikhanut Program**

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good

afternoon, (interpretation ends) colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to announce to my colleagues about an exciting development to strengthen Nunavut's public service. As I have mentioned, the Sivumuaqatigiit Division of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs now reports to my office as we actively work towards increasing Inuit employment within the Government of Nunavut (GN).

Mr. Speaker, the department issued a request for proposals in October 2014 to deliver a comprehensive leadership program customized to our government's public service needs. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce our new partners, PGF Consultants Incorporated and the Institute on Governance, will design and deliver the new Hivuliqtikhanut Program (GN's Leadership Development Program). Team members include very knowledgeable individuals with strong roots and connections to the Arctic, including Mary Simon and Leena Evic.

This is the first time the Government of Nunavut has initiated a unique leadership program specifically aimed for our public service. Through the Government of Nunavut's Leadership Competency Model, we are laying the groundwork for this program and working with our new partners to make the Leadership Development Program a reality. We are currently in the curriculum design phase and we aim to launch the program for its first intake in the fall.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut recognizes the need for building capacity within our organization. We are committed to supporting and providing training for leadership development for our public servants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 148 – 4(2):
Retirement of Andrew Tagak Sr.**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it gives me great pleasure to introduce and thank a fellow Inuk, Andrew Tagak Sr., who has dedicated his working life to the betterment of his fellow Inuit.

Andrew Tagak Sr. was born on November 14, 1949 in an igloo at Aulatsivik (Tay Sound) camp near Resolute Bay. Today, that site is still used as a camp for summer hunting expeditions. His father wrote in his diary that he had been hunting when Andrew was born. He returned home from the hunting trip and learned he had a new son. When he heard the news, he wrote that he was proud and that the other men in the camp envied him because he now had a son who could be a helper and hunter in the family.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Tagak Sr. has seen and experienced phenomenal change in Nunavut. He was born in an igloo, which he hasn't forgotten, and wore traditional clothing until he was nine. His family

moved to Resolute Bay travelling by dog team, and he has transitioned to air travel, email, and the Internet during his lifetime. Mr. Tagak is in awe and simply says, and I quote, "what a change ... what a change!"

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Tagak Sr. leads by example. His work life and family life speaks clearly to the success of incorporating the newest and latest in technology and change while honouring and recognizing our Inuit traditions and culture.

Prior to joining the Department of Health, Mr. Tagak worked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for several years, and he previously worked with the Government of Northwest Territories from 1980 to 1999 in various progressively responsible roles.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tagak has now chosen to move into the next phase of his life, a much deserved retirement. Therefore, effective May 26, almost 12 years to the day that he joined the Department of Health as the IQ coordinator, Mr. Tagak began his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew is a special guest in our Gallery today. He is joined by his wife, Jane, whom he met as a young man in Resolute Bay; his son Andrew and daughter-in-law Lena, and two granddaughters Kaleigh and Simaiya; son Solomon; and daughter Katharine and son-in-law Jason. Andrew's other son John, who works with the RCMP in Ottawa, is unable to join his father today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Andrew for his dedication, support, and betterment of Nunavut and

Nunavummiut and wish him all the best in his retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Andrew.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 294 – 4(2): Successful 2015 Pangagujjiniq – Nunavut Quest

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the people in Arctic Bay and Nunavut who are watching, as well as my colleagues.

I rise today to say that starting in the 1980s in our community, a wonderful event took place where hockey players came to our community. We also had gatherings of bible study groups, as well as a dog team quest. I am very pleased to see this as our community is becoming alive once again in traditional celebrations.

I rise today to congratulate and to also celebrate with the people of Nunavut for the Pangagujjiniq Nunavut Quest. It started from Pond Inlet on April 20 and arrived to Arctic Bay on April 27. They also had a large number of helpers on snowmobile to meet the mushers at the point out in the nearby inlet. It was a wonderful sight to witness, with approximately 23 skidoos meeting the dog teams. They arrived in Arctic Bay on April 27.

The first dog musher to arrive was Simosie Sivugat from Clyde River, Michael Innuaraq from Pond Inlet, Fiona Qaunaq from Igloolik, Teeman Avinningaq from Arctic Bay, Lee Innuaraq from Pond Inlet, Mosesee Oyukuluk from Arctic Bay, Titus Alooelloo from Pond Inlet, Jay Aqqiaruq from Igloolik, Michael Qaunaq from Arctic Bay, Ulaayuk Barnabas from Arctic Bay, and Jason Palluq from Clyde River. I was very proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 295 – 4(2): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's 2015 High School Graduates

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again it gives me great pride to rise in the House to congratulate the high school graduates from Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, graduating from high school is an important step in our lives. This achievement represents work and discipline, two important skills for future success.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Dora Kavik, Simionie Oqaituk, Noah Emikotailak, and Qairallaq Qairallaq. These young graduates are role models for the youth in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend my congratulations to all of those who help our graduates achieve their success. I congratulate the parents, guardians,

teachers, and the community as a whole for providing encouragement and support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 296 – 4(2): Is Education Really Our Priority?

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to question our government's commitment to education across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the government's mandate document, *Sivumut Abluqta*, states as its very first priority, "Self-reliance and optimism through education and training."

Mr. Speaker, the education system in our schools is delivered by trained and qualified professionals called teachers. In order to provide education to Nunavummiut, we need to have teachers in our classrooms.

However, we recently learned that for the 2015-16 school year, many communities will lose teaching positions in their schools. Rankin Inlet will lose 1.5 positions, but my colleague from Arviat will see a decrease of over 12 teaching positions from his community.

Mr. Speaker, apparently the number of teachers allocated to a school is based on student enrolment which, in turn, is

based on attendance, but many factors can affect enrolment and attendance. For example, parents may move from community to community for employment or educational opportunities and their children may not get enrolled until later in the school year.

Given Arviat's growing population, the third largest in Nunavut, with nearly a quarter of its residents of school age, it does not make sense for the number of teaching staff in that community's schools to decrease.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed cuts to Nunavut's teaching positions do not support the government's stated commitment to education. I call on the government to review its policies and make its commitment to education a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 297 – 4(2): Congratulations to the Kivalliq Mine Training Society

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut. Have a very good day.

It is with pleasure that I rise today to acknowledge the Kivalliq Mine Training Society, which has recently secured a significant amount of federal funding to carry out its role.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Kivalliq Mine Training Society plays an

important role in developing the trades skills and preparedness among residents in the territory. Through the services provided by the society, Nunavummiut have the opportunity to develop their skills and pursue career paths without having to leave their home territory.

(interpretation) The recently announced \$1.7 million in federal funding will allow the society to continue its work in providing skills training, preparation courses, and community development initiatives throughout the Kivalliq region.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Kivalliq Mine Training Society has helped a significant number of Inuit in the region to secure employment in Nunavut's growing mining industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating the Kivalliq Mine Training Society and wish them continued success in providing essential training and assistance to not only Kivallirmiut but to all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 298 – 4(2):
Congratulations to the Arviat
Cinema Group**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Arviat Cinema Group on winning a gold medal

at the recent Business Development Bank of Canada E-Spirit competition.

Mr. Speaker, the Bank of Development Canada is a national business plan competition for aboriginal students in grades 10 through 12. The competition allows students to gain business, management, and leadership skills through the development of business plans.

On May 22, 2015, Justin Kuksuk, Justin Suluk, and Kyle Schaubroeck of the Arviat Cinema Group received a gold medal for their E-Spirit project, which proposes to raise funds for local organizations and programs that address food scarcity in Arviat by holding regular movie screenings at the John Arnalukjuak High School. The group also received a \$4,000 cash prize and a Best Environmental or Community Impact Achievement Award for their project.

Mr. Speaker, in its own business plan, the government indicates that one of its priorities is to “promote and support the use of harvesting skills and community-based solutions to enhance access to nutritious food throughout the territory.”

Mr. Speaker, it seems as if the government could take lessons from these young students, who demonstrate what can be achieved through creativity, determination, and hard work. The Arviat Cinema Group reminds us that all the solutions to our territory's biggest problems sometimes require small but significant steps within and through our own communities.

I wish all the best to the Arviat Cinema Group and I hope that they are

successful in their pursuit for food security within the community of Arviat and eventually throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Arviat Cinema Group for their outstanding achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 299 – 4(2):
School Breakfast Programs**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everybody. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again acknowledge the Department of Education for providing support for a very important program and that's the school breakfast program across Nunavut's schools.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, many Nunavut communities had to fundraise, submit proposals, and go out and get volunteers or donations to be able to offer breakfast programs in their schools.

As we all know, when children are not distracted by hunger or lack of nutrition, they do significantly better in school and in life. Breakfast programs are critical to the educational well-being of our children.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to support the Department of Education's recent main estimates budget which included funding for school breakfast programs in 2015-16 for all of Nunavut's schools. Mr. Speaker, this is

an important, if not critical, first step, but we must keep walking forward and I encourage the government to make sure that this funding is ongoing from year to year.

Mr. Speaker, every community and school manages its programs and staff differently. In some cases teachers volunteer to run or help out with the breakfast programs. In other cases teachers are assigned the breakfast program duty whether they like it or not.

