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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

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Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)
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Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Joe Enook
(Tununiq)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasi
(South Baffin)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
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Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickey, Mr. David Joanase, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut, members, ministers, and visitors in the gallery. Welcome to the House.

Before we start, I want to state that you have to put your cellphones or electronic devices on silent mode or shut them off completely. Thank you.

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister, Government House Leader, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 072 – 4(3):
Minister Absent from the House

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the (interpretation ends) Hon. Peter Taptuna, (interpretation) our Premier, will be absent from the House starting today, March 2, to Friday, March 4, 2016 to attend the Council of the Federation's First Ministers' Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 073 – 4(3):
Recognition of Elders' Advisory Committee

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity. Good day, Nunavummiut and people of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the members of the Department of Environment Elders' Advisory Committee, who have joined us in the gallery today, and I would like them to stand up when I call their name: Lew Phillip of Iqaluit, Liza Ningiuk of Grise Fiord, James Haniliak Sr. of Cambridge Bay, Mr. Nirlungayuk in particular, David Siksik of Gjoa Haven, Hugh Tularialik is not here and he is from Baker Lake, Johnassie Nakoolak of Coral Harbour, and Joe Arlooktoo of Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, these respected members of their communities have travelled to

Iqaluit this week to provide my department with valuable perspectives on a number of different topics, helping to ensure that all our policies and activities incorporate the principles of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

I am deeply grateful to them for their time and wisdom, and would like to take this opportunity to publicly recognize the valuable contribution they make to our work of protecting Nunavut's unique environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 074 – 4(3):
Broadband Internet Services for
Nunavut Schools and Nunavut
Arctic College Community
Learning Centres**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide an update on activities related to upgrading Internet services for Nunavut schools and Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) Community Learning Centres.

The Government of Nunavut, through its Informatics and Planning Services Division, has signed a contract with Galaxy Broadband Communications to upgrade Internet services to all schools and all Nunavut Arctic College Community Learning Centres in this territory.

The contract, which began in December of 2015, will be approximately \$3.25 million over a four-year period. This

cost will include support, maintenance, and revised Internet services for all schools and Nunavut Arctic College Community Learning Centres.

This project is an improvement of services that started with the Knowledge Infrastructure Project. The Nunavut Arctic College facilities in Iqaluit started using the upgraded infrastructure in December of 2015 and is now fully operational.

Work is continuing in all communities throughout the territory to upgrade equipment, install new software, and realign satellite antennas as required with a target completion date of the summer of 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 6. I'm sorry. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 157 – 4(3): The
Impact of Shelters on Families**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my concern, as usual, over the impact of sending family members away to shelters instead of supporting families to stay together and improve their lives together.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that there is an increase in the number of family members who are sent out of their

communities when family relationships break down.

When individuals are sent out of their community to a shelter, this often leads to other problems. Sometimes these individuals end up with new partners. This causes some problems and it breaks up the whole family. Sometimes they don't even get back together. Sometimes they turn to alcohol or drugs, which are more readily available in the larger centres. When they have problems, elders are not approached. We hear the family members have already been sent away to Iqaluit to the shelter. I don't know the reason why we are not consulted. This is very concerning to me.

Mr. Speaker, sending people to shelters does not really benefit the family as a whole. The partner left behind faces the additional stress of looking after the children all by themselves. The partner left behind has to work even harder to provide for their family members and care for them. Splitting up families breeds anger and resentment. Sending individuals to shelters breaks up families.

My clock is running out, so I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The money spent on shelters would be much better used to provide more counselling services in the home community.

I have spoken many times in this House about the importance of using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* to address our social issues. Family members need to work together to resolve their problems.

I urge the government to consider providing counselling and healing services before resorting to sending people away to shelters.

At the appropriate time, I will have questions on this issue. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 158 – 4(3): A New Elders Facility for Iqaluit

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank and acknowledge the many individuals and organizations that have been making tremendous contributions towards the establishment of a new elders facility in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I have been devoting a lot of time towards this important initiative.

I feel very fortunate to be one of the founding members of the Sailivik Society, a non-profit organization that was incorporated in December of 2015.

The Sailivik Society is proposing to build a new community-owned, long-term elders care facility in Iqaluit. The

other members are very important to me for the continuing success of the planning of this project. The society's board of directors are Co-chair Betty Brewster, Joe Tigullaraq, Robyn Campbell, Meghan McKenna, Elisapee Aningmiuq, Eva Groves, Jimmy Akavak, and Louise Flaherty. Many others have also been contributing their time and effort and I look forward to their ongoing participation.

Mr. Speaker, the Sailivik Society has received support from such organizations as the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the architectural firm Lateral Office, Nunavut Construction Development Limited, the City of Iqaluit, and from Kim Staples.

I would also like to acknowledge the warm support of my colleagues and fellow MLAs, the Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk and the Hon. George Hickes. Thank you to all of you for your help. We wouldn't be where we are today right now without that support.

At the appropriate time, I will be tabling copies of letters of support for this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have spoken in this House of the importance of ensuring that our elders are comfortable, safe, secure, and protected.

It is a sad fact that many of our elders face ongoing challenges with their daily living and require programs, services, and supports that are not always available.

I am very excited and yes, very passionate about working towards improving access to care, programs, and services for our elders.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that my work as an MLA will occasionally prevent me from speaking or acting directly on behalf of the Sailivik Society. Indeed, it is my hope that as we get closer to achieving our vision, more community residents will pull towards reaching our objective and my personal effort will simply become one strand in a very long rope.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to providing further updates in this House on the successes of the Sailivik Society as we progress towards achieving our goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 159 – 4(3):
Swimming Pool Committee of
Coral Harbour**

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the efforts of my constituents in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, I have previously raised concerns in this House that our communities need more access to sports and recreation facilities, including swimming pools.

I recently received a letter from a resident of Coral Harbour informing me that the community has formed a

Swimming Pool Committee and that this committee has raised more than \$4,000 since it began fundraising in November of 2014.

I would like to acknowledge Ms. Stephanie Nakoolak of Coral Harbour for taking the lead in forming this committee. Ms. Nakoolak recognized that her community needed a clean and safe space to go swimming during summer months and took the initiative to begin raising support for the construction of a swimming pool in Coral Harbour.

I would like to recognize the six other members of Coral Harbour's Swimming Pool Committee:

- Molly Angootealuk,
- Chris Matoo,
- Tamara Kolit,
- Michelle Angotittauruq,
- Hannah Angootealuk, and
- Dorothy Ningeocheak

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these individuals for volunteering their time and efforts to the well-being of their community.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is currently in need of a great amount of infrastructure in a number of areas.

It is important to remember that as we build our communities, we must also allow them to flourish and to provide them with the means to pursue greater well-being.

This is why I and the residents of Coral Harbour believe that it is important to allocate resources to recreation facilities, such as swimming pools, in Nunavut.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Member's Statement 160 – 4(3): Safe Docking of MV Saputi

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share in some good news and to inform the public that nobody was injured in an incident that occurred in our northern waters.

Qikiqtaaluk Fisheries, who fish for shrimp and turbot, owns ships and an incident occurred offshore and several people from my constituency were aboard, both from Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.

The trawler is owned by the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation named the Saputi. It ran into an iceberg during the night shift. This resulted in an emergency, obviously, and our northern waters are very dangerous, as most Inuit are aware. Prior to the ship sinking, the responders were able to land the trawler at a Greenlandic port. The crew on board stated that they were overwhelmed with emergency tasks once the ship started taking on water.

Since no crew members were injured, they were able to transport the ship without sinking. The Inuit crew members on the boats are constantly working, so I wanted to celebrate the fact that no one was injured on the crew, although the ship suffered ice damage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 161 – 4(3):
Auyuittuq National Park**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Pangnirtung.

I rise today in this House to speak about Pangnirtung's tourism sector, as it has operated for about 40 years. Due to this reason, there is a national park called Auyuittuq National Park established by Parks Canada. This park has been utilized by the community's tourism providers and this year, Auyuittuq will be celebrating its 40th year in operation.

On occasion, I will rise when the timing is appropriate to acknowledge the tourism operators who work in this field, as they are all independently operated.

I will start off with Joavie Alivaktuk, the sole proprietor of Alivaktuk Outfitting. Joavie and his family have been very successful operating their business in Pangnirtung and outlying lands for 30 years. That is a very long time, even though this is a very challenging business with many barriers. Many tourism outfitters succeed in Pangnirtung, but I wanted to single out this person due to their successful operations for 30 years as an independent outfitter. If you were an owner, I imagine you would be satisfied with that success.

I would like to acknowledge Alivaktuk Outfitting, owned by Joavie Alivaktuk,

as it has operated successfully within Pangnirtung as well as outlying areas in the tourism sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Member for Netsilik, Emiliano Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 162 – 4(3):
Recognition of Barthelemy
Nirlungayuk**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge this person who was already recognized, who is my brother-in-law, Barthelemy Nirlungayuk, who is the husband of Sidonie Nirlungayuk and the father of Gabriel Nirlungayuk. I am very happy that he was able to travel here and I ask that you welcome him warmly for visiting the gallery today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 163 – 4(3):
Constituents Travelling to Nuuk,
Greenland**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Visitors in the gallery, especially the elders, welcome.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my delight in our athletes as fellow residents and Nunavummiut, especially our youth, are busy preparing for the Arctic Winter Games in Greenland. I want to acknowledge our local youth and further,

we have great expectations from them as Nunavummiut.

On a personal note, I want to express my further gratitude since several Pond Inlet youth are participating. There are three athletes on the men's volleyball team, two athletes on the men's basketball team, and one athlete on the women's basketball team.

I sometimes see them here in Iqaluit. I take satisfaction for their brazenness, as they state that they are going to Greenland to grab some gold ulus. When they state that they are on the way to grab a gold ulu, they do so with conviction and obvious pride. When our youth exhibit that kind of attitude through athletic endeavours and when you see them living their lives with that kind of satisfaction, it is very pleasant to see that in person.

I urge our youth to partake in athletic sports and tournaments. I would like to end by advising them to do their best and this is for all athletes representing Nunavut. We also expect them to return with armfuls of gold medals to show their fellow Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 181 – 4(3): Long-term Care Needs for Elders

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a short addition to my reply to the Member for Rankin Inlet South on the long-term care needs for elders.

The question was, "Can the minister provide an update on the current shortage of long-term care beds in Nunavut?"

The following response is:

There are currently 15 Nunavummiut in out-of-territory placement and one placement is pending.

I trust that this information answers the questions and concerns that were raised by my colleague. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. The Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Return to Oral Question 193 – 4(3): Grise Fiord Needs a Social Worker

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Isaac Shooyook, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, titled, "Grise Fiord Needs a Social Worker."

The question was, "Mr. Speaker, the residents of Grise Fiord need a social worker and they need one now. They should not be asked to keep waiting with no help or guidance to work towards a better life. Will the minister commit to

filling the Grise Fiord social worker position immediately?"

My response now is:

I thank my colleague for asking that question in the House on March 1, 2016 with regard to a request for a status update on the community social services worker in Grise Fiord.

Please note that there is currently a community social services worker located in Grise Fiord. The Department of Family Services also has community social services worker staff in the communities of Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay.

In addition, I would like to inform you that there are income assistance workers in each of these communities delivering income assistance programs.

I hope to have informed you sufficiently with this. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask and you can ask questions any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I am the lead today, I am quite happy.

Today, I am extremely honoured to acknowledge and recognize the following visitors in the gallery from the (interpretation ends) Sailivik Society (interpretation) that I referenced in my Member's Statement about the elders care facility, which we are in the midst of planning. The people have been indispensable in supporting me and I wish to recognize them. I have no doubt they will continue to support me in the future.

Perhaps to start off, I would like to first acknowledge the President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association as well as his executive assistant. President P.J. Akeeagok; I almost stated his last name as Angnakak.

>> *Laughter*

Akeeagok, who happens to be my nephew, I am proud of his accomplishments. Further, his executive assistant, Joanna Awa. Please stand up so that you can be seen clearly.

>> *Laughter*

Also my co-chair of the Sailivik Society, Betty Brewster, Joe Tigullaraq, Jimmy Akavak, Robyn Campbell, Louise Flaherty, Megan Pizzo Lyall, and Eva Groves. (interpretation ends) I didn't leave anybody out? Okay.

(interpretation) I would also like to recognize Lazarus Arreak. I don't think he is new to the seniors' society, but he is now the president and I would like to recognize him.

I truly appreciate and welcome them.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't usually have the opportunity to recognize visitors from my constituency as they rarely visit here.

I wish to recognize a person who I am intimately familiar with, who is visiting us here today. I recognize Lew Phillip as I have known him for many years and, as was stated earlier, he is still from Arctic Bay.

>>Laughter

The second person is Liza Ningiuk, who is from my constituency and who arrived to attend to a meeting, so I also warmly recognize and welcome her to the Legislative Assembly.

