



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 45

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Pages 2480 – 2547

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Aggu)
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(Hudson Bay)

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(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Isaac Shooyook
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David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2480
Ministers' Statements	2480
Members' Statements	2484
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2490
Oral Questions.....	2496
Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.....	2513
Tabling of Documents.....	2517
Second Reading of Bills.....	2519
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	2522
Report of the Committee of the Whole	2546
Orders of the Day	2546

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, October 25, 2016.....2480

B.

Ministers' Statements

170 – 4(3): GN “Climate Change Adaptation for Nunavut Decision Makers” Course
(Savikataaq)2480

171 – 4(3): Training for Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit (Quassa).....2481

172 – 4(3): ‘Our Land’ Exhibit opened at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (Kuksuk)2482

173 – 4(3): 2016 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship Recipient (Mike).....2482

174 – 4(3): Baby Boxes (Hickes)2483

C.

Members' Statements

336 – 4(3): The Increasing Use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Principles (Shooyook)2484

337 – 4(3): Energy Audits for Homeowners in Kugluktuk (Taptuna)2484

338 – 4(3): Strange Sounds in Fury and Hecla Strait (Quassa).....2485

339 – 4(3): Qikiqtarjuaq Port (Keyootak)2486

340 – 4(3): Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention Conference (Angnakak)2487

341 – 4(3): Tribute to Rudy Aaluk (Akoak).....2488

342 – 4(3): Language Use in Schools (Joanasie)2488

343 – 4(3): Successful Bowhead Hunt in Pangnirtung (Mike).....2489

D.

Oral Questions

446 – 4(3): Maintaining Dental and Medical Equipment (Sammurtok, A).....2496

447 – 4(3): Language Use in Nunavut Schools (Okalik)	2497
448 – 4(3): Repurposing Taloyoak’s Old Health Centre (Qirngnuq).....	2498
449 – 4(3): Service Contracts Outside of Nunavut (Angnakak).....	2499
450 – 4(3): Language Use in Nunavut Schools (Joanasie).....	2501
451 – 4(3): Search and Rescue Policies (Rumbolt).....	2503
452 – 4(3): Nursing Services in Community Health Centres (Mapsalak).....	2505
453 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing (Akoak).....	2507
454 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing (Mikkungwak)	2508
455 – 4(3): Policies on Child Apprehensions (Enook).....	2509
456 – 4(3): Abandoned Cabins (Okalik)	2511

E.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 014 – 4(3): Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth (Angnakak)	2513
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F.

Tabling of Documents

192 – 4(3): 2013 Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990 (Ell-Kanayuk)	2517
193 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Nunavut Development Corporation (Ell- Kanayuk).....	2518
194 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Annual Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation (Kuksuk)	2518
195 – 4(3): Proposed New Construction for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 (Kuksuk)	2518
196 – 4(3): Nanuq Lodge Appraisal Documents and Photographs (Sammurtok, A).....	2518
197 – 4(3): Successful Bowhead Whale Hunt in Pangnirtung 2016 (Mike)	2518

G.

Committee Motions

010 – 4(3): Deferral of the Consideration of the Proposed 2017-2018 Capital Estimates of the
Nunavut Housing Corporation (Rumbolt)2528

H.

Bills

Bill 20 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016 –
Second Reading2519

Bill 22 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 – Second Reading ...2519

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017 –
Second Reading2519

Bill 21 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016 – Second Reading2520

Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – Second Reading2520

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act – Second Reading2520

Bill 27 – Waste Reduction and Diversion Act – Second Reading2521

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards – Second Reading 2521

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Nunavut Housing Corporation –
Consideration in Committee2522

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Education – Consideration in Committee 2529

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasi, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. 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, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors, welcome to the House.

Prior to commencing our session, I would like to make an announcement today. The Member for Hudson Bay is celebrating his birthday today, so best wishes to you on your birthday.

>>*Applause*

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 170 – 4(3): GN
“Climate Change Adaptation for
Nunavut Decision Makers” Course**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to inform members that last month the department delivered our “Climate Change Adaptation for Nunavut Decision Makers” course for the second time since it was created in 2014.

This course was developed and delivered in-house by the Climate Change section of the Department of Environment. The course informs government staff of climate change impacts and teaches them how to incorporate adaptation planning into decision-making across all government sectors.