Now that the government has taken the important step of addressing hunger and food insecurity for our children, I encourage all efforts to make the program more sustainable in the long term. For example, it might be worth considering hiring part-time employees to look after the breakfast programs so that you can the teachers do their job, which is to teach.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the government found a way to address this important need. I encourage the minister and his colleagues to give full consideration to not only making sure that this initiative continues, but also to see that it's enhanced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 300 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Gjoa Haven
Graduates of the Nunavut Teacher
Education Program**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Good afternoon, *Uqhuqtuurmiullu*.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly congratulate five of my constituents who recently graduated from the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

Mr. Speaker, on May 19, I had the great pleasure of attending and speaking at an NTEP graduation ceremony in Gjoa Haven.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Minister Quassa for having taken the time to attend the ceremony in person.

Mr. Speaker, NTEP is an extremely important program that has succeeded in producing a significant number of teachers since its establishment in the year 1979.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Gjoa Haven, I have been a strong supporter of NTEP and other programs that provide opportunities for our people to earn the educational qualifications that will enable them to pursue rewarding careers.

Education and lifelong learning are the foundations of success in today's world.

I strongly encourage our high school graduates to consider careers as professional, qualified teachers.

There is nothing more rewarding than making a difference in a young person's

life, and the success of our children and our children's children depends on a strong education system that is delivered by dedicated professionals.

I very much hope that there will be future NTEP modules offered again in Gjoa Haven so that more of our community's residents can pursue educational opportunities in their home community.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to offer my sincere congratulations to Abby Anavilok, Eleanor Cipriano, Catherine Hiqiniq, Rhonda Nimiqtaqtuq, and Rita Porter. The entire community is very proud of them and their accomplishments and I ask all members to join me in congratulating my constituents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 301 – 4(2):
Appreciation to Arviat Elders**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Coming from the most western part of Nunavut, our community, which is two time zones away from the capital of Iqaluit, gives a different perspective on the size and, indeed, the unique character of our territory.

On our recent visit to the community of Arviat last week with Minister Kuksuk and Minister Quassa, I had an opportunity to meet with the local elders there in Arviat. Speaking to them in my Inuinnaqtun dialect, not only did the

elders understand me, but I was able to converse and, indeed, ask questions to them.

Nunavut is a large territory with a small population, but I was able to converse and, indeed, ask questions to them.

Nunavut is a large territory with a small population, but our elders indicated that we have had many challenges and working together, finding common ground is a way Inuit have survived for millennia.

Mr. Speaker, our territory is vast. We do have tremendous challenges ahead of us, but in conversing, speaking, and hearing from our elders like we did in Arviat last week has more than ever confirmed for me that we are on the right path.

I appreciate the offer from Mr. Kuksuk and Mr. Savikataaq to visit Arviat, the fastest growing community in Nunavut, and I look forward to more community visits in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 302 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Pangnirtung
Graduates**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut. I would like to announce the college graduates from Pangnirtung.

The graduates from the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program from Pangnirtung were Rita Claire Mike and Lynn Mike, who are my nieces. I am very proud that they are graduates of Nunavut Sivuniksavut.

Also Nancy Mike went to Dalhousie University and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree.

Also, in the Environmental Technology Program at Nunavut Arctic College, Alex Kilabuk completed the program.

We had also had Arctic College students Sheila Alikatuktuk, Ooleepeeka Arnaqaq, and Patricia Peyton graduate from the Interpreter/Translator Program.

For office administration, Lily Kilabuk graduated from the program.

For college foundation, Pricilla Angnakak and Anita Evic are the graduates.

For adult education were Lucy Akulukjuk, Sharon Akulukjuk, Pasa Kuniliusee, Lorna Kuniliusie, and Anita Nakashuk.

Also graduating from the Pangnirtung Community Learning Centre in pre-trades were Stevie Akpalialuk, George Akulukjuk, Leah Naulalik Kilabuk, and Pauloosie Maniapik.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 303 – 4(2):
Recipients of Commissioner's
Award in Igloolik**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to rise today to recognize and acknowledge individuals who just received the Commissioner's awards on May 6 in Igloolik.

Firstly, two elders, Leonie Qrunnut and Marie Airut, received awards for volunteering in the community, mostly for people who lost loved ones. They also do counselling and tirelessly help the youth in the community. I thank Leonie Qrunnut and Marie Airut for volunteering in the community of Igloolik.

There are two young people, Adam Qanatsiaq and June Uyarasuk, who were recognized for their considerable help in Igloolik when there was an armed standoff in the community in 2014. These two people were able to counsel or talk to the young person who had a gun and succeeded in disarming him. These two were deeply appreciated for their actions in ending this unfortunate incident in Igloolik. They were very strong at the time that they helped counsel the individual.

Last but not least, Simon Amaaq, in April 2013, at that time in what we call *Aukkarniq* in Amittuq. I think it's called *Sarvaq* here. It was when he was out sealing and the individual, Panuili, after he caught a seal, fell into the ice as it was breaking up due to strong currents.

He was about to be sucked under the water in a polynya when Simon Amaaq was able to pull him out in the nick of time.

These are the individuals I want to recognize again after they were recognized and awarded with the Commissioner's awards on May 6 in Igloolik. I would like to congratulate these individuals along with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 304 – 4(2):
Arviat Soccer Athletes**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, good day to you, Arviarmiut, and Nunavummiut. I say "good day" to you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate certain individuals. From May 21 to 24, in Whale Cove, there were under 13 boys and girls who went to a soccer tournament in Whale Cove and I am very proud of them. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to congratulate those young people, the boys and girls, for winning a gold medal for Whale Cove, and I know these young people very well.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the boys' team is coached by Alex Makin. I would like to say "thank you" to Alex for his hard work. (interpretation) I will name the individuals who received a gold medal and they are:

- Jeremiah Oklaga

- Joseph Kuksuk, who is the captain
- Timothy Kriterdlik
- Ricky Okalik...

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation):
...Garren Voisey

- Oliver Angoo
- Zedekiah Sammurtok, and
- Brandon Nipisar.

These were the youth that received the gold medal.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the (interpretation ends) girls' team, coached by Haley. Thank you, Haley. (interpretation) Thank you. These were the people who received the gold medal:

Renee Okalik...

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. George Kuksuk: ...Amber Okalik....

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. George Kuksuk: ...Adina Panika...

An Hon. Member: *Nauk?*

>>*Laughter*

Hon. George Kuksuk: ...Mary Kate Napayok

- Emma Jones

- Macy Jones
- Faith Suwaksiork
- Leona Teenar, and
- Shoofly Nattar

(interpretation) These were the girls' team.

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

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, my colleagues. I'm almost finished.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I also want to say "hello" to my *panik*. (interpretation) Alana Kuksuk is a coach as well for volleyball and they will be playing here this coming weekend with her team from Whale Cove.

(interpretation ends) And also share that there are Arctic Winter Games tryouts this weekend (interpretation) from May 29 to June 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 305 – 4(2):
Appreciation to Family in
Constituency**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a nice spring day and I would like to say “hello” to the people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. I would also like to say “hello” to the visitors in the Gallery here.

Yesterday, we received some booklets from the Department of Culture and Heritage which deal with family relationships. I am very grateful when you are far away from Taloyoak here in Iqaluit. I am proud to take this opportunity to rise and thank my mother, sisters, brother, and aunt. I would like to recognize them and my mother and grandfather and my relatives in Kugaaruk who are related to my husband.

There also is my grandchild whom I love so much and lives in Taloyoak. He finished school and received 100 percent. His marks were just shy of 100 percent by point five and he was one of the students that went to school regularly. I love my grandchild very much and it is very important that we have this kinship.

When we listened to the reading of the booklet on family relationships yesterday, I was very much touched in my heart and remembered Angmaluk, who is my aunt, and my other great-aunt, Nuliajuk.

I send my greetings to the people of Taloyoak. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 306 – 4(2):
Appreciation to Mike Giles for
House Fire Rescue**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My fellow Okaliks got a gold medal, so I am very proud of that. We may not be many, but I am always proud of them.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to acknowledge one of my constituents when a home was on fire on May 9. Fortunately, the residents inside the home were rescued by my constituent, Mike Giles. When he saw the fire and realized that there were still people in there who were probably asleep, he rushed inside without any thought for himself and managed to get those three people out.

It is very obvious that those people were in a lot of danger. He was able to save them all and we are grateful to Mike Giles that they are okay. It was great that he was able to be in a position to help those people and also save some of my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize some people that were already recognized, but I represent them and they are Andrew and Jan Tagak and family. Welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this time to recognize Mr. Andrew Tagak Jr. He is a constituent of mine along with his wife, Lena, and their children. Like Mr. Tagak Jr., I am a junior as well, so I think we've always had kind of an affinity and he is one of the most pleasant people that I know. He is always waving and any time I communicate with him, he is just a fantastic gentleman and I would just like to congratulate sr. as well too on his retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Member for Arviat, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to take this opportunity at this time to recognize two people from Arviat who are here. One of them is Pat Netser and the other one is Joy Suluk. They are here from Arviat. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating the individuals who are here with us today. I think we're getting really good at using computers. They are here for education purposes. We have published something that is for literacy called "Read to me."

The people involved, please stand when I say your name so that you will be recognized properly. Oleepa Nowyook from Pangnirtung is one of the elders. Leetia Alivaktuk is one of the elders also from Pangnirtung.