Please welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the people's names were already mentioned, but I also wish to recognize my constituents from Iqaluit-Manirajak. First of all, Eva Groves, welcome to the gallery as well

as Betty Brewster, who lives in my constituency.

This other person who was already recognized is the President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, P.J. Akeegok, and his assistant, who is my cousin also, Joanna Awa.

Also, my brother, Lew Phillip, thank you for also being here.

This person I have known for many years is Liza Ningiuk, including a Kimmirut resident, Joe Arlooktoo. Welcome to the gallery.

As well, this carver who is well-known and with whom I share children, Saila Kripanek, welcome to the gallery.

Last but not least, I want to recognize one of the pages, who I want to introduce as she was my late brother's daughter, Mary Margaret Ell. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize a friend and constituent from Cambridge Bay. He is Jimmy, also known as "Little Jimmy," Haniliak. He is sitting in the gallery right behind me.

Mr. Speaker, Little Jimmy is very involved in Cambridge Bay with search and rescue and protecting us from roaming grizzly bears in the summer. I have seen him protect us, believe me.

Welcome to the gallery, Jimmy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a very rare chance of recognizing somebody in the gallery from my community and I sure hope he enjoys his stay in Iqaluit, Mr. David Siksik.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For once I have risen on multiple occasions here.

I wish to acknowledge in particular our elders who are visiting. I ask my colleagues to welcome them warmly and to personally welcome them here. These elders are part of the advisory group working with the Department of Environment. When I say their names, I would like them to stand. I will start off with Jimmy Haniliak, who is from Cambridge Bay, Nirlungayuk from Kugaaruk, Lew Phillip from Iqaluit, Liza Ningiuk from Grise Fiord, Joe Arlooktoo from Kimmirut, and David Siksik from Gjoa Haven.

These elders are our source of knowledge who our department works with and I wanted to clarify their role in the Department of Environment. They

advise on wildlife, environmental stewardship, and areas of the DOE mandate as the IQ committee. They are very dedicated in their work when dealing with legislation and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and how best to incorporate them. They do a tremendous job for our department.

At this time, however, several members were unable to attend, but they are important members of this committee as well: Guy Alikut (interpretation ends) from Arviat (interpretation) and Johnassie Nakoolak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The names were already spoken, but I would like to recognize them as they are visiting the gallery today.

This person, although quite young, has been in leadership. Actually, he is now the president, although he seems very youthful, but it may be due to my becoming an elder. I recognize Pauloosie Akeeagok.

>>Laughter

I take great pride in his acumen and his ambitions, as he is a young man leading his region, and this is the type of role model we envisioned that inspire our fellow Inuit. Our youth are very capable and he is a prime example of that.

Furthermore, his assistant, Joanna Awa, is someone I worked with in the past when we worked at CBC. I imagine she would love to just go on the air again.

>>*Laughter*

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our elders who were already named, but I am proud of their dedication, as our elders are a tremendous source of knowledge, as well as our advisors. The seats that my colleagues are sitting close to, the ones closer to this side, are the ones reserved for our elders. I am always so proud to see our elders occupying those seats in the gallery during our sessions here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to recognize a person who is visiting in the gallery. My maternal cousin, Lazarus Arreak, who has resided in Iqaluit for many years, is originally from Pond Inlet and acknowledged as such. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the visitors

recognized earlier, I extend my welcome to them. Nonetheless, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge this person who was already recognized twice, but I am recognizing him for the third time.

I want to recognize and warmly welcome a Cambridge Bay resident who, in the dead of winter, assisted me when he took me out on a hunt. It was extremely cold, but this tiny man butchered that huge muskox and all I could do was watch and shiver from the cold. This man is extremely capable, although his stature may be small. I would like to warmly welcome Jimmy Haniliak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 200 – 4(3): Status of Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great that I'm first. (interpretation ends) Okay, in all seriousness, thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. I haven't picked on him for a while.

In April of last year, over 1,100 residents of Iqaluit voted in favour of opening a beer and wine retail store in the capital city. In June of last year, the cabinet approved new *Beer and Wine Store Regulations* under the *Liquor Act*.

Can the minister tell us why the beer and wine store has not yet opened? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for asking that important question. Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware of the process or the route we have taken to consider a beer and wine store. It's four or five years in the process with the task force and \$37 million in public consultations and the plebiscite. As I said to a former colleague of Ms. Angnakak's, who now sits on this side, I think last October, the decision is still being considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I recall, the idea behind opening a beer and wine store was a part of the final report of the minister's own task force to review the *Liquor Act*. That report identified binge drinking, especially binge drinking of hard liquor, as the greatest threat to people's health and cause of related social problems. Can the minister indicate where opposition to opening a beer and wine store is coming from? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the

question. Well, there was a plebiscite and 40 percent of the eligible voters of Iqaluit voted and 75 percent voted in favour. We have heard all the pros and cons. We live in a democratic country and a democratic territory, so we have to listen to both sides.

There are people who are quite concerned, going back 40 or 50 years maybe, that alcohol has been bad for Nunavut and causes a lot of social problems. We believe, through the task force and all our consultations, opening a beer and wine store would offset binge drinking and would reduce profits to bootleggers. There have been success stories from Northern Quebec. They have opened beer and wine stores in the last year or year and a half.

To stand here and say where the opposition is coming from would be very difficult for me to point specifically at one group or individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister alluded to, when he was asked similar questions on this issue last October by the member from Iqaluit-Tasiluk, the minister stated, and I quote, "Our government recognizes and respects the decision of the voters." Can the minister provide the voters today with a clear timeline for acting on what they told the government it should do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for her question. Unfortunately, I can't say today and provide her with a clear timeline. All I can say is that the matter is still under consideration by cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 201 – 4(3): The Impact of Shelters on Families

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's Statement, I believe that shelters do not benefit families which are having problems. I believe that our first priority should be to provide counselling and healing to couples and families to help them heal and improve their lives.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of family counselling services are provided at the community level before an individual is sent away to a shelter in another community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Within Nunavut, there are different reasons that cause problems in the home with families. We need to find solutions for that. Even though there is a system that

is set up, that system will always need to be made better and improved. The position of the government is to do whatever we can do within the law to help the families who are having problems to find better solutions. We try to find better solutions for those people who end up having to go to shelters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, in the old days, there were no shelters or jails. Members of a community would work together to help family members overcome their difficulties.

Can the minister clearly explain how *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is taken into consideration when a decision is made to send someone to a shelter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): The Department of Family Services is responsible for reviewing how they can better utilize the shelters and the programs that are set for the people staying in those shelters. It is being reviewed at this time. Yes, I'm sure *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* will be part of the review process because it is something that is very important to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that resources and funding are limited. Will the minister commit to putting more funding towards providing counselling services at the community level to help keep families together instead of giving money to shelters which only serve to break families apart? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is part of the programs that are under the government. Yes, there will be a review. I'm sure that during the sitting, we are going to be making an appearance in front of a committee and I will make sure to get more information passed on to you at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 202 – 4(3): Airport Infrastructure and Investments in Nunavut

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

I'm in a holding pattern.

Mr. Speaker, Kugaaruk's runway was last upgraded over two decades ago. Like my colleague from Baker Lake, I was also pleased to note that one of the recommendations in the federal report

on the *Canada Transportation Act* review was that the Government of Canada should provide funding for runway extensions and surfacing at airports in the north.

Can the minister indicate how she will be working with her federal counterpart to act on these recommendations in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. With respect to the issue my colleague raised about plans for the future with the federal government as well as the various programs, my officials are just starting this process to identify needs in this sector. There are many programs currently under this umbrella. Once I have completed my search for the information, I will inform my colleague about this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in the preamble to my question, Kugaaruk's runway was last upgraded over two decades ago. Can the minister indicate how her department determines the schedule for upgrading runways at our smaller airports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. In reference to what needs to be prioritized, our department will be tabling a 20-year plan for airport operations that would be followed to determine which airport or community would be the priority. We would work to determine the priorities and there would be different sectors we have to have approved through the government approval process. There are other studies required as well. Based on that and other areas, the Minister of Finance and I will work together to identify the priorities and this is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I landed in Iqaluit last week, I noticed that the runway here is very smooth and a beautiful new terminal building is being constructed.

I am just a newly elected MLA, so I have not been involved in approving budgets over the past few years. For my benefit, can the minister clarify how much the government has spent to date on Iqaluit's new airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With this item, I can't recall the actual amounts expended to date. The interpreter already quoted the response I was trying to voice, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 203 – 4(3): Cape Dorset School Schedule

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is directed to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, last September, a fire destroyed Cape Dorset's Peter Pitseolak School leaving hundreds of students without classrooms to continue their studies. Until a new school is built, the displaced student body from the Peter Pitseolak High School has been sharing space with the student body of the Sam Pudlat School in a split shift schedule.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of challenges have been faced by his department and by the local district education authority in making this scheduling arrangement work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Indeed, we all recall the fire that destroyed the older

Peter Pitseolak School and immediately from that point, we started working with the local DEA and the local hamlet, including CGS, whom we have collaborated along with the local DEA board. We have also worked with the Nunavut Teachers Association. Ever since that event, we have worked together to resolve these challenges due to the school fire.

My colleague may recall that on February 15, I wrote a letter outlining the schedule that would be used at the school for the Peter Pitseolak student body. I identified the particulars related to the sharing of the school facilities, including the split shift hours from the opening time to closure. We completely changed both schedules primarily due to the reason that all students require a set number of hours for the year. As an example, we have to try to ensure all students have their educational needs met. These hours were changed with a split shift schedule to accommodate the two separate student bodies.

We kept the local DEA informed throughout. As per my previous statement, we worked with the Nunavut Teachers Association as well, keeping our lines of communication open. Also, the Peter Pitseolak School administration and principal were kept informed about these changes and we directed them to start using these hours up to the end of the school year. That is how we set it up.

Perhaps my colleague recalls that at the start of the next school year, the facilities to be used for that period, we are expecting these four portable classrooms to allow the students to leave the current school. That is what we have undertaken

up to this point, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister gave us the split shift schedule and he also covered the hours of the two shifts. I think they have been on that for the past two weeks. They usually start from 12:40 in the afternoon and run until 7:30 p.m. at night. That is currently the schedule they have been using for the last two weeks. This is an extremely tough schedule to follow, putting huge pressure on staff, students, and parents.

I do recognize that the department is trying to follow its own legislation in ensuring that students get the required number of instructional hours. However, the current schedule is taking a huge toll on everyone. Given the extreme and exceptional circumstance of losing a school, would the minister consider working with the local district education authority and the community to relax the schedule somewhat and relieve the pressure on staff, students, and parents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is probably aware, but I want to take this opportunity to speak to recent events. On February 29, I received correspondence from the Cape Dorset District Education Authority requesting a meeting with me and included a list of agenda items they wished to discuss.

Now, I have indicated to the DEA that I am open to meeting with them. My colleague spoke about specific items, but I know they will be brought up. Also, I look forward to discussing these issues with the Cape Dorset DEA. Although we haven't identified a date yet, I expect to meet with them soon.

I am reiterating this information as I want it known. The local DEA can request to the minister changes to the scheduled calendar, either to extend the days or hours, if it seems they won't reach the standards. That is what a local DEA can request.

However, based on my earlier statement, I will be meeting with the local DEA in the near future, that is, the Cape Dorset DEA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response and statement about the future meeting. I look forward to improvements with his collaboration with the DEA and to have both parties in agreement to move this forward.

I will ask my final question, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to hear the mention of the four portable units to be shipped to Cape Dorset to be used by the Peter Pitseolak student body. I want to ask the minister: do these four portable classrooms have the space to accommodate all the students in the 2016-17 school year? Currently, the students are taking classes with a split shift schedule. Does it mean we can abandon that this coming fall? 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. Regarding these four portable classrooms, in looking at the specifications, they will be able to accommodate the students, as we first conducted a study on the number of students these four classrooms can house. It may result in adding a fifth classroom, but that has yet to be determined.

Nonetheless, we want to house all the students and in our estimation, these four portable classrooms will have sufficient space. Further, in the other school, several classrooms are available for usage. We reviewed these factors when determining the number of classrooms we wanted.

Additionally, we can approximate the number of students that will be enrolled in the next school year as we have those figures already. That is why we believe these classrooms will provide adequate space due to our previous study. That is what I can respond with at this time, Mr. Speaker. The classrooms ought to have enough space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 204 – 4(3): Making Emergency Calls to the RCMP

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

The situation as it stands in my constituency has provoked many concerns, especially in the community of Clyde River, who expressed severe concerns on this matter. It revolves around residents requiring the assistance of the RCMP, but who have to call outside their community to Iqaluit.

When they request assistance due to an emergency, they have to phone the call centre either due to an accident or need for assistance. They have to first call the Iqaluit call centre, submit their situation, and await approval. This occurs when RCMP officers are requested. Can the minister clarify if the Iqaluit call centre has an Inuktitut-speaking member available at all times? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we require that there be an Inuktitut-speaking person to respond at the call centre here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per previous statements from my constituents, they complained that at the time of their call, a person able to speak Inuktitut was never available or was not the primary contact person.