The course was held in Iqaluit on September 7 and 8 of 2016. Course participants included employees from nearly all GN departments, as well as key decision-makers from Nunavut's Crown corporations and representatives from Inuit organizations. The course involved a two-day in-class session on a variety of climate change topics. These topics include climate change science, impacts of climate change in Nunavut, *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* of climate change, and climate change adaptation principles.

The course was developed as part of a series of territorial climate change training courses in partnership with the governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. It is now being funded by the Government of Nunavut's Training Fund up until 2019.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut continues to experience impacts related to climate

change, such as declining sea ice opening up new routes to cruise ships or permafrost thaw threatening the stability of infrastructure. As a result there is more and more demand for all sectors to consider climate adaptation in their policies and initiatives.

This training course is a big step towards ensuring that decision-makers across the territory are well equipped with the knowledge and information they need to make appropriate, informed decisions that take climate change and its impacts into account. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 171 – 4(3):
Training for Ilinniarvimmi
Inuusilirijiit**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to residents of my community of Igloolik, as well as my colleagues and visitors in the House.

Mr. Speaker, *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* have an important role in supporting students to develop the social and emotional skills they need to cope with the many challenges of life. My department is providing a two-part territorial training session in Iqaluit from October 24 to 29 aimed at supporting these education staff members in their work.

Mr. Speaker, part one of the training from October 24 to 26 will focus on

practical skill development. In partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, all *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* will receive Be Safe! training. Be Safe! is a program used with children aged five to nine years and focuses on healthy relationships and sexual abuse prevention.

(interpretation ends) Departmental staff will train *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* to use two newly developed handbooks. The first handbook outlines the *ilinniarvimmi inuusiliriji* role and responsibilities in the school. The second handbook is the *Crisis Response Guidelines for Nunavut Schools Staff Manual*, which outlines how to handle critical incidents that can arise in schools.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, part 2 of the training is participation in Hope, Help and Healing, which is this year's theme of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention conference occurring in Iqaluit from October 26 to 29. We have partnered with the (interpretation ends) Kamatsiaqtut Help Line (interpretation) to include our *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* in this national event. They will be able to choose sessions presented by speakers from across Nunavut, Canada, and internationally.

This training plays an important role in supporting our staff as they counsel and guide our children and youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of

Culture and Heritage, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Minister's Statement 172 – 4(3): 'Our Land' Exhibit opened at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut and the people of Arviat and Whale Cove. I say "good day" to my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this past September the 'Our Land' exhibit (interpretation) opened at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, also known as WAG.

(interpretation ends) In 2015 representatives from the Department of Culture and Heritage and the Winnipeg Art Gallery completed negotiations for a partnership through which Nunavut's fine arts collections would be housed on loan at the Winnipeg Art Gallery for a period of five years.

The 'Our Land' exhibit is WAG's inaugural exhibition of the Nunavut collection, and was originally co-organized in 2004 by the government and the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. This special exhibit has been expanded by WAG to include an even wider selection of Inuit sculptures, prints, artefacts, photographs, films, and textiles.

Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to be in Winnipeg for the opening of this exhibit, and would also like to thank elders Peter and Elizabeth Awa (interpretation) from Igloolik, whom I thank for attending, if they are watching or listening to the proceedings, and William and Martha

Noah from Baker Lake for travelling to Winnipeg to attend the opening as well. I thank the couple from Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) The exhibit will be on display for six months. We look forward to future initiatives through our unique partnership with the Winnipeg Art Gallery. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Minister's Statement 173 – 4(3): 2016 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship Recipient

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut, residents of my community of Pangnirtung, and the visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I will be making a statement on the energy corporation's 2016 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship.

I am honoured to stand in front of you today and announce Mavis Ell of Coral Harbour as the 2016 recipient of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship.

The yearly \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to a student enrolled in a post-secondary education program who exemplifies the vision of leadership of the late former government leader, Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier, who passed away in 2000.

Much like Laura's ambition to create a locally managed utility for the territory, Mavis Ell shares the same determination in bridging the language gap within our territory's health care system. Her dedication and enthusiasm to help Inuit patients will guide her in achieving her goal of graduating from Nunavut Arctic College with a Bachelor of Science in Arctic Nursing in 2018.