A long-time teacher is Lena Metuq, who is in the Department of Education in Pangnirtung. Joy Suluk is from Arviat and she is from the Department of Education as well. Maggie Muckpah is also from the Department of Education and she is from Rankin Inlet. Pat Netser is also from the Department of Education in Arviat.

Those are the people who are here and Talieh Samadi is here as well to introduce curriculum material to our schools. I'm sure they will be helping to develop education for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two

special visitors from Japan to the gallery. I know that they were sitting there earlier, but I believe that they went to the airport.

Mr. Speaker, Consul General Mr. Tamora and Consul for Economic Affairs Mr. Andau were here to discuss economic opportunities within Nunavut. They have met with our ministerial colleagues and I would like to welcome them to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize people who are here from my constituency, Arviat North, and fellow residents of Arviat. They were already recognized, but I would like to mention Joy Suluk and Pat Saimana Netser. Please have good meetings in Iqaluit and feel welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my fellow resident of Rankin Inlet, Maggie Putulik, not Maggie Muckpah.

>>Laughter

We also have Pat Netser from Arviat and Joy Suluk. I also welcome all of the people who are here with them.

I would also like to welcome someone I have known for many years, whom I went to school with in Churchill. I am happy to see Andrew Tagak again today. Thank you. Welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my fellow residents in the gallery, Oleepa Nowyook, Leetia Alivaktuk, Lena Metuq, and Talieh Samadi. Welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. The Premier just raised his hand again. I think he forgot someone. Go ahead, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being from Kugluktuk, I'm trying to break of my record of recognizing people in the gallery. My record is two, so I want to break that this year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Herb Nakimayak. He's from Paulatuk on the Northwest Territories side, but he's a relative of mine through our family. I would like to recognize and welcome him to the legislative Chambers. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day.

Before we go to Item 6, I just forgot someone. Thank you for reminding me, Premier. Our colleagues, Simeon Mikkungwak and Pauloosie Keyootak, are not able to attend today. They were not able to arrive in town. However, we expect to see them tomorrow. I just wanted to explain that.

Item 6. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 492 – 4(2): Inspection of Government Building in Resolute Bay

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Last fall, I showed you pictures of a house in terrible condition and that was a workplace that needed to be inspected. Has the house that I had shown pictures of been inspected? Government of Nunavut employees were going to go and inspect it, so I would like to know if the minister can tell me if it has been inspected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What house is he referring to? Is he referring to somebody's home or an office building? I would like to know what house he's referring to. Is it a workplace? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous minister knows about it. It is a workplace that is occupied by the Department of Family Services. It is a Government of Nunavut workplace. It's a very old building that drips. That is what I'm asking about and if it has been inspected properly yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot respond to the question right now, but I will have to take the question as notice and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has taken the question as notice and I will move to the next member on my list. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 493 – 4(2): Departmental Staffing Issues

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Economic Development and

Transportation. We haven't asked her a question yet.

According to the government's most recently tabled employment statistics, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has a vacancy rate of approximately 30 percent, with over 40 of its positions being vacant. Two dozen of these positions are located in Iqaluit. However, as of this morning, not a single job ad for positions at ED&T are posted on the government's website.

Can the minister confirm whether or not the department is currently in a hiring freeze? 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, *Uqaqtitsijii*. (interpretation) I would also like to thank my colleague for her question. Our department is not responsible for human resources, but I can tell you that I haven't heard anything about a hiring freeze at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost called you "Mr. Chairman." Sorry.

I'm a little bit surprised that the minister wouldn't know if there's a hiring freeze or not because I think that would be a big thing in a department, but I'm going to go on to my next question and I'm

hoping she can perhaps give me an answer here.

Can the minister confirm how many layoffs or terminations of employees at the Department of Economic Development and Transportation have occurred over the last six months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take that question as notice. Thank you.

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

Question 494 – 4(2): Consumer Protection Act

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

As the minister will recall, I have raised the issue of amending the territorial *Consumer Protection Act* to regulate such issues as cheque-cashing fees on a number of occasions. I was pleased to note that the minister's department is currently inviting public input on this issue.

Can the minister describe what specific amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* his department is presently considering? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Yes, we're working on this issue right now and we're reviewing it because it's very important at this time within the government.

It is usually the practice of other Canadian jurisdictions that there are cheque-cashing fees and looking at this issue, whether you are a province, in order to protect the consumer when they're cashing their cheque, they could regulate such issues. I can tell you that we're working on it right now, but the work we're doing is incomplete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has given a deadline of June 30 for comments and submissions to be received. Can the minister confirm if his bill to amend the *Consumer Protection Act* will be ready to be introduced when the Legislative Assembly reconvenes in its fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to his question, yes, we're planning for the fall sitting. If we can complete it before the fall sitting, we will do so, but I

believe that this coming summer and fall, I know that it's quite cumbersome to work on this with a deadline of June 30 for comments and submissions to be received.

By that time, I'm sure we will be receiving more submissions and comments from the public in regard to this. We are trying to get submissions and comments from the larger stores in Nunavut, Northern stores and Co-op stores, while we're working on the amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I raised this issue in March of last year, the Legislative Assembly was informed by the minister of the day that the department was also looking at such issues as money transfer fees, payday loans, and also maybe cheque-cashing fees. Can the minister confirm if he will be looking at capping the amount that businesses can charge consumers for such services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will deal with those and we will also work on those when we're looking at amendments to the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 495 – 4(2): Manitoba-Kivalliq Power Transmission

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, whose department is responsible for the Government of Nunavut's Energy Secretariat.

Yesterday, the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation tabled the government's response to our standing committee's recent report on its recent hearings.

In this response, the government indicates that the Energy Secretariat in the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has taken the "lead" role in representing the Government of Nunavut concerning the issue of extending hydroelectric power transmission from Manitoba to the Kivalliq. As the minister is well aware, this is a key issue of mine.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of the Energy Secretariat's work in this area? 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. The department is the lead on the government side; we share it with CG&S and EIA. QEC is also involved. The actual lead for that energy options working group is actually the mayors of Churchill and Arviat. This was set up recently. There is a scoping study being

initiated. It started on April 1 by BBA, an engineering firm. Under the direction of the Kivalliq Inuit Association, on behalf of the working group, we expect that project to take approximately 20 weeks to be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. BBA is part of the working group; are they the ones that are going to draw up a business plan to justify whether there is enough need to extend the power line? Can the minister just explain exactly what the work is that this BBA company is going to do? 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. We are working with our regional partners and this is one of the committees. It's an option that is proposing a Manitoba-Nunavut road and power transmission lines. I don't have the scope of work for the committee in front of me, as they were done just recently, and I'm more than willing to share that information with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to receiving that

report when it's done because I truly believe that we need a power line from Manitoba to the Kivalliq.

My next question is still to the minister. Does she have any meetings with the minister of QEC to have a common front to push this project to come into Nunavut? I know it's a big project that the Government of Nunavut cannot fund, but do the two ministers get together to come up with a strategy on how best to push this project forward either with the federal government or Manitoba government? 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. Our departments are working collaboratively. The Government of Nunavut recently contributed \$75,000 to support the scoping study announced recently at the Hudson Bay round table that was held in April. The \$75,000 was made possible because we cost-shared it from my department, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and CG&S. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 496 – 4(2): Mental Health in Nunavut

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to all the people who are listening to the proceedings and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month marked the 63rd annual Mental Health Week recognized by the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Can the minister tell us how many Nunavummiut are assessed for mental illnesses in the territory each year?

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 don't have the figure at this time, but I can look into it. We're now able to provide better programs. As we are trying to set this in for mental illness, I'll look into it and when I get that figure, I'll provide the information to the member some time in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us what the Akausisarvik Mental Health Treatment Facility here in Iqaluit is doing to address mental health illnesses in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a visit with the Akausisarvik Mental Health Treatment Facility here in Iqaluit and I am very pleased with their work. They're doing assessments. They're

looking at where they can make improvements to provide better services to the people of Nunavut.

They are there to help people who approach them for their services and they're doing an ongoing assessment to improve their system, and also to integrate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* into their operations. They did not just follow some solution model, but adjusted to make it work best for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that the Department of Health is in the process of reviewing the *Mental Health Act* and plans to conduct community consultations starting in the fall. Can the minister explain what specific issues his department plans to focus on throughout the review of the *Mental Health Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that this Act was grandfathered from the Northwest Territories and we have been using it to date. It's very outdated and we will definitely have to review it to make it Nunavut-made. The review has begun and we're going to start our community consultations. Once we hear from the people of Nunavut, we will take specific action to conclude the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mapsalak.

Question 497 – 4(2): Update on the New Building Canada Fund

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Speaker, on October 29, 2014, Mr. Speaker, on October 29, 2014, during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the department's 2015-16 capital estimates, I asked a number of questions related to the New Building Canada Fund.

At that time, the minister stated that the department would submit a number of projects to be approved for funding under the New Building Canada Fund and that an administration agreement would be signed by March 31 of this year. Can the minister indicate if this administration agreement has been signed to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we have been working on this for a while, but I can't respond as to whether or not it has been signed. Once I have the information, I'll let the member know, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At that time, the minister stated that the administration

agreement would be signed by March 31 of this year. Do I understand that this agreement has not been signed to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that our department has been working on this for quite some time. It is an agreement that would be from 2014 to 2024. I will have to find out if this agreement has been signed. The monies would be geared for Nunavut for 10 years and I do know that it would be for 10 years. I will look into this issue, get the information, and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate to us when he thinks that this administration agreement will be signed and what the money will be used for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can do that. As I indicated, I will find out first if it has been signed and when we will be seeing the money. I'll get the information tomorrow or the next day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 498 – 4(2): Departmental Positions

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my fellow residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. Welcome.