As we all know, many of our people don't even have conversational English, particularly the older generations who

call when assistance is required. They have no idea how the phone answering system works. Even when a bilingual person is asked to call, they have a difficult time with the call centre procedures. We are penalizing our unilingual Inuit, as they have no idea how to deal with the current system and which phone number to call.

I was just informed recently that when they have called for assistance, nobody who speaks Inuktitut ever answers or is asked to take the call. Can the minister conduct a review to ensure that an Inuktitut-speaking person is on call at all times for emergency calls from the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary... I'm sorry. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Question 205 – 4(3): Status of Kivalliq-Manitoba Winter Road

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

One of the ongoing initiatives of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable is the establishment of a road link between Manitoba and the Kivalliq. This project has the potential of significantly reducing the cost of

transportation of goods to the Kivalliq region, therefore reducing the high cost of living for Kivalliq residents.

Can the minister indicate who currently sits on the Winter Road Working Group that has been established by the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was at the Hudson Bay roundtable with the MLA. I'm just going to go by memory, but I believe who sits on the working group there... I can't remember offhand, but I believe it's the Mayor for Arviat, Bob Leonard, and the Mayor for Churchill, Mike Spence. Off the top of my head, I can't remember who is all on the working group.

The working group did put a recommendation forward and a resolution was passed that they do want to take the winter road to the next phase, which is to seek federal funding to do a proper feasibility study. They would come out with like a class "A" estimate as to exactly how this winter road would operate, the cost to operate, the cost to maintain it, and the cost to make it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister answered some of the questions I was going to ask, (interpretation ends) but for

the record, I'll go ahead anyway.

One of the formal resolutions that were passed at last month's meeting of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable directed the Winter Road Working Group to examine four specific issues, including the identification of "funding sources for required studies." Can the minister clarify what studies need to be undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There would have to be a number of studies and I guess we would start at the bottom that would be a very important one that would have to be an environmental impact study because this project will impact the environment and studies of who would use it, who could use it, who would own it, who would be allowed to go on it, and whether it would be a public road.

I can't remember offhand exactly all the studies there, but the project management, the funding source, and a confirmation of road alignment, that means the exact corridor of where the road would go, and who would do the studies. The main one would be to get the cost nailed down much better so that we know exactly what the road would cost. Environmental impacts will be a big one because it will impact many things. Thank you.

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

Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify whether or not the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba will provide the funding for these studies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding sources have not been laid out specifically by the working group. I believe the working group would be seeking the majority of the funds from the federal government.

This project is one of the four pillars that this government supports. I would support that our government put some funding in towards this feasibility study, but it's not a sole decision. I'm just a co-chair of the Manitoba roundtable, but I myself would support putting in some funds. I believe that the majority of the funds that would be requested would be requested from the federal government. Thank you.

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

Question 206 – 4(3): Administration of Justice

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet. I would like to say that I am thinking of the families who have lost a family member today. We send our sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister will recall, I asked him questions during our sitting of November 5, 2015 concerning the need to address problems facing our justice system, including the need to “reduce the growing backlog of cases involving citizens held in remand and to improve case processing times.”

Earlier this year, at least one trial was cancelled in a Nunavut community due to what was described as “insufficient judicial resources.”

As of yesterday, information that is publicly available from the federal Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs indicates that the Federal Judicial Advisory Committee for Nunavut still lacks representation from the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP.

Can the minister provide this House with a clear update on when these positions will be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have tried to fill this position more than once. The previous government did not accept that and wanted to choose their own preference, so it seemed useless to fill the position. That's why we just put it on hold. With this new government, we have recommended a name to fill the position. We still haven't received a reply up to last month. We have kept trying to fill the position in the

meantime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last fall, I asked the minister for an update on the work of the Nunavut Justice Efficiency Committee, which has the mandate to, and I quote, “examine systemic issues with a view to realizing efficiencies, maximizing value for dollars and ensuring the experience is the best possible for Nunavummiut navigating court processes.” At that time, he stated that he could not respond to my questions.

Can the minister inform us today what specific initiatives the Nunavut Justice Efficiency Committee is currently working on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the members in that committee wasn't appointed by us but is still a member of the committee. They remarked that they collect names of potential judiciary appointees, review their background, and prepare recommendations to the federal Minister of Justice as to which person should be appointed. That is how they try to plan for these appointments and that is part of the mandate of this committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An ongoing issue of concern has been the amount of federal

funding that provinces and territories receive for legal aid services. Has the minister raised the issue of legal aid funding with his new federal counterpart and, if so, what response did he receive? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the legal aid issue, it is not a new item. In conjunction with my justice ministerial colleagues from the provinces and territories, we urged the federal government to start this process, but we have yet to receive an answer. This will be ongoing as we are not the only jurisdiction in Canada, as most jurisdictions have concerns as well on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 207 – 4(3): Swimming Pools in Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, our communities deal with capital priorities as the hamlet governments, which their citizens want to see, and these priorities are passed onto the government through this process called the (interpretation ends) community infrastructure sustainability plans. (interpretation) Within this process, the community of Naujaat prioritized a swimming pool. This was echoed by the community of Coral Harbour.

As I have asked about this issue in the past, this is now the third minister I have questioned responsible for the department that deals with capital purchases and review of prioritized capital projects, such as community centres and other facilities, including swimming pools.

Previously, I received a response that swimming pools are not part of this government's priorities as these facilities are not part of the capital plans, even when a community identifies it as their first priority. Nonetheless, I have been directed by my constituency communities to reiterate the priorities that they would like to see move forward.

With that being the case, my belief is that it is a critically important issue to train our people how to swim, primarily due to the fact that many Inuit go through dangerous conditions. Further, if this training had been available in the past, it is obvious that many of the late people I knew may have been able to live longer. I also have relatives who went through the ice and drowned fairly close to shore. This result was only because of their inability to swim.

With that reality, can the minister clarify to me, when communities identify swimming pools as their utmost priority and with no facilities available, whether his department could identify facilities that could house a swimming pool?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the member correctly, he's asking if there are any buildings. Sorry, if he can rephrase his question, please. I don't know if he's asking if CGS would provide a building or whether we can identify if there is a building in Coral Harbour, which I believe is the community that wants it. I'm not sure what he wants. If there is a building available and if the hamlet owns it, they can do what they want with their building. If he's asking if we will provide a building, then it would just go along with the funding requests for everything else.

CGS provides up to \$10,000 a year to communities to help fund any aquatic centres. Some communities do run aquatic centres out of lakes and there's funding for that. I know it's not practical if it's very cold.

If he can just rephrase his question, but my answer is if there is a building that is owned by the municipality, then it's their choice on how they want to use that building. If he's asking if we can provide a building for them, then it would just go under the infrastructure needs and it would be looked at with any other infrastructure needs that are required or requested. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly what I was trying to ask. For any type of swimming pool, even if it is only going to be used seasonally, we all know that operating it is rather expensive. I want to ask the minister if a facility owned by the hamlet can be used seasonally,

perhaps to use skating rinks as an example. They sit idle in the summer and I wonder if these buildings could be utilized to house these swimming pools seasonally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying his question. The question about whether a hamlet can use their arena in the summer when it's not being used is... I don't know if I can say no, but I would not recommend it unless they have the proper ventilation system set up because a swimming pool emits a lot of humidity and there could be problems and issues with mould.

I'm pretty sure that no community would want their arena shut down either for extended periods of time or permanently due to mould issues. That would have to be looked at very carefully. Ventilation would have to be put in properly. Standards would have to be met. We can look at it case by case, but right now, I believe that it's not practical because most arenas are used a lot longer than a swimming pool would be and I don't think any community would want to lose their arena for a year or more due to mould issues or corrosion or any other issues that might come up due to humidity. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ice rinks are the only

facilities not in use, at least in our smaller communities. There are no other facilities available for use. In the past, old garages were used to house the pools, at least in Naujaat. However, it became problematic due to the lack of available clean water.

I do understand the response provided. However, the (interpretation ends) arenas (interpretation) aren't heated, at least in our case. In the community I represent, none of the rinks are heated, although they have good ventilation to vent the used air. With that being the situation, although you mentioned that fund of \$10,000, it seems obvious that the materials would overrun that amount, especially for seasonal pools.

With respect to the other fund he also mentioned, a further \$10,000 fund, is there any funding that could be used towards the projects they want? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is more funding that could be available. There's funding there right now that could be used. The municipalities get recreational block funding that they can use for what they feel. If they want to make a soccer field or an indoor playground, they do get block funding for recreational use that can be used. They can apply to CG&S for extra funding.

In terms of turning an arena into a swimming pool, that would have to be looked at very carefully because the

amount of funding to turn it into a swimming pool may not be that high. I'm not sure because I'm not up to par on the regulations, but I can tell you that the amount to fix it back, if there are any mould issues, would be horrendous.

I can come up with an example. In Arviat, the old community hall was used as a swimming pool and it ran very well for many summers, but now the building is beyond repair. It's just not worth spending any money on it any more to fix it to be usable due to mould. I would caution any municipality that would want to turn their arena in the off season into a swimming pool due to mould issues. Thank you.

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

Question 208 – 4(3): Status of Environmental Protection Compliance Orders

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, whose department is responsible for the Petroleum Products Division.

During our recent fall sitting, the government's most recent set of public accounts were tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, buried deep within this document in very small print is a section that caused me some concern. I will read it into the record. "The Government's Petroleum Products Division and [the] Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) received Environmental Protection Compliance Orders (EPCOs) from

Environment Canada related to contraventions of regulations for Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products at selected facilities in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove and Sanikiluaq. (...) The work to comply with the regulations at these facilities was commenced in 2014-15 and is to be completed during the 2015-16 fiscal year."

Mr. Speaker, there are only 29 days left in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of the government's work to ensure that the facilities in Sanikiluaq, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove are in compliance with federal regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember reading about the environmental compliance orders. There was work being done in the communities, but offhand right now, I can't tell the member whether or not they're completed. If they're not completed, then most have to do with pipelines and stuff and we physically can't work on that when it's freezing cold outside. The work would have to be done in the summer and I can get back to the member on exactly the status of each project. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that information.

This section of the public accounts also states that, and I'll quote it clearly, "Compliance with the regulations at the Government's remaining storage tank farm facilities is expected to be completed over the years 2016 to 2021. Environment Canada has agreed to postpone further enforcement action pending satisfactory completion of the work as scheduled." Can the minister describe how many communities in Nunavut are a part of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The compliance orders on some of these will be done when tank farm upgrades are done. It's a cost-effective way and the federal government has agreed to give us a little bit of leeway on that in terms of when the work is done, it will be done. A lot of these compliance issues have to do with new regulations that were put on and we have to comply with them. We don't have any choice but to comply with them. We are lucky they have agreed that when we do any tank farm upgrades, we can deal with the non-compliance issues.

As for exactly how many communities are non-compliant right now, I have to get back to the member on that because I don't have that kind of information in front of me. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that information as

well.

Mr. Speaker, it is not clear whether this work will cost our government \$10 or \$10 million. Can the minister clarify what the cost of this work is estimated to be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I can't nail down a figure for the member. It won't be cheap, though; it will be costly because, in some cases, there is clean-up that has to be done too. We're lucky that we will combine this work with tank farm upgrades to mitigate the costs. It's cheaper to do it as a whole scope of work while they're doing other upgrades as opposed to doing it as a standalone project, but I can't give the member any figures at all right now. Thank you.

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

Question 209 – 4(3): Legal Services Board

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

As the minister will recall, I asked questions during our sitting of November 5, 2015 concerning the Legal Services Board, which is headquartered in Gjoa Haven.

At that time, I was pleased that the minister shared my concern that the

position of the board's chief executive officer was located in Rankin Inlet and the position of the board's comptroller was located in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the board has some independence from the government, but we pay its bills.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what actions have been taken to put these positions back where they belong in the Legal Services Board's headquarters in Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank my colleague once again for raising this matter. From what I understand, since our last session, the board met in Gjoa Haven and also met with my colleague. I understand that it was a good exchange of information. The board has been trying to hire an office manager and to date, they have been unsuccessful. From what I understand, they're also training a Nunavut resident to be their financial officer. They're going to use some funds to train at least a Nunavut resident to manage their finances. Some steps are being taken, but I share my colleague's concern that those spaces are still too empty in Gjoa Haven. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The most recent annual report for the Legal Services Board, which the

minister tabled in the Legislative Assembly in November of 2015, indicated that only two positions were filled at the board's headquarters in Gjoa Haven. How many positions are currently filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately, they could not get a local candidate for the office manager, so there are still two positions.

I have also expressed my request for staff housing with the housing minister. Hopefully that work will commence so that we can provide housing for other positions in the community.

I am glad to hear that one of the incumbents who were looking for housing was accommodated by the housing corporation. There is some progress that is happening, but it is slow. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We learned last week from the Minister of Finance that the government's Public Agencies Council has been dissolved.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Justice describe what tools the government has at its disposal in order to ensure that the Legal Services Board fulfills its responsibilities related to filling its decentralized positions in Gjoa Haven?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The board is an independent entity of our government. The majority of the board of directors is appointed by the regional legal services boards. I also appoint one member. It's a largely independent board and I work with the board and encourage them. We are making slow progress, but I look forward to more progress in the coming months ahead. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Motion 020 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Hudson Bay, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Question 210 – 4(3): Support for Medical Travel Clients

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

Mr. Speaker, during my recent travels before our session, I met a number of medical clients from Nunavut who were stranded in Winnipeg due to a lack of proper identification. As the minister is aware, it is not possible to travel without some form of government-issued identification.

Can the minister clarify what kind of assistance is available to Nunavut medical clients who find themselves stranded in a southern jurisdiction without adequate identification? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those who need to travel are given papers with phone numbers that they can call any time. If they get stranded, they are given phone numbers from our office. When my staff is notified, they deal with it right away. That is how our policy is complied with for those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am quite sure that from time to time, medical travel clients require assistance

with certain matters that are not necessarily medical in nature. For example, they may face a financial issue, a crisis at home, or the loss of important documents such as their personal identification.

Can the minister identify what kinds of support services are available to Nunavut residents who are away from home for medical travel and require non-medical assistance? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my previous statement, whenever a patient is required to undergo medical travel, they are provided with documentation that lists the phone number in case their flight has sudden plans that they have to call. It directs them to call that number. Once the patient has called to convey their circumstances, assistance is immediately provided. That is our policy that we follow daily. If any patient is stuck due to airline issues, they are to call that number which is a toll-free number. This has been the practice and will continue to be so in case patients get stuck. The only onus on the patient is to call that phone number because assistance will commence upon their call. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clear

response, but there is a “but.” Mr. Speaker, it can be a frightening and disorienting experience to be away from home in an unfamiliar place where people may not even speak the same language as you.

Will the minister describe what support systems are in place to ensure that medical travel clients have all the help they need to get home safely after their medical appointments or treatments are completed? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To put this into perspective, perhaps if we looked at the annual figures, last year, there were 28,000 travel itineraries for patients on medical travel from Nunavut.

If any one of the patients on medical travel runs into difficulties or gets stuck, they have to call by region. For the Kivalliq region, they can call the toll-free number, 1-844-886-8020. For medical patients from the Baffin, it is 1-866-371-3305. For medical patients from the Kitikmeot, it is 1-844-886-8010. These are the regional numbers provided to the patients listed on the papers they receive for their medical travel. They are informed that if any issues crop up, they can call at any time if they get stuck so that they can be helped. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 211 – 4(3): Status of
Government Response to Motion
14 – 4(2)**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

On November 6, 2014, all Members of the Legislative Assembly, including the cabinet, voted in favour of Motion 14 – 4(2). As the House will recall, this motion, which was seconded by my colleague from Iqaluit-Tasiluk, formally called on the government to undertake a “comprehensive review of the merits and benefits of establishing a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital” and to “report on its considerations and findings” to the Legislative Assembly.

My three questions today deal with the “whens,” “whys,” and “whats” of this issue, and there are many.

For the record, can the minister provide a clear answer today as to when the government’s findings will be tabled and made public? 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. When we were meeting earlier, I replied that we are still conducting our work on this issue and it requires approval by cabinet once we have finalized the details. What I have stated previously is that the hospital will get an oversight board to manage the facility. As per my statements, this body will be established, but we first have to develop the parameters and get approval

from cabinet before I can commit to tabling the information. At this time, the document isn’t available, so I can’t respond instantaneously as to the actual timeframe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, can the minister provide a clear answer as to why this deadline was missed? I know he had some problems, but why weren’t they addressed a lot earlier so that he could meet the deadline that was requested? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The commitment is there. The commitment was made this fall. We will set up a board. It’s a matter of working out the details on how that board will function and we have to make sure that we’re governing properly. I can set up a board any day, but it may not work the best, so I make a commitment to make sure it works properly. That’s the role of governing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that we all want a board that’s going to work well and we want a board in place. For the record, can the minister provide a clear answer as to what conclusions the government

has reached to date? There must have been some kind of research done already and perhaps some things that have been approved. Can you provide us with a clear answer of what conclusions you have reached to date?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) What we have determined so far is the board will be an advisory for starters and we are currently looking at other boards elsewhere to make sure that we learn from their experiences. As soon as that work is done, I look forward to presenting it in the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 212 – 4(3): Capital Planning

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question of the day is also for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the other day, the federal government announcement concerning funding for playgrounds, arenas, and swimming pools indicated that the total eligible cost for the projects in question amounted to \$49,919,318.

My question to the minister, he stated that some of the projects would be a 75-25 split with the federal government. I would like to ask the minister for the record what the Government of

Nunavut's total share of this spending will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My fellow member is making up for the days that he missed while he was out, and I thank him.

The total costs to the GN will be \$6,540,000 and that is our share of the 25 percent of the ones that are going through here. I would like to just add to that. There are two projects where the municipalities are doing their own funding and one is the swimming pool here in Iqaluit and the other one is the cultural centre in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The need to replace Sanikiluaq's health centre is a high priority in my community. As the minister will appreciate, I am concerned that health and safety projects which are currently being considered for inclusion in the GN's five-year capital plan do not get delayed or cancelled because of new funding announcements. What assurances can the minister provide that health and safety priorities for capital spending, including Sanikiluaq's new health centre, will not be negatively impacted by this announcement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member that this funding announcement will have no impact on delaying any other project. The funding for this is under the New Building Canada Fund, but it's under its own separate heading. It's called the Small Communities Fund and their funding criteria is different than funding, let's say, a nursing station or a hamlet office. This announcement will, in no way, have any delays for a health centre or a nursing station in Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Although all governments like to make a big splash about funding announcements, we don't always see detailed information concerning where the dollars actually end up going.

Will the minister commit to tabling a report during the fall sitting concerning which projects end up receiving funding under the other day's announcement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member is talking about these five projects and if the funding is nailed down to the penny, yes, I have no problem tabling the document on how much it costs for each project and where. As of right now, it's not finalized, but, yes, I can table that document when it's

ready. I can't say if it will be ready for the fall, but when it is completed, I can do that. Thank you.

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

Question 213 – 4(3): Cape Dorset School Schedule

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask more questions to the Minister of Education with regard to the school in Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, as I was asking him earlier, because of the change in schedule, I would like to ask if the attendance is taken for students that go to school every day. Has the attendance been dropping up to now? 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 also thank my colleague for asking about this issue once again. To date, the Department of Education has kept track of student attendance. We have maintained the figures for September, October, November, and January, so we are aware of these numbers.

At this time, whether the figures are trending downwards or upwards is something we haven't deciphered yet as they are currently being reviewed with that purpose. With respect to actual figures, we don't have that information yet. Maybe if I paraphrase it in English, with the (interpretation ends) Student

Information System, (interpretation) the data is being uploaded to this oversight software.

I just want my colleague to be aware that I can't provide an actual figure, but the data is still under review and being processed by this SIS as it is being inputted into the system. Also, we are looking at completing the uploading of data from September to January so that we can determine the differences. At this time, we don't have any figures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll look forward to getting the attendance numbers to see if they have increased or decreased.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask another question. As a result, every resource was lost, such as books and educational materials used in our schools, and they had nothing left in the old Peter Pitseolak School.

What I want clarified is with respect to the teaching materials needed by the teachers, for example, if you are going to teach classes. I wonder what other resources to assist the teachers like (interpretation ends) additional resources (interpretation) have been identified to date to ensure classes are operated as smoothly as possible in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

member for seeking additional information, especially in light of the importance of schools for our students, including receiving an education.

Subsequent to the school fire, resources were immediately pooled here in Iqaluit as additional teaching materials and supplies are always kept ready in case of emergencies such as this or if a school starts running out of materials and they are housed in a facility or (interpretation ends) warehouse (interpretation) to be available at all times.

With the situation in Cape Dorset occurring, we already had these additional resources, so we pooled the materials and supplies and shipped them to the schools, with a complete set of materials for each grade. We sent those resources as soon as we could. To date, I haven't heard that they now require further resources.

Nonetheless, our policy of retaining additional resources available to ship out anywhere in Nunavut came in handy. I haven't heard of any other requests for more resources, but again I reiterate that all classroom and teaching materials required were sent, at least based on my understanding, a complete set for the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a similar issue, again based on the minister's statement about the February 29 correspondence he received from the Cape Dorset DEA, which was copied to my attention about this request for a meeting with the minister about the impact on the hours,

perhaps they need amendments on the hours.

The minister stated that he was willing to meet with the local DEA and I appreciate his availability. When do you expect to identify a date? Is it when you are available at the first chance that you will do so or perhaps I could suggest a weekend meeting while our session has its weekend break? 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. Yes, I did receive that correspondence, but they didn't indicate a preferred date for meeting with me. Yes, whenever I am available for a meeting, I will make myself available.

Further, after discussions with the Department of Community and Government Services about this matter, as they also received a copy of this correspondence, we will be attempting to meet with them as soon as possible. I will ensure that I keep the MLA informed about the actual day, location, and place of the meeting.

We have prepared a teleconference for that meeting since we are unable to directly go to Cape Dorset during the session. However, we will be available to meet via teleconference and I will inform the member forthwith with the appropriate details of the date once we have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 214 – 4(3): Energy Initiatives

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

Earlier this month, the government announced that ten private homeowners in Cambridge Bay would be selected to receive a free energy audit. Similar energy audits have also taken place in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent Nunavut Housing Needs Survey indicated that Baker Lake has the fifth highest number of private homeowners in the territory.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the next round of energy audits that is offered by the government takes place in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The energy audits have happened in three of the main communities that have homeownership at this time: Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet. There is a desire to expand this program outside of the three original communities so that other communities can have an experience on exploring audits for their homes. We are currently looking at how we can go to the other communities at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, a formal motion was passed during the recent fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly that called for a comprehensive report on the activities and expenditures of the Government of Nunavut's Energy Secretariat to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first sitting day of the spring 2016 sitting. Can the minister confirm that this will be done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I believe that we are preparing to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. The municipal council of Baker Lake recently passed a formal resolution concerning the need to reduce Nunavut's dependence on the burning of fossil fuels and the need to explore greater use of renewable energy.

Can the Minister of Energy indicate how her department's Energy Secretariat is working with the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Energy Options Working Group established under the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable to make progress towards

establishing a hydroelectric power transmission line from Manitoba to the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We have staff that sit on the committee of the Hudson Bay roundtable energy program that they are looking into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 215 – 4(3): Status of New Iqaluit Marine Port and Sealift Facility

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation as well.

As a longstanding advocate for modern marine infrastructure for our territory's largest community, I very much welcomed last summer's announcement that the federal and territorial governments would be funding the construction of a long overdue marine port and sealift facility in Iqaluit.

At that time, our Minister of Economic Development and Transportation publicly stated that, and I quote, "This will fundamentally change resupply here and into the communities."

Can the minister confirm whether or not the formal contribution agreement for this project has been officially signed by

the territorial and federal governments?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that
question. Yes, we are very pleased with
the recent confirmation of the federal
funding for the Iqaluit marine facility
project. I agree that this project will be
making a very important contribution to
Iqaluit's sealift operations as well as to
hunters and other small vessel owners.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. That's wonderful news, indeed,
for all of us.

Can the minister clarify the
government's current timeline for
awarding the contracts for the design and
construction of the new Iqaluit marine
port and sealift facility? Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank
my colleague for her questions on this
issue. The timeline, planning, and
(interpretation ends) engineering work
(interpretation) has been initiated. We
look forward to the project beginning
this summer. (interpretation ends) Mr.

Speaker, we all need to remember that
this project is conditional on the
Legislative Assembly's support. Thank
you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank
you. (interpretation ends) Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I'm sure she will find that
we support it.

Can the minister clarify how key
stakeholders, including the City of
Iqaluit, the Amarak Hunters and
Trappers Organization, and the major
sealift providers, will be consulted on
the design of our new marine port and
sealift facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister
for Economic Development and
Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that
question. Once we have our
confirmation that the project has been
approved by the Legislative Assembly...
. There have been a lot of organizations
that deal with sealift, such as NEAS, the
Hunter Support Program, and other
organizations like the Qikiqtaaluk
Corporation that have already
approached us on information that they
would like to share their ideas on the
project moving forward. Once we have
that in place, we will definitely be
communicating to all stakeholders.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Members, the time for question period

has expired. Moving on. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I would like to be given the opportunity to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. Mr. Mike, please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you for allowing me to proceed, colleagues, as whenever you make this request, you hang in the balance awaiting approval.