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

Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 2015, I asked the minister about the status of her department's transportation programs officer position. This position, which has been located in Pond Inlet, became vacant two years ago.

In response to my questions, the minister assured me, and I can quote from the *Blues* for Monday, March 16, 2015 on page 14. I realize that the *Blues* are not completely edited, but in the minister's reply, this is what he said in the Chamber, “Mr. Speaker, I can state to my colleague that this job has been advertised and the position will remain in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.”

I would like to ask the minister if she can explain to me today why this position continues to be vacant. 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 also thank the

member. There was more than one position available in Pond Inlet. I don't know which position he's referring to, but if it was the first one that was advertised, I haven't heard back on what the status is to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, are you asking me to clarify my question or is it my supplementary question? I would like to ask you that first, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your direction, Mr. Speaker. What I am referring to is what would be called the transportation programs officer in English. It has been vacant for two years. I asked the question on March 16 and the response was that "...this job has been advertised..." The position has been vacant for two years. Why is this position in Pond Inlet still vacant although it has been advertised? 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 that clarification. This position was going to be opened the last time we were in session. It's still in the works and I haven't heard to date about whether this position has been filled. Sometimes it

takes quite a while to go through the process in filling vacant positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I go to my supplementary question; sometimes it's pretty shocking when the government states that they spend approximately 300 days to fill a position. Now with this position, it's 600 days.

On March 16, 2015, I also asked the minister to clarify the status of her department's aviation programs officer position. It is my understanding from the minister's responses to my questions that this position is being eliminated as a consequence of the government's decision to turn over responsibility for CARS services to NAV Canada and ATS Services.

My question is: can the minister assure me and the people of Pond Inlet...? You have stated that if you're going to be eliminating a position, as the government's policy, you have to make up for that position and replace it with another position. Will you be relocating one of your existing positions to Pond Inlet in order to make up for the elimination of the aviation programs officer position, yes or no? 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 also thank the member for asking that question about

his community. The position was eliminated because we got the funding from the federal government to have this officer. We still have to look into this again and how we will be replacing the vacant position there. We are still working on it right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe if I can remind the minister that if there is going to be a position that is going to be removed, you have to replace this position in the decentralized communities. That is your existing policy.

Let me ask this question. According to the government's most recently tabled employment report, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has a total of ten positions located in Pond Inlet, two of which are vacant. For the record, can the minister confirm which two positions are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, with respect to the two positions that we are talking about, one of them has been eliminated and for the other one, we still have to look into it. The policy that he is referring to, for example, it was just going to be open for a certain number of days and also this position was paid for by the federal government. This is different from the Nunavut government, but we are still looking at this for the

position that has to be filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 499 – 4(2): Making Education a Priority

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to my attention and to the attention of my colleagues and the general public that the number of teaching positions across Nunavut will change significantly. According to numbers provided in the media, the Kivalliq region will lose 20 teaching positions in 2015-16.

Can the minister provide a clear explanation of how his department calculates the number of teaching positions to be allocated to Nunavut's schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. We all should know this by now. The *Education Act* that we're talking about, if we look at the whole of Canada, in Nunavut, the student-educator ratio that we talked about is 13 to 1 that we're using here in Nunavut.

Also, I could just state the same as what you stated, which is that we look at the ratio of the children that are going to school. In 2015-16, we will be using the new education year. In September 2014, we did a ratio to see how many teachers will be needed after we find out by the percentage of the children that are going to school. This is what we follow.

Yes, this is true in Rankin Inlet, up to now, that 1.5 and a bit there and also that we will be removing one teacher, but there are 43 schools in Nunavut that it will be at 10.5 within Nunavut, looking at the whole of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears that the Department of Education is using a complicated formula to calculate the number of teachers that will be hired to teach our children. Can the minister explain why his department does not simply use the number of school-age children in the population to determine the number of teachers necessary to teach them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier, we are following the present *Education Act* and the *Education Act* is very clear as to how we calculate how many teachers would be in that one particular school. Again, as I said earlier, it depends on how many

students that the school has in attendance.

Certainly, we calculate the student-educator ratio with the full-time attendees and those are the numbers we use to calculate how many teachers we would have in that particular school. As I said, student-educator ratios are calculated by Statistics Canada. Again, that is the system we now use.

I can say that, as you and I know very well and the House knows very well, right now, there's a special committee on the *Education Act* review and those are things that would ultimately be talked about at that level. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that enrolment and attendance are critical issues in our schools. However, reducing the number of teachers does not encourage more students to attend school. In fact, it sends out the message that education is not a priority for our government.

Will the minister commit to reviewing how his department allocates teacher positions to our schools and ensure that our children's education once again becomes a priority for this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation

ends) I can say that I just recently visited the community of Arviat and certainly, this was an issue that was brought to our attention, an issue that was brought to us from the local district education authority. The district education authority in Arviat is now doing a lot of activities, such as parental engagement, and that is certainly one way of ensuring that we have our students attending schools. That is the whole purpose of having family engagement.

Certainly, education is our priority, and one way of ensuring that our students are attending the schools is through parental engagement. This is one area that I was really happy to see, that the local district education authority in Arviat was trying to deal with this issue. For example, another way the local district education authority in Arviat is trying to rectify this situation is by getting the elders to visit houses to ensure that students are attending. This is one way of ensuring that the more students we have, the more teachers there will be.

I can also say that the department has submitted a paper to the special committee on the *Education Act* review and this is one of the items that they have brought forward to the committee. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 500 – 4(2): Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Earlier this year, I asked the minister some questions on how the government could use some of the savings that were realized from the lower fuel cost and put these dollars towards alternative energy projects. At the time, the minister wasn't able to provide a number related to the savings and coincidentally, the next sitting day, the minister responsible for PPD mentioned a number in excess of \$30 million. I would like to follow up with that issue today.

Yesterday, the minister tabled QEC's response to our standing committee's report on the hearings that we held here last September on the corporation's annual reports and business plans. I'm sure that in doing so, he anticipated some of the questions that I'll be asking on this topic.

On page 7 of QEC's response, it states, and I quote, "Presentations were made to the QEC Board in December 2014 concerning private sector opportunities to fund and develop alternative energy sources (hydro and tidal)."

Can the minister update the House today in more detail as to which direction Nunavut is heading with respect to these alternative energy sources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, as we always say at QEC, the proponents who make presentations have to be able to deliver power at equal to or less than what we

currently deliver to residents of Nunavut, particularly in Iqaluit, since these two projects that he referenced are based here. We have heard from the proponents. They haven't given us much information.

The tidal energy is, how to say it, immature technology. It hasn't been well tested around the world. I'm not convinced that it will work here. Hydro energy, as we all know, is very expensive. We're talking in the neighbourhood of \$250 million to possibly \$500 million. Those are the numbers we're working with, but that's the reality. Currently, the hydro project work is more or less on hold and we're not going anywhere with the tidal energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Minister Peterson for that response. I don't think it's any secret that I have been a strong proponent of moving forward on the proposed hydroelectric project near Iqaluit.

In QEC's response, again, to the standing committee on page 8, it states, "The hydro project as was developed by QEC currently needs additional funding to proceed to a feasibility study which is the next step before seeking construction funding. Funding options within debt limitations are being explored to advance this project."

The minister just stated that it's on hold, but I would like to ask the minister to maybe put on another hat that he has in his wardrobe, his Minister of Finance hat. The minister confirmed yesterday

that the federal government has agreed to increase Nunavut's debt cap to \$650 million. Can the minister clarify what impact this will have on QEC's plans to move forward on the Iqaluit hydro project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like a dual personality here.

Mr. Speaker, yes, I did mention that the Government of Canada has proposed to increase our debt cap to \$650 million. That only gives us an additional \$250 million, but with the P3 airport project and our current debt, we're close to \$400 million on the existing debt. \$250 million is still not enough debt to pay for a \$500 million proposed project.

As I said before, though, we have to receive some solid proposals. We have a huge demand in Nunavut for critical infrastructure. There may be projects coming forward to us. I don't know if there could be that better value for Nunavut. I don't know. We will see how well it goes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that. I always have been and will continue to be a strong proponent of alternative energy solutions for Nunavut and investments in that course of action.

Just to go on, in QEC's response to the standing committee, it also states, and again I'll quote, "Preliminary discussions have also taken place on private sector financing of diesel generation. QEC will be developing Independent Power Producer guidelines to facilitate the pursuit of such opportunities."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what companies have expressed interest in becoming "independent power producers"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Hickes. I appreciate that he is a strong advocate for alternative energy. There is potential in the north. Unfortunately in the north and in Nunavut, it's very expensive.

As I said earlier, we have huge demands. I have asked the Government of Canada for help of about \$200 million for energy and was unsuccessful, and money for housing. My colleagues ask for help all the time. We don't demand money. We have to put all the business cases together for the Government of Canada to invest in Nunavut. Any significant investment in Nunavut is going to have to have a solid business case and rationale. As a government, we simply can't afford mega projects in Nunavut.