Actually, I requested that to recognize a visitor to the gallery from my community and his name is Lasalosie Ishulutak. I want it known that this man is a traditional hunter and his chosen lifestyle has allowed him to reach his current age. Further, in the community of Pangnirtung, whenever he comes in with a harvest of country foods, he shares with the less fortunate people, especially if the catch is fresh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please welcome him to the gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Thank you. Moving on. Item 7. (interpretation ends) Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports

of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

(interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents*

Tabled Document 086 – 4(3): Government of Nunavut's Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Government of Nunavut's Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' Report on the Review of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 Annual Reports and 2015-16 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17.

*See Appendix for full text of Tabled Document 86 – 4(3).

Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Act amends the *Land Titles Act* to provide for the merger of leasehold and fee simple estates in land held by the same person, as well as for the preservation of relevant interests in case of such merger.

This Act also corrects minor grammatical, typographical, and syntactical errors in the *Land Titles Act*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: Question has been called. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 15 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 –

4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

>>*House recessed at 15:51 and Committee resumed at 16:16*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, fellow MLAs, ministers, (interpretation) and Inuit watching the proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon.

Today, we are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary.

My apologies. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2016-17 Main Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Education. If time permits, we will commence with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the

Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee agreed that the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. *Iqsuqtii*, please assist the staff to go to the witness table.

Thank you. Minister, please introduce your staff. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the DM, Lori Kimball, and to my left is the ADM, Mr. Darren Flynn. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page J-6. Before we proceed, I would like to remind the members of the following: according to 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 under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Informatics Planning and Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, in reviewing the draft 2016-

17 main estimates, the minister's department is proposing to expand its Informatics Planning and Services Division by 21 PYs and increasing its budget by \$2,594,000. Can you indicate why your department needs 21 new positions and more than \$2 million in additional funding for its Informatics Planning and Services Division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I shall try my best to do that. We feel that these positions are very much needed. There are always privacy concerns, security concerns, and more and more of government work is being done online with different kinds of devices. You've got cellphones, tablets, and computers. We all know that once the email system shuts down, it seems like we, as a government, can't seem to get our jobs done and we all just kind of panic and say, "What now?" That's the main reason.

I'll just throw out some numbers for Mr. Rumbolt to put it in perspective. The annual budget for IT for Nunavut is roughly \$35.5 million. For the NWT, it's \$53 million. The average IT money spent per employee, so the amount of time an IT employee, if it were to be calculated, spent on a Nunavut government employee, in Nunavut, it's currently at \$8,609 and the NWT is at \$10,170. That's just a bit of comparison.

In terms of percentage, the number of IT positions in Nunavut is currently 2.1 percent of the total workforce. We are requesting to put it up 2.7 percent. In the NWT, they're at 3.9 percent, the Yukon is at 3.2 percent, and Newfoundland,

which is the closest to us, is at 3.8 percent.

We're requesting this because we need it. We are falling behind on services. As I stated earlier in my opening comments, we are a service department, so these IT positions are for servicing all of the GN. It's not just CG&S; it's for servicing all of the GN and all the departments. We feel that we are not meeting the needs of the departments in the IT department. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before this budget was introduced or the budget shortfall or the shortfall in PYs, how was this service provided in the past? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short answer to that would be that it wasn't provided adequately at all. We're not providing enough security. When I talk security, I'm talking about security online and on the Internet, not physical security. We're not providing enough security. There are security issues. There are confidentiality issues.

We weren't providing the level of service that needs to be provided for all the departments, such stuff like confidential information that is withheld, the data positions, and not adequate backup being done for information like data that is being stored. It's just that it wasn't being provided at all and this is to catch up.

This is not the endgame either. We will be requesting more in the following years because we are playing catch-up and we need to be up to speed on these issues. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that these positions will be for all the GN, not just Community and Government Services. With that being said, will all these positions be centrally located in Iqaluit or will they be spread out throughout the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of these positions will be located here in Iqaluit. It's just logistics. This is where the bulk of the government does sit, but they will be a resource for all of Nunavut and for all of the departments. They work for CG&S. As I stated earlier, we are a service department. If a Department of Health's computer should go down or Education, then we are there to help them out. We are hoping that with all this, there will be more videoconferencing. There is one position that is going to Cambridge Bay, but the bulk of them will be going here to Iqaluit. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With these 21 positions, we are only a month away from starting a new year and these positions are hardly sophisticated IT professionals. Realistically, how are you intending to recruit and have all these positions in

place within the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will work hard at it. How's that?

>> *Laughter*

Right now, some of these duties are being done by casuals and contractors. We are hoping that when the jobs are advertised, they will be filled from these. Some of the work is being done right now by casuals and contractors, so we are hoping that they will fill in the gaps.

We are realistic that it may take a little while because the hiring process is done by HR and that is out of our control. Of course, we have input into it, but HR is the hiring department. We are going to do our best to make sure these positions are filled. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. HR has a history of taking a long time to fill one position, let alone 21. It would be interesting to see how quick they fill these positions. That was just a comment.

Has your department been in touch with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make sure there is adequate staff housing for these positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have looked into it. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there adequate staff housing available in Iqaluit for all these positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there is not adequate staff housing, but there is a private housing market here and private housing rental, so we are hoping that, if need be, then that's one route to go. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're at Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Informatics Planning and Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister. I want to ask a question related to that, but first let me start off with this question, although I am aware the minister may be unable to respond to my query about informatics services.

Let me first ask this question, Mr. Chairman. Who is responsible for ensuring the veracity of our employee email addresses? I ask because I wonder if all departments have to update their own addresses. Is this handled by a specific sector? I am asking about the entire public service employees' email address system that allows people to send emails to the appropriate staff.

Perhaps it is outside your purview, but I would appreciate any information that would enlighten me on how this process works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Before I go to the minister, I would like to remind all the members who have questions on this page to raise their hand so that I could recognize them. Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you're talking about the email addresses, the hiring department would send a request to us and we would process it, but we don't initiate it, if I understand your question correctly. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for explaining that to us. Today, it is very problematic when you are surfing the web and looking at departmental websites if you are looking for a specific employee.

I found several emails of long deceased individuals who were still on the email addresses with their names still listed in the position they held. There are many examples in all the departments. I was floored by certain names I didn't even expect to see on the website, especially late relatives who passed away a long while ago. I now know each department has to initiate this updating. I thank you for clarifying that and now it will be easier to know who to direct our questions to on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, within these 2015-16 main estimates as we debate the budgets,

there are various statements about the need to use satellite bandwidth as a government, at least I noted it previously, that it costs approximately \$7 million per annum.

Also, there is an agreement in place for the usage of bandwidth for the government which will expire in 2016, during this current fiscal year. What will be your approach on this issue? I imagine plans are already in place, obviously. Can you explain that to us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to pass this one on to, if you can, the DM because she's more knowledgeable on this than I am. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of reasons. Right now, our contract is expired, so we're in like an overhaul state right now and we're leaving it at that. Right now, there's a bunch of new developments happening in terms of high throughput satellites. We want to make sure that there are other options before we go to an RFP process. As well, we're exploring the options of fibre. We know that fibre optics is a much better avenue, so we don't want to lock ourselves in at this point. We're looking at different options and once we kind of assess the landscape, we will move forward with an RFP. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. If you can slow down a bit for the translators. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kimball responded to the question that I was going to pose in regard to fibre optics. I don't know the terminology in Inuktitut. In regard to pursuing fibre optics in Nunavut, I know this could probably be your initial stage. Do you think it's feasible? I know that we have to consider the costs. Since you're looking at that, do you think it's feasible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the member is asking about being connected to the outside world by fibre optics. If that is the case, then it's being looked at, yes.

We have heard in the media about some companies want to come in and do some parts of Nunavut. It's going to be on a community-by-community basis. It depends on where it comes in. There are options on there. They had the transatlantic one. We have heard of ones coming from Quebec or Labrador.

We're open to anything right now and looking at everything and anything. It's all just being looked at right now. We have not even talked to anyone. We know it's better and we know it will be really expensive in the beginning, but we believe that eventually, some or most of the communities should be hooked up because it will benefit everybody.

Let's take, for example, Iqaluit gets hooked up through fibre optics to the outside world. That would free up all that bandwidth that comes here by satellite for other communities. Even if only Iqaluit was set up, it would benefit all the other communities that still need

satellite because it would free up that bandwidth to the other communities.

We are looking at it. We have no plans of where or how, but it is an option that we feel is a viable option some time in the future. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the smaller communities would like to get connected to fibre optics, perhaps it would free up more bandwidth for Iqaluit.

Mr. Chairman, let me ask a question. I note that you are a new minister, but your staff stated last year during our session that you are in discussions with Telesat, officials from the federal government and government agencies in Nunavik and Newfoundland in regard to fibre optics. Although you state that you've had no discussions, again I know that you are a new minister, but what is the status of your previous discussions on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From Nunavik, they were looking at a pre-feasibility study and if it's possible to connect by fibre. This option would have to be approved by both the Labrador government and the Government of Nunavut. It was looked at. There was another one from Newfoundland and Labrador. Both of these projects are laying fibre optics down on the ocean bed or burying it, I'm not sure, but through the ocean.

Like I said, we're looking at all options, but nothing is finalized at all. There are

two different ways that fibre can come in. A private company can bring in fibre and then the government buys it; I mean the information in fibre optics. If we can get the infrastructure dollars, the government can plunk the money down and have their own fibre system. There are pros and cons to both.

If it's private industry, then you are still at the mercy of what they feel like they should charge you. If it's the government, then you need lots of infrastructure and money to put it in there, but once it's in there, you have control of the cost. All options are being looked at right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Before I move on, this will be my last question in regard to this issue. When do you expect to have a decision on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's no timeline at all right now because it's just so in the early stages. If I gave a timeline, it would be a false timeline. I don't want to give information like that. It's just so in the beginning stages that we don't even have a timeline. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also your department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that "Phase one of the Government of Nunavut Informatics Technology Strategy has been drafted" and that "The plan is expected to be complete by

March 31, 2016." Can you clarify what the strategy involves and if it's on schedule for completion by March 31, 2016? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just talk a bit about phase 1 of the strategy. The five areas that they're talking about are:

- The business relationship management and that would be a disciplined approach to ensure IT activities, investment support, business demands, and return value to the GN and its citizens and business;
- Operational excellence: a disciplined practice to deliver appropriate levels of IT service to meet business requirements - hire 21 PYs;
- Data management and protection: a core responsibility to ensure all GN data meets acceptable criteria to confidentiality, availability, and integrity;
- Resource planning and management: a practice to ensure that appropriate skills and resources are available to meet the business needs and that GN partners and suppliers deliver the products and services needed to provide IT service value;
- Business and enterprise architecture: an approach to ensure that businesses and enterprise capabilities, processes, and tools serve to optimize the business of government in a scalable agility and resilient

manner.

I think, in a nutshell, it just means that we want everything to run smoothly, be secure, and be able to meet the services that we require to give the departments. Part of the strategy is to build up the capacity of IT through more PYs. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Just to remind you that we have translators. Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I inadvertently ask a question about a matter outside the minister's mandate that you are aware of, you can ask me to stop.

The government continually voices and tries to be credible with those statements about being fiscally responsible. We are all accountable in this forum and we always look at ways of proper financial management.

Perhaps it is completely outside this process, but let me ask this question, although I am aware the minister may be unable to respond. I have deliberated on this matter since I was elected, which we have also promoted as a government, and that is the concept of videoconferencing that allows you to meet via long distances and in particular, the technology used by the Department of Health, who promotes the usage of telehealth to facilitate doctor-patient interactions.

I am aware that it may not be under your mandate, albeit it may be due to my ignorance, yet in my perception, no advances have been made on this front. I don't know if that is an actual question,

but what is your view of this technology? Is it being advanced or are improvements being implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is absolutely correct in terms of cost savings if you can do telehealth or videoconferencing. Part of these PYs is to increase the help that we can give to do more of that, but the real problem is the bandwidth. We just don't have enough or it's too slow, so the video links are not good or not reliable. This is where, if and when fibre optic came in, that would be problem solved on issues like that.

I believe the government does more videoconferencing because it is way cheaper than airline tickets and hotels, and we would like to encourage departments to do more of it, but the real issue right now is the bandwidth. These IT positions will help in terms of they're there to keep the tools going, if you want to consider videoconferencing, computers, and emails as tools to keep the government going and functioning.

If I understand the member's questions, yes, we want to do more videoconferencing and telehealth, but the real problem is the bandwidth. It's just not good enough or fast enough to do quality video stuff right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. With regard to the positions, I don't recall the number which I think was 21

PYs specific to the (interpretation ends) bandwidth, (interpretation) which I have no idea of an equivalent Inuktitut term. Perhaps computer linkage is closest.

What we constantly hear is that the bandwidth is inappropriate for the amount we are paying. Now on top of that, we have 21 more people who will be involved in this sector. Doesn't that mean we will be using even more (interpretation ends) bandwidth (interpretation) that we constantly complain is inadequate? Won't the addition of these 21 positions in this sector cause our bandwidth usage to increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, these 21 positions will be filled by casuals or contractors, but in terms of more bandwidth, these PYs won't take any more bandwidth. They're going to help use what's there. Another thing they can do is they can compress data and then ship it in a smaller form, but these are to help use what bandwidth we have. They are support people. They are not going to be using the bandwidth for their job. Their job is to help the departments use the bandwidth. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Also, just a clarification on this matter, for those of us residing in the smaller communities, we are always advocating on their behalf to receive any additional resources that become available.