With respect to your question on which companies are proposing to become independent power producers, no, I can't comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 501 – 4(2): Strategies to Address Reliance on Income Assistance

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

Mr. Speaker, according to statistics available on the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics website, the percentage of Nunavut's population receiving social assistance is steadily increasing with close to a 6 percent increase in 2013 to over 41 percent of the population.

Can the minister provide an update on what specific actions her department is undertaking to help those who rely on social assistance become more self-sufficient? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for requesting information on that. The Department of Family Services is aware of what's being used in social assistance. Since 2004, it has been steadily increasing and the people of Nunavut have to rely on social services and that's how many there are. We will be reviewing the social assistance policies in an effort to change some of them. The work will start this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to hearing more about specific actions that the department is going to be implementing.

Mr. Speaker, social assistance expenditures in 2014 almost reached \$38 million, nearly \$10 million more than just five years ago. Can the minister clarify how her department proposes to better manage expenditures in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for requesting more information on that. We're trying to turn clients over to career development officers because we are able to refer clients to them. The regulations that we are following were developed in 1998 in the NWT days and we're still following them, but we expect that we will be starting to change them this fall.

Now, the career development office refers them to either more education or more career development. We understand the numbers. We want to make sure that the young people are trained, so we will be pushing for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 502 – 4(2): Status of New Cape Dorset Power Plant

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in every sitting since the election, I have been asking about the status of Cape Dorset's new power plant, and I have been very clear in expressing my support for the government to take whatever decisive action is necessary to resolve the land issue that has been holding up the start of construction.

Mr. Speaker, Cape Dorset's power plant is decades old and the community has run out of patience with the endless delays. Can the minister tell me today what the status of this issue is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Joanasie for his question. I do recall him asking this, in fact, every time, every sitting that we've had. I also recall from the last sitting that he hopes the new power plant will be built in his lifetime. I certainly hope that happens as well.

Mr. Speaker, the latest information I have on it is that the mayor and council have written a letter to QEC offering a new location. I believe that the officials at QEC have been in contact with the community and they're planning meetings this month to discuss the implications of that new piece of land

versus the originally proposed parcel of land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify if he will be partaking in the upcoming meetings with the council and mayor regarding this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Joanasié for the question. I'm not certain of the date, so I can't confirm if I'll be participating or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is: what is QEC's current timeline for constructing a new power plant in Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It all depends on what parcel of land we're talking about. If it's the original parcel of land, that's still to be determined. We're not familiar with the new parcel of land. There could be conditions or geographic... I'm not a soil technologist or a geologist or anything and I'm not sure of the site

itself, but it may be unsuitable for a power plant.

We're quite certain that the original parcel of land will be suitable and if things work out with the original parcel of land, we could get in there this year and do our geotechnical and environmental work and proceed from there. I think the original plan is, based on what I recall, having a power plant in there by 2017-18, if things work out. We will have to see how things go, but it is a priority for the corporation, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 503 – 4(2): Long-term Homelessness Strategy Action Plan

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next line of questioning is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Well over a year ago, the Nunavut Housing Corporation tabled the Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy and last year, I was asking some questions regarding that strategy that there was an action plan associated with it. I was wondering if the minister would be able to update the House today on the schedule of that action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, in regard to his question, we started working on it last month in April and we sent out an RFP. Now we have contracted someone to look into housing in Nunavut along with our stakeholders in the government and outside the government to review housing in Nunavut.

I can say that the work has started and the contractor has been awarded the contract. It is part of the (interpretation ends) Blueprint for Action on Housing (interpretation) and the work will be proceeding. 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 response. With the action plan and the RFP that has been put out, is there a timeline associated with the completion of that action plan and when it would start implementation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for the question. Mr. Speaker, this past month, the contract was just awarded so that the work can get started and the work will proceed until 2016. In 2016, at some point, it hasn't been quite decided when the deadline will be, but it will be in 2016. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some time ago, there was a 10-year Inuit housing action plan that was developed in coordination with NTI and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Although the role is very similar to this strategic plan that was outlined and tabled in the past year, there are some differences, more specific to Inuit housing.

At the time, I had asked the minister, it's almost a year ago now, if any discussions with NTI had been occurring and at that time, he had stated that there were no discussions with NTI on furthering the Inuit action plan. I'm wondering: is there an update that the minister can provide to the House today on whether discussions with NTI on the Inuit housing plan has been started and what the status of them are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, with respect to the (interpretation ends) Blueprint for Action on Housing, (interpretation) we will be working on it. Not just within the Nunavut Housing Corporation but the whole government, along with NTI and other organizations, we will have to be involved in working with this plan and strategize with other entities on the Blueprint for Action on Housing in order to strategize for the future. NTI will be fully involved with that.

To answer the member's question, whether we have worked with entities outside of the Nunavut government, I can say that we worked with NTI, but I haven't heard or haven't been briefed on whether there are other entities that we're working with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Going back to orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 149 – 4(2): 2013-2014 Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *2013-2014 Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 150 – 4(2): Towards a Representative Public Service Statistics as of December 31, 2014

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table *Towards a Representative Public Service Statistics*

as of December 31, 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 151 – 4(2): Printout of Signatories to Online Petition Concerning Investigation into the Death of Baby Makibi Akasuk

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a printout of the names of over 1,200 individuals, including dozens of my constituents, who signed an online petition calling on the Government of Nunavut to undertake a full investigation into the death of baby Makibi Akasuk in Cape Dorset.

Although this document does not strictly conform to a formal petition under Rule 43, it does demonstrate the public concern that exists with respect to this tragic incident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 22 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 15:35 and Committee resumed at 16:04*

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

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

First of all, Nunavummiut listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your committee.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 22. Does the committee agree that we will now deal with Bill 22 and the contents of the bill?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 22 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
2, 2015-2016 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, I would like to ask Minister Peterson if he has any officials that he would like to bring to the table. Minister Peterson.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to have Minister Peterson's witnesses at the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. D'Arcy and Mr. Tumilty, welcome to the House. As we proceed, Minister Peterson, with Bill 22, if you have any opening comments, you now have the floor. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2015-2016*.

Bill 22 is a supplementary appropriation for 2015-16 capital totalling \$117,901,000. This appropriation addresses carryovers from the 2014-15 fiscal year to the 2015-16 fiscal year in addition to a request to expand the Gjoa Haven Tank Farm.

There are two types of capital carryovers in Bill 22. All projects have been approved in previous capital plans and have funds appropriated to them. The first type is approved capital projects that have a financial or contractual commitment to continue the project into the next fiscal year. We call these FAM compliant. Mr. Chairman, these projects are ongoing and Bill 22 ensures their continuation. The second type is projects that we have not been able to start in previous years. These are the non-FAM compliant projects.

Mr. Chairman, the objective of this set of carryovers is to immediately include these projects in this year's capital plan. If this is not done, the funding will lapse and the project will either be dropped or possibly included in a future capital plan.

There are a total of 106 projects in this carryover request, 19 fewer than last year. The total capital carryovers are broken down as follows:

- \$171,000 in two projects for the Office of the Legislative Assembly for improvements;
- \$50,000 for the Department of Finance for renovations to the offices in Cambridge Bay;
- \$8,545,000 in eight projects for the Department of Finance in support of Nunavut Arctic College operations, including the Kitikmeot Mine Training Centre – Student Residence phase, four community learning centres in Iqaluit, Whale Cove, Sanikiluaq, and Grise Fiord, and the Rankin Inlet Trade School;
- \$1,013,000 in three projects for the Department of Justice covering some minor capital in the Iqaluit Overcrowding Relief Structure and the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility;
- \$85,000 for the Department of Family Services for minor renovations to the children's group home in Iqaluit;
- \$6,035,000 in 21 projects for the Department of Education, which includes repairs and renovations to several schools;
- \$20,863,000 in seven projects for the Department of Health, which includes the repair, renovation, or replacement of several health centres, including the Baffin Regional Hospital, as well as medical diagnostic equipment;
- \$3,769,000 in 10 projects for the Department of Environment covering wildlife office replacement and renovations and territorial park development;
- \$61,039,000 in 40 projects for the Department of Community and Government Services covering a wide range of municipal and community infrastructure projects; and
- \$15,831,000 in 13 projects for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation covering a number of airport improvement projects, replacement of the Motor Vehicle Information System, the Kivalliq Regional Visitors Centre, and small craft harbour planning.

In addition to carryovers, Bill 22 also includes \$500,000 to CGS to start the planning and design work required to increase the capacity of the Gjoa Haven Tank Farm. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'll be pleased to take questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Before you start asking questions or making comments, I would like to remind the members of the following, as it has been a while since we had Committee of the Whole meeting, just to remind the members:

according to the first rule, Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter of discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

We will start off with general comments to the opening comments. Just remember that you will be able to ask your questions on the pages that we are on. Are there any general comments? I don't see any show of hands. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening comments, he talked about \$3 million for the Department of Environment and wildlife offices. Are we talking about conservation officers? I would like you to explain that for the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. Could you elaborate on that, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his question. If I understand him correctly, he is asking about wildlife officers. This is capital that we're dealing with, capital which is a wildlife office, not officers and not person years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Is that clear now? There are different ways of saying it in Inuktitut depending on where you come from. They're called one in a particular dialect and another in another dialect, but it's the same person. We're not talking about person years; we're talking about offices and capital projects. Do you have

another question? Thank you.