In this day and age, statements are thrown about that today, no matter

where you are, you can now work from anywhere. We have technology such as emails, websites, phones, and cellphones that are continually advancing that allows people to work from anywhere today.

I don't quite grasp the reasoning, but I would like further clarification about these positions. Why aren't some of these positions located in Pond Inlet? Why do all these positions have to be located in headquarters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bulk of the government is here in Iqaluit and the physical structures for the Internet and bandwidth service is here. That's why these positions are here, because the physical architectural structure is right here. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go right into my first question here. On J-6, my committee colleague asked about bandwidth. As we're going into the new fiscal year just a month away, can the minister or the department tell me how much money was used within the past year to cover the bandwidth costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Approximately \$9 million. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was that \$9 million purchased services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was just to purchase the bandwidth. It's just the bandwidth. That's all. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I look at J-6, Purchased Services, revised estimates for 2015-16, \$14,191,000, and the main estimates for 2016-17, \$14,191,000, as you indicated \$9 million, what did the other \$5,191,000 cover? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that level of information right here with us. If the member wants, we can get back to him. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate that information.

Moving right along on that same page, J-6, Compensation and Benefits, revised estimates for 2015-16, \$7,071,000 and then you're looking at 2016-17, \$9,690,000, which has an increase of \$2,619,000, so the 21 positions will be

covered by \$2,619,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has his math correct, yes.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: If my math is correct, in the next several months, will we anticipate a supplementary appropriation to offset compensation, benefits, and salaries for informatics with the 21 new positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is what we are requesting right now, but it's for the 2016-17 year. We are requesting for an additional \$2.1 million for those 21 positions. This is part of the process we are doing here right now. We are debating and hoping that you will give us the okay to do it. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister responded to one of my committee colleagues, these 21 new positions will require staff housing. The minister earlier indicated, if I heard him correctly, some of the staff housing will be covered by purchasing or renting from private contractors. Where will that money come from? Would that be contract services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there will be no extra money for housing or contracting houses here. Like I said earlier, some will be filled by casuals, maybe some will be filled by people who live here in Iqaluit and want to work in these jobs, or the job will be advertised with a set salary and someone says, "Yes, that salary will allow me to pay the rent here in Iqaluit from a private guy." We are not providing housing for all the jobs here, but there is a viable private housing market here in Iqaluit and they will take advantage of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, you are requesting 21 new PYs. As the minister just indicated, you have casuals. How many casuals do you currently have that may become full-time employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't tell you how many casuals we have right now. They wouldn't get the jobs automatically. They would go through the hiring process. The jobs would be advertised through HR and anyone who wants to apply on them, including these casuals, would be able to apply on them and the normal hiring process would be followed. The GN's hiring policy would be followed for these 21 positions. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the department is hiring 21

new PYs, as noted, would that make adjustments or changes to the contract services or purchased services funding areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It might change the contract services, but might not a lot. We're not anticipating too much change because these are new positions. Like I stated earlier, we are not really providing the level of service that we should be providing to these departments. That is why we are requesting funds to fund these new positions on their own. It's a request for funding for these 21 positions that we are asking for from the committee. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current casuals who are within the Government of Nunavut who are overseeing Informatics Planning and Services, I am assuming you have some senior positions with Informatics Planning and Services also who oversee these casuals. Do you have a definite number as to how many we have senior staff within Informatics Planning and Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't have that information here because we have casuals not only for this but like all departments, we struggle with filling vacancies. If you can't fill vacancies, sometimes you hire casuals. We have casuals doing many different jobs within CGS, some in informatics and some in

some other areas. We do have casuals filling in for permanent full-time positions that we can't fill or we might have a contractor in that position, but I can't answer the member's question about how many casuals that we have right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you look at these 21 new positions that you are requesting, what would be your substantiation so that they are very knowledgeable in condensing large document files so that we could better utilize the current bandwidth that we purchase? Would that be your substantiation as a department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each one of these positions will have its own job description. There are many varied jobs that are there. There is not one criterion for all 21 of these positions. There are 21 separate jobs and, if the member wants, I can name them all. I can name off the 21 job titles if he wants me to. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate that and at the same time, if he could identify which departments will get what PYs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All these PYs are going to CG&S. That's why we are requesting

them. They're not for other departments. We're a service department for other departments, but these are CGS positions. That's why I am requesting them to you and not other departments. These positions will work for CGS, but they will help with IT with all the departments.

The job titles are application analyst, business relationship manager, two call centre agents, change management specialist, desktop analyst, two desk side support officers, intermediate informatics technician is the one in Cambridge Bay, manager of corporate operation, manager of solution delivery, manager of system operations, mobile centre service coordinator - I forgot about the interpreters; I'll slow down - network wireless specialist, record analyst, security analyst, senior Internet working and security specialist, senior technical specialist - voice, structure cabling technician, service desk asset management officer, structure cabling technician, system analyst, technical architect - networks, technical architect - systems, technical writer, and videoconferencing coordinator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister identifying all the career possibilities. As we all know, we wholeheartedly support high school students to graduate and fill government positions.

As the minister indicated, one of the positions will be in one of the decentralized communities in Nunavut. Will the department consider several of

the positions to be based in Baker Lake considering the fact that, as a decentralized model, there is the Department of Community and Government Services in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, these positions are here because the architectural structure is here and there is just no way around that. No, there will be no positions going to Baker Lake. These positions have to go here for the kind of work that they have to do. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you consider all this, as you indicated, 21 positions are all going to Iqaluit, but you identified one other community that is not Iqaluit. What is the substantiation there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is one position going there and it's because it's a regional hub. In regional hubs, they generally store data for the other smaller communities and they help out with operations.

I will just read off a little bit for the position in Cambridge Bay. "This position will also be responsible for the support and set up of new and existing IT hardware equipment, such as desktop computers, laptops, printers, and scanners. This position will also support office applications and improve client

software. This position will provide all tier 1 and 2 duties within the communities."

The position will be in Cambridge Bay, but it will be helping the communities within the region too. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation by the minister. My next question here would be then, you've got 21 positions, not minimizing or bringing demise to any of the regional break-ups here, Iqaluit being the capital which oversees the majority of Baffin and all of Nunavut, but when we look at regional structures, you've got Baffin, Kitikmeot, and Kivalliq.

My question here is: are you satisfied with the current structure and set-up that you are not putting any positions in the Kivalliq region? Are you satisfied with the current Informatics Planning and Services that currently operates out of the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, given the current technology and architecture of the IT structure, we are currently satisfied with the way regional operations are working and the number of positions there. If it was inadequate, then we would have requested for either more PYs or some of these PYs would have gone there. We are trying to make the best use of the PYs that hopefully you will give us the okay to fund them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister Savikataaq as well as your officials. I don't have too many questions to add.

However, on the 21 positions, I would just like to get some further information to see if the department has planned on, in relation to your Inuit employment plan, trying to identify out of the 21 positions, maybe 15 out of those could be targeted for Inuit. Have they gone that far with these positions in their plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hiring process will go through the normal GN hiring policies and practices. We would love it if all 21 were beneficiaries, but we have to make sure they're qualified. We do have an informatics training program agreement with Nunavut Arctic College. We're hoping that some of the graduates from there could work for or with CGS.

We're all for hiring as many beneficiaries as we want. We want qualified beneficiaries to work here. The key word is "qualified" because it's a very important job to keep everybody's computers going, not only computers, but all the devices that we use. It would be good and I would be happy if all 21 positions were beneficiaries, but it will go through the normal GN hiring process. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the response. That's what I'm getting at. I'm all for that too. I noted the technical professional scholarship that CGS provides. There are many individuals that are quite knowledgeable in computer IT and that sort of thing and if they get proper credentials, I think they can... . What I'm getting at is: for these 21 positions, would you be interested in looking at potential for on-the-job training to fill these positions by beneficiaries over a year or two? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we work with Nunavut Arctic College. It's a two-year informatics program that we are in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College. Enrolment varies between 14 and 18 students each year. It's a two-year program. On average, eight students graduate from this program. We don't know how many of these graduates find jobs with the GN because, as we are all aware, whenever you get a qualified person, there are many other departments that want them.

We offer cooperative work term placement. If we're lucky enough to get one of these students, we do take them on to train them and, hopefully, they stay on. I know we just had a graduate from CGS too for the internship program because I was at the dinner there on Monday night. There are different programs. That young fellow just graduated with the internship program. We're very happy that he is staying with CG&S. I congratulated him and I told him, "I hope I give you a long-service

award. We want you to work for CGS for as long as you can.” Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the minister for that response. Can you give us the numbers of the enrolment to that program today, both first and second year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I can’t get you the enrolment because it’s a Nunavut Arctic College program, so it’s run through them. It can take between 14 and 18 students and on average, 8 students graduate, but I can’t tell you the exact enrolment because that’s one of the courses that are offered by Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name, Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 180, all evening I have been hearing 21 positions, but now in your business plan for 2015-16, you have 57 PYs and then in 2016-17, you’re requesting 79 PYs. If you subtract those numbers, it comes to 22. Where does that extra one PY come in from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That position was re-profiled from another position. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is regarding the 57 positions. Of those 57 positions, are there any vacancies at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are vacancies. If you could just give us a moment, we can tally them up. As with all departments, there are always vacancies everywhere. There are 13 vacant positions from those 57. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With those 22 new positions, including 13 vacancies, will you be able to fill all those 35 positions in total? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Sammurtok.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you. It’s Minister Savikataaq.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these vacant positions may be filled by casuals right now. As I stated earlier, some of the duties of these new positions we are requesting may have casuals in them, so we will do our best in working with HR to have these positions filled, but it’s an HR responsibility to do the advertising and the hiring. We will be part of the process, but in the end, HR will have to be the one that does the hiring. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. I believe I have two questions on this same subject of the 21 PYs that are planned to be created together. Let me start with this question: what if we don't approve this request? If the members didn't approve this request, will this mean the end of your world? What would be the result if members don't approve this request? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the committee doesn't approve the request for the new positions, then I guess we would have to continue on how we are with not providing adequate service, with problems with security, with chances of data being breached for personal information. There are many things that could go wrong. We have been lucky so far.

We need the stuff and we're hoping that you will approve it. If it's not approved, then we will have to do whatever we need to do and there are chances that maybe it will take a little longer when your computer goes down to get it fixed or your cellphone quits working and they might say, "Well, we just don't have the manpower to work it at the time being," but we're hoping that you will approve our request. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. It appears that I have three questions. Mr. Chairman, I would like further clarification because that's a lot of PYs. How do you make a sudden request of

21 PYs in total in one year? Is it after you reviewed your departmental operations? What brought about this request for 21 employees? Were you looking at issues within your department? There was absolutely nothing in last year's estimates and all of a sudden we see 21 new PYs. Are you basing those numbers on reports or by reviewing your department or by what other purpose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. He asked if there was a review of where this came from. Did someone just figure that we should just have them? No. There was a review done and the review was of all departments. Remember that the mandate the Full Caucus gave was to review all programs from all the government departments and there was a review done.

The review showed that CG&S, through their IT, is not providing sufficient service to the departments. We're falling behind, we're lacking, and we have been lucky that there hasn't been - what's the proper word here - bad stuff that happened, I guess, in simple terms. We have been lucky. The review showed that we are way under capacity and this is just a first step. Probably next year, we will be requesting more because, even with these 21 positions, we will still be under-servicing the departments. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I have another question regarding your

request for \$2.5 million for 21 positions. My colleague, possibly Mr. Rumbolt, asked a question about whether they're going to be provided staff housing. You indicated that you don't have enough, but you can look at leasing private homes in Iqaluit to house these employees.