General comments or requests for clarification? If there are none, please go to the bill. Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2, 2015-2016. We will begin with page 4. Before I begin, even when I'm reading, if you have any questions or comments, you can raise your hand and you will be recognized or we will be able to hear you. It reads, Office of the Legislative Assembly. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$171,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 5. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I just have one question here. I'm looking at the Iqaluit Community Learning Centre carryover of a little over \$3 million. If my memory serves me correct, we carried over that amount in last year's budget.

From the look at the substantiation sheet, it speaks that there have been some planning changes to include more program space. I'm just a little curious as to why it's taking so long to do that planning and how many years are we going to be carrying this money over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for that question. Yes, it has been carried over two years. I think this is the second year proposed. We discussed in standing committee earlier today that the

department realized that the original plan didn't meet the needs, so they had to do some more planning and design, meeting with the department, and that's ongoing. There's a possibility that they may come back and seek additional funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. With the latest occurrence at the old residence here in Iqaluit, is that going to dramatically change the future plan for this facility? And if it does, I'm anticipating quite a substantial change to offset the use that the old res. facility was being used for the number of classroom space, including the 90-bed residence.

I guess what I'm trying to get to is if that is all taken into consideration, I'm anticipating quite a substantial design change and quite a substantial request for additional funds for a project of this nature. Maybe if the minister could clarify it a little bit for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. At the time that this is all prepared, we're dealing with capital carryovers from last year. As I said, they are still in discussions on a design.

I am personally unaware of any discussions to enhance the facility to accommodate the situation that occurred there recently. I don't know if Minister

Quassa wants to add any information to that. That's all the information we have at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Minister Quassa, if you would like to comment on that, I now give you the opportunity. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Iqaluit Community Learning Centre, the original plan is still set for the 2017-18 fiscal year. I believe you're referring to the community learning centre. We haven't made any changes to the plans, but we're asking as how we can increase capacity of that building. We haven't made any changes to the plans for 2017-18. I hope I responded correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going over, in the rationale for carryover, it says that a portion has been used to develop a comprehensive business case presenting the available options for this development. In light of recent occurrences, I guess the question I'm getting to is: has that impacted the planning process for this new facility and is it going to have to encompass more of the use from the old res. facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. I know and I understand what he's trying to get at here. Again, we're dealing with capital carryovers from last

year and this is for the Iqaluit CLC. As far as I know with respect to the residence out there, repairs are under review or are being undertaken and the residence will be ready for next year. Anything with respect to that residence, I would believe, would have to be dealt within an upcoming capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank both ministers for that response. In the substantiation portion of the sheet, it talks that a comprehensive business case will be brought forward for consideration with a number of options for the development of the site and ensuring the college has the appropriate and necessary facilities for program delivery.

I have to question on how a budget could be allocated to a project when they haven't even provided the business case of what exactly is going to be needed. That's where I'm kind of leading up to, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. As Mr. Hickes is aware, the business case has to be prepared to proceed along in the capital planning process. When the comprehensive business case is prepared, the project will continue along in the capital planning process. We're carrying this money over from last year to this year so that the project can continue. We need a business case to continue that process

through the cycle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I thank the minister for that response. I'll be the last person to try and stall any development and increase in capacity at Nunavut Arctic College. I think we're all very much aware of the impact that it has on Nunavummiut. I wouldn't want to hinder the process, but at the same time, I just want to make sure that monies are being allocated accordingly with the capital budget planning process. To me, when we're allocating \$3 million to a project that hasn't even been outlined in detail and a business case been provided for, I'm just not comfortable right now having to re-approve this money being carried over again. When are we going to see some action on it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Public scrutiny is always good. I'm glad to hear that Mr. Hickes doesn't want to hold up this very important project for the city of Iqaluit and people coming from other communities. As I said, the comprehensive business case is being developed.

We're carrying the funds over through Minister Quassa, who's got his people hard on it, the Minister of CGS, and our upcoming capital planning process cycle for the next fiscal year is underway. We will be back in the House, I think, in October and it can be fully debated then

if Mr. Hickes has additional concerns.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are on page 5. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question on the learning centre in Whale Cove. In your business plan there, from my reading of it, I can't take whether this is renovating an existing building or a completely new building. Can you just let us know which it is? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. There is some missing information, reading it that way, but to the best of our knowledge, it is a new building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Just a quick reminder that you can mute your microphone if you need to confer with your staff. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked that is because on page 2 there, it says, "Risk: continued erosion will damage the structure and cause additional building maintenance issues." It's not clear whether you're fixing up the old daycare or you're building a new building. Can we just get an explanation? I would like to know if we're renovating an existing building or we're buying or getting a new building. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Perhaps I can get Minister Quassa to clarify it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Minister Quassa, I'll allow you to clarify that. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) Again, I guess I can say the reasons for the delay in the capital project. Project design is well underway and construction is planned and will be initiated in 2015-16. We had some delays because of increased expenditures for fire safety and sprinkler system, which is associated with the construction of the daycare in the CLC. This is, in fact, a new building that we're talking about. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering why they wrote in there that continued erosion will damage the structure. Is that they're spending money on an old building plus building a new structure? I just need clarification. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Unfortunately, I don't prepare the notes for these things, but if you read

back, further up, it says that Whale Cove has a temporary community learning centre in a rented classroom in a local school. The centre may be closed at any time if the local school has expressed the desire to return the space.

I don't want to jump to conclusions, but I'm thinking that they're building a new facility and the erosion may be affecting the facility they're in now. I know that we try to keep these concise and clear, but if you start putting too much information in, then it won't fit. We can certainly get clarification for Mr. Savikataaq if he desires it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Savikataaq, please indicate which page you're referring to and if you have anything to add, please proceed. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. I'm on pages 1 and 2 of the business plan for the Whale Cove Community Learning Centre, just so you will know where I'm talking from. No, I don't need further clarification because I think the minister clear that it's a new building. I was just wondering why the structure for the erosion was put in there.

I can read too and I know that they are having space within the school for the community learning centre, but I think the daycare is in a separate building and both will be housed in one new structure, I think. It's not clear, but I'm satisfied enough that you're building a new structure which is going to house the daycare and the learning centre.

Just to go back to the funding portion of it now, they said why it's delayed and

it's not a problem. The money is spoken for, but it also says that the project is to start in 2015-16 and anticipated completion is 2015-16. I'm just wondering why there's still a budget of \$1.8 million in 2016-17 if the project is going to be completed in 2015-16. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Again, I didn't write the substantiation sheet, but I would say, based on what's up in section 2, it clearly states that 2016-17 would be the second year of construction. The anticipated completion date or rationale for carryover requests must simply be a typo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Moving right along, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to talk about one specific project in this. I do have a concern when I look at all the projects. A lot of these projects have been on the books for many years.

Perhaps my first question would be to ask the finance minister or even perhaps the CGS minister how the new Project Management Office has been doing and if there are any improvements to the capital planning process since this office was put in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. As we discussed often in the House, the capital planning process is always a hot topic or hot issue because, as I said in question period today, there are many demands on our limited financial resources. I think all communities in Nunavut require critical infrastructure.

In the past, the Government of Nunavut has been guilty of putting projects in the capital plan with class “X” estimates and they moved along in the cycle. Class “X” estimates are estimates that are just sort of ballpark estimates and then when the numbers firm up, they turn out to be possibly much lower than they should be, but they’re possibly accurate. That has caused some issues for us.

If you put too many projects on the capital plan, you can’t project manage them, you don’t have the financing to pay for them, or you run into cost overruns. You end up with deferring projects, possibly even cancelling projects or worse, you can’t even approve projects.

We have been tightening up our capital planning process since 2008, putting more stringent controls and rigour into the process. One of the items was the Project Management Office to provide oversight to the Department of Community and Government Services and I just forget the years. I think it was possibly last year or the year before that the PMO was approved in the House with PYs.

I think you’re starting to see the evidence that some of the oversight is taking hold. The capital carryovers this

year are \$118 million, which is \$32 million less than the last two fiscal years. There are 19 fewer projects being carried over. I think that we’re moving along in the right direction. The PMO is certainly having involvement in day-to-day oversight of projects across Nunavut.

The minister could probably shed some more light on the day-to-day operations, but it’s just one component of what we’re doing to improve the capital planning process. There are several other components. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I think, if you look at the substantiation sheets, you see projects that have been on the books from two to ten years. You said that you have been tightening up the criteria since 2008, yet we’re still seeing a lot of carryovers, some with pretty big amounts. With this in mind, I’m wondering if you can tell us: how are priorities for the capital projects determined and who determines them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak. I don’t know if I want to get into a real long explanation, but again, part of the whole process to improve the capital planning process, I think it was again back in maybe 2011 or 2012 where we had to start developing criteria. Some of the criteria that I recall, I wrote a note to myself here, the ranking criteria was 40 percent for a project would be rated

based on health and safety, 35 percent towards mandated programs, and 25 percent towards sustainability and economics.

You have the various committees. Obviously, you have the communities involved through the Nunavut [Community] Infrastructure Advisory Committee, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and mayors involved on that side; you have the integrated community committee. All these acronyms; I just can't remember them all. There's that committee.

You have the Deputy Ministers' Committee, the Accountability Committee, and then of course, you have the Financial Management Board. It all moves up through the cycle and then ultimately, the Financial Management Board makes the final decision on which projects should come forward into the House to be debated and receive approval through the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. It leads me to my next question. If you look at the capital plan for Nunavut, on that plan, for example, there's an arena. Everybody likes to build arenas.

If you look at the letter that was written to Mr. Rumbolt from CGS, they talk about priorities. For example, for the Department of Health, they say that the Cape Dorset Health Centre is the department's first priority. The second one is the Rankin Inlet Mental Health Transition House.

How do you weigh that against arenas when you have those kinds of critical needs? Is there enough money to build everything? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak. I kind of had to chuckle when she said, "Is there enough money to build everything?" Obviously, there isn't enough money to build everything. Otherwise, we would be out there and every community would have everything they required.

All of our power plants would be upgraded. We would have brand-new schools, lots of housing, health centres that are top notch, and mental health facilities. Clearly, we don't have enough money because we don't have all those facilities. That's why it becomes very challenging for the government to build important infrastructure and that's why we go through this process because there's give and take.

Every department has requests. The Minister of Education requires schools and colleges. The Minister of CGS requires fuel tank farms. The Minister of Economic Development requires airports and small craft harbours. I could go on. It's a juggling act. We get many competing pressures from communities, the private sector, MLAs, and internally.

If you're only dealing with a limited amount of money to provide, as I said earlier in question or answer either yesterday or today, literally we require billions of dollars of infrastructure and it's going to take time. When you only

have \$150 million to throw at infrastructure every year and you have to factor in housing, it's a challenge, I have to say.

You asked me, "How do we do it?" Well, like I said, if you look at the ranking criteria, health and safety is the top criterion, then mandated programs and sustainability. It's a challenge. If we had more money, we would be able to do more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your long answer. I agree with you. It's very complex. For example, when I read what CGS has written in this letter and this letter was as of March of this year, their first priority would be the fire hall for Kugaaruk. You talk about how we have no money to build everything.

I don't want people to think that I don't like arenas and all that; I'm just thinking about the critical need and how something like an arena, as great as it might be, will make the list when there's such a need for health centres and other things that we need in Nunavut because we don't have all the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. I don't know if I heard a question or not. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I was listening to the Premier yesterday. He was telling some of our visitors making a presentation in Full Caucus that the Minister of Finance is

tight-fisted and squeezes the nickel so hard that the beaver is screaming with pain or something like that.

>> *Laughter*

I'm not actually that tight-fisted, but I would like to ensure that all departments and all communities, where the need is the greatest, we can deliver. I would like to ensure that we deliver on time and on budget. There's nothing worse than spending money because you went over budget. Again all I can say is that it's a balancing act. I would love to have more money for capital, but unfortunately, we just don't have the resources.

We appreciate the money that the federal government gives to us through the Building Canada Fund and through gas tax and those other programs. That certainly helps, but again, if we take on too many projects through those programs, then it becomes a capacity issue for us.

We're up against the weather, shipping seasons, and permitting issues, all kinds of stuff. It's a challenge and I appreciate all the work that all the departments and all the officials do to make those projects a possibility and deliver them. I appreciate the support of everybody to approve those projects, but again, we do need additional funds if we want to improve the lives of our residents in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. It is a difficult balancing act, I'm sure. I'm sure it's very difficult to

try and please everybody, which we can't really.

I just want to ask one more question. Well, perhaps there are a couple in here, but what are the main reasons for all these delays we see in the project; a 10-year delay? What would be the main reasons for these delays on these projects, and have you kept track of what the issues are that cause so many of these delays? If not, I would recommend that you do so, so that they can be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. As I said earlier, we are tightening up and improving our capital planning process. It can take up to eight years depending on the size and complexity of the project. We're not saying every project takes that long. Some could take three years. Houses are quite easy to deliver within a three-year window, but a large school or a health centre could take more years, anywhere between three and five years.

Some of the delays possibly could be land issues if there is land in the community that you need. You could go out to tender and not receive bids. You could go out to tender and receive bids that are over the budget, and it delays things. You have to get approved for additional funds to proceed. Legal action can delay projects. That's why, up front, we want to firm up the design issues so that people don't come back after the fact and say, "We want a bigger community hall."

Issues we had as an example, recently in Iqaluit, the Baffin General Hospital, which was approved, the contractor proceeded and then he had problems with the asbestos and then later on his business partner declared bankruptcy. That delayed the project a year and a half.

There are many issues. Many of them are beyond our control, but we have to be prepared to deal with them. One of the main reasons we are tightening up our capital planning process and putting more rigour and consistency up front in terms of the planning and design, and then approval, is so that we can better manage our cash flow and deliver projects on time and on budget, in a year that we approve them to be delivered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: I said that was it, but I've got just one more question. When projects come before you that are, perhaps, questionable, what is the process used to say no? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I understand Ms. Angnakak's question about projects. All projects, as I said earlier, go through quite a rigorous vetting process, working up through the various committees before they even get to the Financial Management Board.

Presumably, when those projects get to FMB and we sit around as ministers and

discuss them, and then subsequently approve them for tabling in the House to be debated, by that time, there are no real questionable projects. They have been vetted out long ago before they get to our level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Moving on. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have the one question. On page 5, it says, the Sanikiluaq CLC renovations, \$35,000 carryover. I'm just wondering if either of the ministers can update us today on the status of this project, whether it's going to be completed this spring and be ready for classes in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, update, please.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, Mr. Chairman, with technology here, I have to press lots of buttons and find what I'm looking for.

The project is on schedule, I understand, to be completed this month. The contractor needs to complete the server cabling and then the IT department of CGS will fly to Sanikiluaq and complete all the network and hardware online, once the contract is complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of my question was whether these facilities will be ready

for occupancy in September. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. As far as we know at this table, it will be complete, unless there's some other information out there that we are unaware of. As I said, there will be the minor things. If the contractor had to attend to some deficiencies in the design, then CGS will pursue those deficiencies, if there are any deficiencies, resolutions to deficiencies over the summer, but as far as I know, the plan is for the project to be completed and ready for the school year. I haven't heard otherwise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on page 5. Are there any more questions? Does anyone who hasn't asked a question have a question before I go to Mr. Savikataaq? (interpretation ends) Going once. (interpretation) It seems that there are none. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. I just noticed something again on the topic I was talking about, the learning centre in Whale Cove. I just want to ask the minister if it's... I read it and he read it. It says here that the project is well underway. Construction is planned and will be initiated in 2015-16. Whether that is normal on a class "X" estimate, because that's what it says on top, class cost estimate is an "X," is that normal to go into construction with a class "X" estimate? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier, I think it was to Mr. Savikataaq, there appears to be some issues with typos on there and I'm suspecting that "X" up here is not a class "X" if the project design is well underway. It won't be a class "X" when it continues through the capital planning cycle that comes forward in October. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information we have is what we have in front of us. That's as good as we have. We don't have anything else. I think they should make sure that there are no typos because now this one sheet of paper apparently has two typos. It's a class "X" estimate and he says, "No, that's a typo." Anticipated completion date, 2015-16, and that's a typo. I think we've got to scrutinize the substantiation sheets a little more. It's not us because we get them and we don't alter them, but I think they should make sure that they're correct before we get them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. I believe that is just a comment.

As Chairman, if I can direct you all to the written document, (interpretation ends) 2014-15 Capital Carryovers to 2015-16, (interpretation) which department puts that together every year? Those departments that produce this document, I would like to remind

them to make sure that they are proofread properly. When we get documents that have typos in them, then our information is wrong, as Mr. Savikataaq pointed out. That is my direction as the Chairman.

I believe you are done, Mr. Savikataaq. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that in looking through the substantiation sheets, there are a lot of X's here. We have the Grise Fiord Community Learning Centre as a class "X." The Nunavut Arctic College Iqaluit Community Learning Centre is also a class "X." We have the Sanikiluaq Renovation Project, a class "X." All of these are class "X," so I think somebody is going to have to look at it and get back to us with the proper estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question, Ms. Angnakak, but if you would like to address that comment, Minister Peterson, I will give you the opportunity.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comment. We have talked about these things before; proper information. Departments prepare these substantiation sheets and it is important. It's not the Department of Finance sitting there crunching the numbers. It comes in from the departments. I, as the Minister of Finance, have to appear before you. We have to be confident in the information we receive.

I appreciate you guys making the comments in front of the ministers and

hopefully the deputy heads are paying attention out there, wherever they may be, that it is critically important that financial information that comes forward is not cut and pasted from a previous year or another project and they just forget to change a couple of dates or in this case, a class estimate. I appreciate it. My deputy will follow up on your concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Thank you for saying that you will be directing your deputies. Let me go back to the page that we're supposed to be on. Finance. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Comptrollership. \$50,000. Total Centrally Administered Funds. \$8,545,000. Total Department. \$8,595,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 6. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there is only one item on here and it is a fairly small one at that, yet the renovation for the children's group home, and I don't want to keep harping on this typo or class "X" and class "A" category discussion, but in the cost estimate, it's got a budget allocated of \$24,000, yet we're being asked to carry over \$85,000. That sounds like that's a class "Z" estimate, I'm thinking.