I thought I had one question, but I have two. Let me first ask this question. Does the money you're requesting do not include subsidized housing? When the Minister of Health was here, we were talking about what essential positions require housing, such as nurses and other professionals. Did you say that you would have to provide housing? Housing is available in Iqaluit, including housing that can be leased. Are these 21 positions so essential that we will be providing them with housing too? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These positions will go through the normal hiring practices and policies of the GN through HR and if a person is in their own house or buys their own house or is renting private accommodations, then they will qualify for the normal housing allowance package that all GN employees get. We're not getting or given any special, preferential treatment in terms of housing for these positions. They're just going to be going through the normal hiring process. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll rephrase my question. Through an agreement, it

indicates that some PYs will be provided housing. For example, if you were a nurse, you would be provided staff housing or if your job was an essential position, then they would require housing. For those 21 positions, does it say that because they're essential, they will be provided staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$2.6 million that we are requesting for these 21 positions is strictly only for the compensation and benefits, so their salaries. They're being advertised without housing, but if need be, then housing would be requested through Housing and Housing would let us know how long it would take. That \$2.6 million is just a regular benefits and compensation package that we are requesting. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how I can make it clearer. With those 21 PYs that you listed, is staff housing provided? Does it say something like that in the job advertisement? You say that you're going to use the normal hiring process. Yes, I understand that. In the job advertisement, is it going to state that staff housing will be provided? For example, nurses are provided staff housing. Does any one of these job advertisements say that there will be housing provided? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member stated about health, I think I see what he is getting at. Health is priority 1 in terms of housing. Some of these positions are priority 2 and some are priority 3. Health would have priority over these. In terms of priority, some jobs are priority 2 for housing and some are priority 3, but they're just under the regular Staff Housing Policy. Some are priority 2 and some are 3. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Do I understand that the minister stated that these are only for current employees? Some time in the future, are you going to be requesting that they be under priority 2? Of course, they will need a housing subsidy. Does it mean that in the future, you will ask for a supplementary appropriation to meet the housing needs of these staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we won't be coming back to request any more funding for housing or anything. A job would be advertised without housing, if need be. If we feel that we can't fill it and if we find out the reasoning is due to no housing, then we would put in a request to the housing corporation for a staff house, which they are responsible for.

All we're asking for is the \$2.6 million to fund these positions. There will be no asking for any extra money for housing. We're hoping that these positions will be filled and, if need be, the private housing market would fill them. If we can't fill

them and we feel that the reason is for housing, then we would put a request into the Nunavut Housing Corporation to get staff housing, but there is no other money involved in either process. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is again regarding the 21 positions. In Nunavut, we're always either short of staff or we don't have enough staff to handle the demand. We always have to bring in a lot of people into Nunavut to do the work because of the staff shortage, especially in professional positions that require specialized training. With regard to these 21 positions, if they're going to be filled with someone from outside the territory, are the costs of moving included? If I'm not mistaken, moving costs for one person will be about \$30,000, if not more. We have 21 positions that might be filled from outside the territory. Are you not concerned about where those extra costs will come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$2.6 million, as I indicated, is just for competition and benefits for these employees. As the member stated, it might be costly to bring the workers in from the south, if they have to come in from the south, but that would be paid for by HR as part of their regular recruiting process.

As I stated earlier, we do have an agreement and there is a program with Nunavut Arctic College that does

produce IT students after a two-year program. We might be able to fill them, but we won't be asking for any more money to bring people in because that's what HR does. It's their job. Whether they bring in a computer worker, a nurse, a teacher, a plumber, or whatever is needed, it's HR's responsibility to relocate, to bring someone from the south or it might even be someone from the smaller communities. We don't know, but that is the duty and function of HR. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. This is truly my last question for Mr. Minister. You mentioned the good work being done at Arctic College to train students in these skill sets. For positions that have been identified as term positions and to fill them as students graduate from Arctic College, have you considered doing so over the next two or three years? It would seem like an obvious solution to fill those positions by fellow Nunavummiut in this manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the member correctly, I think he is talking about two different things, but one of them is term employees. We need these positions now to fulfill our mandate. It doesn't matter which department you are. It's a lot harder to recruit if it's a term position because, when people are going to get uprooted from where they live and move to somewhere else, they want job security in order to make their commitment.

As for those Arctic College students and graduates, we want to get as many as we can, but there are many different, varied jobs here and some of these jobs are very technical in nature. We know that we will have to import workers to come in. That's not to say that we won't take on trainees or interns in the future, but currently right now, we need these positions filled to fulfill our mandate to provide the services that are required by the different departments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Informatics Planning and Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$33,797,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We're now at J-7. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know I have brought this subject up so many times over the years. I feel like a broken record, but I will continue and see how it goes. I want to talk about office space in the communities. I think it was five or six years ago when I first brought up the issue of the lack of office space in my community in particular.

The Department of Community Government and Services' answer to that was "We will do a study and see what kind of office space is needed throughout the territory," which they did. When it was completed, they said that they were going to do an office space strategy. Can you update us today on whether this office space strategy is

completed or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two phases to the office needs study. Phase 1 is done and phase 2 is more or less done, but we have to go through it and analyze it because it's a huge document. Phase 2 is 635 pages. We have to find out exactly what it's telling us. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You say phase 1 and phase 2 of the strategy. What exactly are you doing in these phases? What kind of analysis are you doing on this study that was done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Phase 1 is to find out the inventory: what do we have in each community, who is in these offices, and what are they being used for? Phase 2 is: what can we do to fix the problem if there are any shortages of office space in each community? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's safe to say that, given the fact that five or six years ago, I brought up the lack of office in my community and the government turned around and said, "We will do a study for the whole territory," which they completed. Lo and behold, they found out that "Yes, I am lacking office space in my community," and then they turn around and issue an

RFP for office space in my community, which just closed a couple of months ago. Lo and behold, they find out that there is no office space in my community.

When are they going to get the message that the community of Sanikiluaq requires office space and get on the ball so that we can start at least a planning process instead of doing everything territorial-wide? Look at a community that is lacking. We have income support workers working out of a storage room. We have health professionals in overcrowded conditions. We have the GLO and the probation officer working out of the hamlet office. We have GN employees scattered all over the community.

When will the GN get the message that we really need office space in our community and start the process of implementing a plan to get infrastructure in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the member has brought it up many times here. The reason we need a plan is there are different departments that have different needs. You have to plan around those departments because we not only have to build for today, but if we're going to build something in the community, either build or lease, whatever you're going to do, you want to plan ahead so that you don't build a four-office building and then next year, you find out, "Well, this department needs another four offices because we didn't know that they were going to plan on

expanding their workforce.” All of that is taken into consideration.

We also want to do this as one big project, not just Sanikiluaq, because it's way more efficient to do it as one big project so that we know all the needs and then we can prioritize which communities' needs are higher than others. We have come to the realization that in the smaller communities where there's not much infrastructure to rent office space, the GN will probably have to build their own offices in the smaller communities, which Sanikiluaq would be one.

We have to work with the other departments to figure out what their current needs are and what their future needs will be. All of that is being looked at right now, but we know that we need office space in communities, not just Sanikiluaq. It's a need base. I know the member has been vocal, so we hear about it more in Sanikiluaq than other places, but it's an issue in many places. It's the same old story where there are only so many dollars to go around. We're going to do everything we can to make sure that people have adequate office space to work in. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of your office space strategy, are you also looking into the option of entering into a third party type thing where you work with a contractor and have them build the office space requirements in communities and then enter into long-term leases with these companies? Is there any intention of doing it that way? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're looking at that too because it is easier for governments to have a long-term lease than it is to try to get a request for funding to build a very expensive office building. Yes, we are looking at that too. The needs study for Sanikiluaq, for example, we have put it out to as far as 2031, so we're trying to anticipate needs for way out there.

We have a deficit limit. The cap limit is there too, but we are looking at all options and long-term lease is one of the options. Like I said, it's generally easier to get that through than it is to request for, in some places, it could be multi-million dollars to build an office building. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you're looking at 20-year needs for every community, that's going to incur a large sum of money in order to accomplish such a feat.

Back to the strategy, you said something about being on phase 2. When do you anticipate completing phase 2 of the strategy and have it to the point where you maybe table it in the House or have it ready for other MLAs to review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're on the final stages there. We're working with the proponent there to finalize it. Like I told the

member, it's a big document, 635 pages, and if we have to table it in four languages there, there would be a few dead trees, one for each MLA, but when it's all done, we will consider that.

Just to clarify myself when I said earlier about long-term lease, it's considered a long-term debt, so about the longest you can do is a five-year lease. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I caught it or not and I apologize if I missed it, but I did ask: when did he anticipate having this strategy completed to the point where it can be reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't give the member a firm date because, like I said, we're working with the proponent there. All the data is there; we just have to go through it and see exactly what it means. We just got it. We've got to be able to answer the questions that may be asked from the data that's in there, so we have to analyze it a bit more and get more explanation from the proponent. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I just have one question in regard to infrastructure to the minister and department. When we look at this particular budget line area, is this Infrastructure Branch overseen by the Nunavut Community Infrastructure

Advisory Committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we're just dealing with O&M here and this has nothing to do with that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that we're dealing with O&M. I just want to know if that committee oversees this branch summary or if that is solely by the senior management of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, that committee would just make recommendations towards infrastructure projects that would be approved. This is a CG&S budget. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're at Branch Summary. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. *Iqsuqtii*, please escort the witnesses. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker: Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 13 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board at ten o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 3:

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

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 12
 - Bill 13
 - Tabled Document 73 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 116 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 140 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 70 – 4(3)
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Thursday, March 3, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:55*

Appendix – March 2, 2016



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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

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Department of Economic Development & Transportation
Pivalliyuliyiqyikkut Ingilrayuliyiyitkullu
Ministère du Développement économique et des Transports

Hon. Monica Eil-Kanayuk / ᐱᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᐅᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ

Pat Angnakak, MLA
Chair, Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
P.O. Box 1200
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Dear Ms. Angnakak:

Pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Nunavut to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts November 3, 2015 Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (Standing Committee Report). The Government commends the members of the Standing Committee for their critical role and valuable examination of the publications produced by the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The Government has reviewed and given careful consideration to the Standing Committee Report as a whole and to the Standing Committee's recommendations. The Government finds these recommendations consistent with the work of advancing our Government's mandate under *Sivumut Abluqta* to "encourage and support economic development initiatives that build on and add value to identified areas of potential, including the harvesting, arts and tourism sectors". The Government of Nunavut thanks the members of the Standing Committee for providing the impetus to assess how economic development is being addressed within the Territory and the relationship between the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Government of Nunavut. This process has ensured our focus going forward on how economic development programming is being addressed by the Government of Nunavut and its public agencies, specifically Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, going forward.

The responses to the Standing Committee's recommendations have been set out below:

Response to the Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify, in detail, the methodology by which the Nunavut Development Corporation determines the number of jobs that are created and/or sustained by investments made in private entities through the corporation's Venture Investment Fund.

Responses to Recommendation #1:

Nunavut Development Corporation has applied a consistent methodology for several years in determining the number of jobs created and/or sustained. This ensures objectivity and comparability year after year of this performance measure.

Nunavut Development Corporation divides the investee's reported Nunavut payroll by the Corporation's job cost multiplier of \$37,977 to determine the jobs created and/or sustained. The job cost multiplier of \$37,997 is set out under Section 2 (2) of the Regulations under the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, formally define what constitutes a "small community" within the meaning of section 3 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act*.

The Nunavut Development Corporation has set out the definition of a small community under Section III of its Investment Policies and Guidelines (see below). The Investment Policies and Guidelines have been approved by the board of directors.

Section III (C) 3 of the NDC's Investment Policies and Guidelines reads as follows:

Emphasis on Nunavut's Smaller Communities

In assessing and making investments from the Venture Investment Fund, the Corporation shall emphasize and give preference to investments that benefit Nunavut's smaller communities (i.e. those communities whose populations is less than 1,000 as measured by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics).

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, formally define what constitutes a "sustainable level of profitability" within the meaning of the Nunavut Development Corporation's current investment and divestment policies and/or guidelines.

Nunavut Development Corporation operates in compliance with its Act and, accordingly, only makes investments from its Venture Investment Fund in those business enterprises that can demonstrate a positive return on investment (ROI) within three years of placing the investment. ROI is a standard ratio

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used to support business investment decisions and is specifically stated in Section 21(4) under the Corporation's Act. Nunavut Development Corporation relies on the ROI calculation as an indicator of sustainable profitability.

Operating subsidies from the Corporation's Subsidy Fund may also be given to subsidiary companies to offset operating losses but are restricted to \$37,997 per job created or sustained directly or indirectly as a result of the business. Any additional subsidy beyond this prescribed threshold must first be approved by the Financial Management Board. These provisions are explicitly included in Section 16 (4) of the Act and Section 2 (2) of the Regulations.

Section 21 (4) of the Act states:

Rate of Return

The Corporation shall not invest in a business enterprise from the Venture Investment Fund unless the rate of return expected within three years from the date of investment is positive

Section 16 (4) of the Act states:

Amount of subsidy from the Subsidy Fund

The Corporation may for each job directly or indirectly created in a project or subsidiary, pay from the Subsidy Fund to a subsidiary or for the benefit of a project, a subsidy for operating costs each fiscal year (a) in an amount not exceeding the prescribed maximum for the project or subsidiary: and (b) in an amount greater than the prescribed maximum for the project or subsidiary with the approval of the Financial Management Board.

Section 2 (2) of the Regulations states:

Maximum Amounts

The maximum amount the Corporation may, for each job directly or indirectly created in a project or subsidiary, pay from the Subsidy Fund to a subsidiary or for the benefit of a project, as a subsidy for operating costs each fiscal year under paragraph 16 (4)(a) of the Act is \$37,997

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify, in detail, the Nunavut Development Corporation's position with respect to providing equity investments in private entities that are intended to enhance their competitive position vis-à-vis other Nunavut-based entities with respect to government contracting and procurement in such sectors as travel, hospitality, fuel delivery and construction.