>> *Laughter*

Maybe if we could just get a bit more information. Has the scope of work changed from the original budget allocation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for pointing out that there might be a class "Z" out there or a class "Y." I don't believe there's a change in scope of that. The \$85,000 would be the accurate number. That's the number that we're working with in the bill, Bill 22. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Thank you. We're on page 6. It reads, Family Services. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: My apologies, Mr. Chairman. I just can't let this one go. When I look at the scope of work for a project of this nature and from the original background information and the time that it's going to take to do the work, and I do realize the cost of contractors in Nunavut is very expensive, when I go back to that original estimate number of \$24,000 and now going up to \$85,000, it's more than three times.

It shows the project here of 2014-15, but how long was this being planned for? I know that the children's group home just changed the program needs fairly recently, so I can anticipate that this was on the books for a long period time so that such a dramatic change in the cost of this renovation that's entailed within the scope of work, I may be in the wrong business, but it just seems like a lot of money to spend on the scope of work that's under this project.

Maybe if I could just get a little bit of clarification on how the procurement was done on this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Hickeys' concern here. Again, it says, class cost estimate of \$24,000. Again I hate to keep harping on it, but there shouldn't even be a number in that area; it should either be an A, B, C, D, and as we have seen in other previous ones, there should be an X. Where that \$24,000 came from is beyond my knowledge right now.

I'm reading the briefing note from the Department of Family Services. The contractor responded to a tender. The cost to complete the work was estimated at \$85,000. CGS has requested the sum of \$85,000, which is \$97,000 minus \$12,000, an actual expense to be carried over to this fiscal year. They spent \$12,000 already and are carrying over \$85,000.

It's to upgrade bathrooms and other renovations in the building to, I believe, hand sanitation, living conditions, and health concerns for all the clients. That's the extent of the briefing note that we have here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to everyone if I'm belabouring this point, but when I look at the scope of work, there are some fairly substantial renovations like new flooring, but even that isn't really that

costly. It is new toilets, new mirrors, a couple vanities, and plumbing fixtures. It just seems like it's an extraordinary amount of money.

I'm just wondering: during the planning process under the program needs change, first of all, how did the Department of Family Services or the Department of C&GS come to the conclusion that the budget need is \$85,000 for this project? And secondly, in the tender process, it's got design of \$12,000 to change some plumbing fixtures. I'm really having a hard time wrapping my head around the costs associated with a project of this size. I understand when we're building new buildings that it can cost upwards of a million dollars to design a very complex building like a hospital or a school, but \$12,000 to renovate a bathroom and to do some flooring and plumbing fixtures just seems extraordinary.

My apologies, Mr. Chairman, if I'm belabouring this point, but I just wonder if maybe one of the two departments associated with this project could maybe give me a little bit more detailed information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickeys. You don't need to apologize at all because we have been elected to deal with these. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickeys. If you will bear with me, Mr. Chairman, I can read out the scope of work. There are 17 items here. It might take a while.

1. Remove existing flooring.
2. Remove existing change table unit.
3. Remove existing bathtub.

4. Remove all existing plumbing fixtures and all related piping from existing washroom and dispose as required.
5. Remove all electrical fixtures and related equipment; emergency lighting to remain.
6. Supply and install two new floor mounted elongated rims with dual flush system that's 3 litres and 6 litres flush insulated tank.

I can continue, Mr. Chairman, but you get the point. You're not going to get all that work done for \$12,000. It went out for tender and according to my briefing note here, it was \$97,000. I apologize. The substantiation sheet must have been written up wrong, but they must have completed \$12,000 of the actual work and they want to carry over \$85,000, which is \$97,000 minus the \$12,000 equals \$85,000 to complete this.

It would be great if you could get all this work done for \$12,000, but I can't even get my boiler serviced in Cambridge Bay for \$500. That's my explanation. It's quite a long extensive list. I wasn't part of the tender process, but I have to rely on CGS and Family Services that are doing this and that's the bid that came in. That's the one that they accepted and the contract was awarded.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I just got a note here. Minister Ugyuk would like to speak. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate Minister Peterson's response, but just to clarify, the concern with the \$12,000 that I was talking about

is that it's \$12,000 just for design to make these renovations in addition to the actual construction costs. Maybe if Minister Ugyuk would be able to itemize that for me. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, you had indicated that Ms. Ugyuk might be willing to answer to that. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking his question with regard to that. The washroom needs to be renovated. They prepared the estimate in 2014-15, but we put out the RFP for the work and it cost over \$50,000. It was close to \$97,000 and \$47,000, which is less than \$50,000. For that reason, it has gone over. Due to it being pretty high, we couldn't do it right away, but last month, in March, we set out the RFP. That's why we are late working on that.

We need to set up and fix up the washroom at the children's group home. It's old and it was constructed in 1988. The doors were made of plywood and the washroom was unsafe. For all those various reasons, we're requesting that we need to work on the group home and we're requesting that the carryover be done because the RFP was approved in March and the price is over by \$50,000. In 2014-15, we requested that, but the bid put in \$97,000 minus \$12,000 that was expended and it's included in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if Minister Ugyuk could just clarify: the \$12,000 that was expended under the 2014-15 year, was that for design or is that just the number put in the wrong column? Just for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) If I may, Ms. Ugyuk, (interpretation) I'll go directly to you, Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Community and Government Services set that up, so I would ask that that department respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let me first ask: Minister Mike, can you comment on that? Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I can't comment on that at this time because I would have to look into it when it's that complex. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Mike. Mr. Hickes, are you done? (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, any comments to this last issue? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't answer specifically to Mr. Hickes whether it's all for design, but the information we have in our briefing notes is that \$12,000 was the actual expense. Whether that's design or something else, I can't definitively say that at this time, but based on the scope of work that they want done, one would think that there had to be a lot of

planning and design going into it because they're moving stuff around and tearing floors up. I can't say definitively that that is for the design. It could be for advertising or some other expense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We're on page 6. It reads, Family Services. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$85,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before turning the page, as Chair, I would like to make a few comments on what I have noticed. The government has a saying or there are different departments, for example, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and way too many times, I have recognized that there are too many typos in Inuktitut.

I would like to urge the departments to make sure that the Inuktitut translations are correct. There's no *Ilagiinnilirijikkut*. That's not the word for the Department of Family Services. I would like to make sure that the government puts proper names for the departments. We can't even read some of the Inuktitut because they don't make any sense at all.

I would like to urge the government departments to make sure that Mr. Shooyook can read what's in front of him. Sometimes he is just given gibberish that was produced by the government and we want to make sure that he is properly informed about the items at hand.

When I'm trying to read it, even though I'm not too proficient in Inuktitut, I try to make corrections on the Inuktitut. I urge the government, the ministers, our department, and their departments to produce proper, informative Inuktitut and to make sure that they are in correct order. Thank you.

Let's turn to the next page. Page 7. Justice. Not Previously Authorized. Total Directorate. \$275,000. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question on the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, just on page 2 of the substantiation sheet, whether it's just normal process or not that the amounts for NNI bonus are there and how much the projects are, on the very top page there. Do you include the NNI bonuses and, if they don't meet NNI, then there's a surplus? I just want an explanation on how that works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. I think you're referring to page 2, No. 3. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask my deputy minister to respond to Mr. Savikataaq's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I'm sorry, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) Please repeat. Sorry. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: I was going to have my deputy minister respond to Mr. Savikataaq's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: My apologies, Minister Peterson. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At project initiation for the budget of a major project, there's always a contingency that's taken and in that contingency amount, there would be a prudent amount taken with respect to NNI bonus. In this particular project where it's virtually completed and you're just carrying over funds to finish it off, I believe that the department and Community and Government Services are aware of what that NNI bonus is, the amount that's showing there.

As well, in bullet No. 4, you see another amount for an NNI bonus. I don't know if that's an estimate at this point in time or if it's correct, but I should think that that, based on the historical bonus, would probably be a prudent amount to carry forward for this project, which is what the department is suggesting. As members know, it all adds up to \$200,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. (interpretation) Page 7. It reads, Justice. Not Previously Authorized. Total Directorate. \$275,000. Total Corrections. \$738,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,013,000. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, there is \$200,000 not previously authorized. I just want to know, on Item 3, page 1, that the corrections are asking for \$200,000 for 2015-16. They're looking at a snow fence because of the snow build-up. Are they looking at possibly buying a plow

or something for that amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what the briefing note also says, that Justice would procure a small, dedicated loader in 2014-15 for the facility to keep on top of snow accumulation during the winter. I think they did their snow studies around the facility and they decided that it would be better just to have the little loader to do that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I just noticed that this will be used for a small loader for the exclusive use of the healing facility. Is that how I understand it? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is how we understand it as well. It was acquired in the last fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have different numbers or documents in front of us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak, what are you talking about? Are you talking about the binder? Could

you elaborate further on what you're talking about? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have what Mr. Savikataaq is holding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We need to have the same documents in front of us. Using my discretion as the Chair, and because we have to have the same documents in front of us, we will take a five-minute break so that it can be reviewed by our staff. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:25 and resumed at 17:31

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now proceed. I had noticed inconsistencies. We were working on the issue we had to deal with, but I believe we can proceed again. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. 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. Thank you. Opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

I will now rise to report progress, but before I do so, please leave your binders here so that they can be worked on further. I thank you again for showing that to us. I will now report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 22 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. Okalik. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder of a meeting tomorrow morning, the standing committee on oversight of government operations will meet at nine o'clock in the morning in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 28:

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

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 22
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:38*