As per the Corporation's Investment Policies and Guidelines, the Board must take into consideration the impact on the existing market when making decisions regarding investments from the Venture Investment Fund. As per Section III (D) 6, the board must explicitly consider the following directive – *The manner in which the proposed investment may disrupt or otherwise affect the market.*

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed update on the status of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's work to

Response to the Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation
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“develop quantifiable performance measures and annual reporting practices to enable an objective assessment of the corporation’s success in fulfilling its statutory mandate to stimulate economic development and employment in Nunavut.”

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation, together with Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, will undertake further work in 2016-2017 to development meaningful performance measures that can be consistently applied and used to assess the success of its funding programs. Potential measures may include jobs created, goods and services purchased and/or goods and services provided by a business that has received funding. While seemingly straightforward, reported measures may be subject to error when aggregated due to double-counting given multiple funders, accuracy of self-reported figures and handling of seasonal or part time jobs. To ensure consistency and year over year comparability, there needs to be clear guidance developed to lessen the potential of error and subjectivity.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify the extent to which the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation’s formally-defined role as a “blend of being a lender of last resort and a developmental agency for Nunavut businesses” is consistent with its statutory mandate and is complementary to the role of the Nunavut Development Corporation, which makes equity investments in private entities.

Nunavut Business Credit Corporation continues to re-brand itself from a “lender of last resort” consistent with its origin and intent to a “lender of northern opportunity” to reflect today’s environment. Prior to Division, the business credit corporation of the Northwest Territories was established to provide financing to those business enterprises that could not obtain funding from commercial lending institutions given a typically higher perceived risk. Today, business enterprises can obtain funding from other northern-focused lenders such as Atuqtuarvik Corporation and the First Nations Bank who may work jointly with Nunavut Business Credit Corporation in funding a business opportunity. Consistent with this shift, the Corporation has adopted a new logo which more accurately reflects its focus on building opportunities for Nunavummiut. Consistent with this new focus, the Corporation seeks to update its legislation as the Act remains essentially unchanged since its adoption from the Northwest Territories. Of particular note is its desire to increase the lending limit threshold to better accommodate the financing needs of Nunavut’s growing private sector.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation table in the Legislative Assembly, at the earliest opportunity, all approved governance and operating policies of the boards of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Response to the Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation
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Responses to Recommendation #2:

The Government is committed to tabling Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's governance and operating policies as per standing committee's Recommendation. With the full cooperation of both Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, a reporting package has been prepared and will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the respective authorities of the chairs and members of the board of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Financial Management Board, the Executive Council and the Public Agencies Council with respect to the:

Final approval of the annual corporate/business plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;

Approvals of the corporate/business plans are in accordance with the respective legislation for both corporations. Each board of directors then approves the annual corporate/business plans at its board meeting and the approval is recorded in the Minutes for each corporation. The corporate/business plans are then sent to the Minister Responsible for approval. The Minister Responsible for both corporations is the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and the department serves to coordinate this process. The Minister has the authority to approve the corporate/business plan as set out under Section 91 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

Once approved, the core funding contribution for each corporation is included in the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Business Plan.

Section 91 of the *Financial Administration Act* states:

(1) Every territorial corporation shall annually submit a corporate plan for the approval of the appropriate Minister.

Section 25 of the *Nunavut Development Act* states:

- (1) In addition to the requirements set out in the *Financial Administration Act*, the Corporation shall:
- (a) annually submit a corporate plan, and operating budget, and a capital budget, respectively described in sections 91 to 93 of the *Financial Administration Act*, for the approval of the Financial Management Board; and
 - (b) furnish the Minister with any information or records that the Minister may require in the exercise of her powers and the performance of his or her duties under the Act.

Response to the Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

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Final approval of the annual reports of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;

The board of directors for each corporation provides final approval of the annual report prepared by the respective corporation as per section 96 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

The respective board of directors for each corporation provides the formal approval of the annual reports. The Auditor General of Canada must also review and approve the respective annual reports for release prior to its submission to the Minister. Upon acceptance by the Minister, s/he then submits the respective annual reports to Executive Council for its approval for tabling.

Section 96 of the *Financial Administration Act* states:

“every public agency for each financial year, prepare and submit to the appropriate Minister an annual report of the public agency that:

- (a) states the activities of the public agency
- (b) includes the financial statements of the public agency
- (c) includes the report of the auditor; and
- (d) includes any other information that this Act, any other Act or the appropriate Minister may require.

Final approval of the annual Ministerial *Letters of Expectation* to the Chairs of the Boards of Directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; and

Letters of Expectation are issued by the Minister Responsible and addressed to the respective chair of Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation respectively. The Deputy Ministers of Economic Development and Transportation and Finance are copied on the Letters of Expectation sent to both corporations. The respective chairs must respond to the Minister’s Letter of Expectation within 30 days with copies sent to the Deputy Ministers noted. The Letters of Expectations and the responses are shared with the respective board of directors. As part of the annual audit process, the Auditor General also reviews any and all correspondence from the Minister to the corporations and reviews all Minutes.

Final approval of the annual operations and maintenance budgets of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Approval of each corporation’s annual operation and maintenance budget is in accordance with the process noted above for the corporate/business plan approval process.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, its position concerning the recommendation made by the board of directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation regarding amendments to section 37 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*.

Response to the Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation
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While there is not an approval at this time to initiate a comprehensive review of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* in view of the extensive activities to update other territorial legislation as a whole, the Government supports amendment of the loan limit threshold under section 37 and other matters of an administrative matter which would allow this effort to proceed on an efficient timeframe. A comprehensive review of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* will be considered in the future as well as any requirement for a review of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the extent to which section 20 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* is being currently followed by the corporation's board of directors.

Section 20 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* mandates the establishment of the Investment Committee, Audit Committee and the Personnel Committee. At the outset, the corporation's board of directors chose to establish an Executive Committee to undertake the statutory functions established in the Act for each of the identified committees. The Executive Committee formally meets three times a year via teleconference and confers on issues regularly as required. Key functions include approving new investments for recommendation to the board of directors as a whole, meeting with the auditors and approving audit committee reports, making recommendations to the Minister on matters such as executive compensation. The corporation is audited by the Auditor General of Canada for compliance with its governing authorities such as the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* and the *Financial Administration Act*. Should it be determined that the corporation is not in compliance with this (or any other significant provision under the Act), the Auditor's Report would have a qualification which is reported publicly. This has not been the case for Nunavut Corporation Development.

The standing committee further recommends that the boards of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation formally submit a comprehensive set of specific recommendations for specific amendments to the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* and the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* to the Minister responsible for both territorial corporations for consideration.

There is no approval at this time to initiate a comprehensive review of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* given the extensive activities to update other territorial legislation as a whole. However the Government supports amendment of the loan limit threshold under section 37 and other matters of an administrative matter which could be achieved within this mandate and without extensive commitment of resources. A comprehensive review of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* will be considered in the future as well as any requirement for a review of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that these recommendations be submitted no later than September 1, 2016, and that they be subsequently tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the fall 2016 sitting of the House.

Response to the Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation
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The Government supports the revision to section 37 as mentioned above and minor revisions to the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* and, as necessary, to the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act*. The Government commits to working with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and Nunavut Development Corporation to bring forward the suggested amendments on the timeframe as noted.

The standing committee further recommends that the boards of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation formally consider the advisability of amalgamating the two corporations into a single entity.

While the Government supports efforts to consider the best approaches toward delivering economic development programming for the Territory as whole, such evaluation of amalgamation of the two corporations must take into full consideration the current environment vis-à-vis the circumstances when the two earlier reports were produced and how the two corporations are functioning today with full staff complements and experienced management complemented by engaged boards of directors. Any such review should not be undertaken in isolation without an opportunity to comprehensively review the two corporations' Acts in conjunction with an assessment of economic development programming for the Territory and how and which entities are best positioned and needed to achieve the objectives of fostering employment and developing economic opportunities for Nunavummiut. Further, this should not proceed until the results of the Operational Audit initiative are complete and results tabled.

The standing committee further recommends that the boards' recommendations concerning amalgamation be submitted to the Minister responsible for both territorial corporations no later than September 1, 2016, and that they be subsequently tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the fall 2016 sitting of the House.

As noted above, the Government contends that this assessment should be undertaken as part of a larger effort in reviewing how economic development programming is delivered across the territory and should include a comprehensive review of the corporations' Acts taking into consideration significant changes since the two reports on the issue of amalgamation were produced.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation seek opportunities to increase the number of individuals who serve on the boards of directors of both the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The Government contends that, while there may be some perceived benefits, the experience for those who already serve on both boards shows that it is logistically difficult to meet the board obligations for the two corporations given the same reporting cycle and need for board participation on the same timeframe.

Individuals who sit on the board of directors of either corporation are carefully selected for their business acumen and experience within the territory as well as knowledge at the regional and

Response to the Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation
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community level. Such individuals are highly sought for appointment to other boards and often encounter scheduling conflicts. Those individuals who serve on both boards are challenged with preparation and participation on very similar schedules and often in different locations and time zones for the two corporations. Experience has shown that those who co-serve on both boards must choose between the two out of necessity. This may adversely impact the respective corporation's ability to secure necessary membership required for a quorum and therefore the ability to advance the corporation's activities when board direction and approvals are necessary.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in the interest of the greatest possible certainty and clarity, bring forward an amendment to the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* during the winter 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly that is explicitly modelled on the provisions that are contained in section 31 of the *Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act*.

Responses to Recommendation #3:

Apart from minor revisions and an amendment to section 37 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* as noted earlier, the Government contends that this assessment should be undertaken as part of a larger effort in reviewing how economic development programming is delivered across the territory and should include a comprehensive review of the corporations' Acts. This matter may be considered at that time with a cross-jurisdictional review.

The standing committee notes that this would allow the corporation's next annual report to the Legislative Assembly for the 2015-2016 fiscal year to fully disclose the identities of recipients of loans and other financial assistance from the corporation, as well as the amounts of financial assistance provided to recipients.

While the Government acknowledges its responsibility to be accountable for public monies, it remains concerned about the implications of releasing such information which may be considered sensitive given the Territory's relatively small private sector and without advance notice to recipients, being corporate and/or individuals. Although standing committee queried the Information and Privacy Commissioner during her appearance, the Government wishes to seek a formal review and ruling from the Privacy Commissioner and obtain further legal advice to protect from potential legal implications if any.

There may be the ability to effect a new disclosure policy going forward for new loan applicants who consent to the public release of loan details as part of the conditions under which financing is received.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, in light of the observations made in this report concerning the disclosure requirements that are presently contained in the corporation's application and consent forms, clarify its position regarding its current practices in this area.

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The Government's position is noted above. With respect to the consent associated with the application process, this enables the corporation to share information with other possible funders concerning financing requirements related to the same business enterprise. This is not intended as consent for public disclosure.

The standing committee further recommends that future annual reports on procurement, contracting and leasing activities which are prepared by the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation explicitly account for actual expenditures incurred in these areas.

The Government agrees to bring this information forward on a timely basis.

The standing committee further recommends that future annual reports on procurement, contracting and leasing activities which are prepared by the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner by the Minister responsible for both territorial corporations.

The Government agrees to bring this information forward on a timely basis.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify, in detail, the extent to which the Nunavut Development Corporation's current equity investments in private ventures include elements of ownership, direction and control of the ventures.

The Government contends that Nunavut Development Corporation only possesses an element of control in Pangnirtung Fisheries through its ownership of a 24.5% ownership. Other shareholdings are in the form of preferred shares which have no conversion rights and no voting shares are held.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Development Corporation's future annual reports more clearly account for the extent to which its equity investments in private ventures include elements of ownership, direction and control of the ventures.

The Government will direct Nunavut Development Corporation to provide this disclosure in its annual reports.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's future annual reports explicitly account, in detail, for actions taken during the fiscal year under the provisions of sections 30 and 36 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*.

The Government will review this matter in conjunction with the standing committee's Recommendation for disclosure of loan recipient information.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Development Corporation's future annual reports explicitly account, in detail, for directives issued during the fiscal year under the provisions of subsection 78(1) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

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The Government will direct Nunavut Development Corporation to provide this disclosure in its annual reports.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation table in the Legislative Assembly, at the earliest opportunity, the corporation's current *Investment Policies and Guidelines*.

The Government agrees to table Nunavut Development Corporations' *Investment Policies and Guidelines*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation table in the Legislative Assembly, at the earliest opportunity, the corporation's current manuals concerning "credit management, administration and conduct, board orientation and accounting."

As agreed under Recommendation #2, the corporation's policies will be tabled at the earliest opportunity.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation table in the Legislative Assembly, at the earliest opportunity, the corporation's memoranda of understanding with the Baffin Business Development Centre, Kitikmeot Community Futures and the Atuqtuarvik Corporation.

The Government will bring forward any and all memoranda of understandings that have been signed and approved by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's board of directors.

The Nunavut Development Corporation's Board has indicated there are no memoranda of understandings in place.