(interpretation ends) "When I graduate, my plan is to return to Coral Harbour as a nurse and care for the people of my community," said Mavis. "...it is heart-warming to know I have full support from my home community which gives me motivation."

(interpretation) Not only is her selfless commitment to her community a sign of excellence; her distinguished academic achievements prove her to be a deserving student. Please join me in congratulating Mavis Ell for her outstanding accomplishments and to wish her all the best in her nursing career. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Minister's Statement 174 – 4(3): Baby Boxes

Hon. George Hickes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As we focus on reducing infant mortality in Nunavut, the Department of Health is pleased to present a Nunavut Baby Box to all parents of newborns. The Nunavut Baby Box comes approved by Health Canada for infant sleep. This

program is the first publicly funded universal program of its kind in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has the highest rate of infant mortality in Canada. Our infant death rate is almost five times higher. A significant number of infant deaths are attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS.

The country of Finland founded baby boxes in 1939. The Finland model works. It has reduced infant mortality from 90 in 1,000 live births to below 2 in 1,000. We are confident the introduction of the baby box will reduce Nunavut's infant deaths.

We also have a back-to-sleep campaign, which was implemented in the 1990s by public health agencies around the world. This campaign, where babies are placed on their backs to sleep, has shown a reduction in the SIDS rates by 50 to 80 percent in those jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, the department is shipping these baby boxes, along with safe sleep toolkits, to all health centres in Nunavut. We will deliver more than 800 to the parents of newborns this coming year. The department has worked closely with the Department of Education and their "Tell Me a Story" program. Included in the box are the storybooks and resources for parents, including information on tobacco reduction, sexual health, mental health, oral health, breastfeeding, and nutrition.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's Baby Box program leads the expansion of the government's SIDS awareness to give babies a safe place to sleep and decrease infant mortality.

I am pleased to invite my colleagues and the public to the Legislative Assembly lobby at the break to see our new Nunavut Baby Box. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 336 – 4(3): The Increasing Use of Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Principles

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut, my fellow residents of Arctic Bay, including the communities in the High Arctic, Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. I also extend this wish to my colleagues and visitors in the gallery. Welcome to the House.

I rise today to voice the immense pride I feel today. I am standing to speak to *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* and capabilities are now alive once again. *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* has risen again and elders are starting to voice their experiences.

Furthermore, this traditional knowledge is slowly being incorporated from the top down. This is absolutely flattering to hear since I now feel that in our future, even after my passing, the traditional Inuit customs will start to be practised once again where it fits seamlessly.

Mr. Speaker, we will never return to the old days or lifestyles. Nonetheless, many facets of *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* and customary practices have a beneficial foundation based on loving others, the ability to discipline others, and in providing advice or counselling, including the ability to pass down skills as Inuit today still retain this knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in these developments, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating our fellow Inuit throughout Nunavut as they are very knowledgeable and skilled. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to close by asking that their requests be accommodated in order for the Nunavut territory to move forward. Thank you, Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 337 – 4(3): Energy Audits for Homeowners in Kugluktuk

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, homeowners, businesses, and governments across Nunavut realize the expensive cost to maintain and heat a home in Nunavut. Recently the Government of Nunavut sponsored an energy audit for homeowners and public housing units in Kugluktuk. The energy audit was done free of charge and in cooperation with Arctic Energy Alliance. Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit have already hosted energy audits.

The audits are conducted with a one-on-one information session with the homeowner. Heat loss calculations, appliance assessment, blower door tests, and a final report outlining the energy performance of a unit are completed and explained to the occupants. As well a final report for the occupant provides energy-saving opportunities and gives them ideas where they can cut down on energy consumption and save money from energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, the service is provided free of charge and I understand that the next community to be visited will be Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, helping reduce energy consumption and the ongoing costs associated with it benefits all our communities in Nunavut. I know that my community of Kugluktuk has many constituents who were very pleased to have an opportunity to learn about their energy consumption and how they can cut back on their costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 338 – 4(3):
Strange Sounds in Fury and Hecla Strait**

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I raised the issue in my Member's Statement. Over the past several months our constituents in Igloolik have heard noises and sounds that are being emitted near the Fury and Hecla Strait area northeast of Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, our constituents as well as hunters and boaters have reported that the area in question is almost devoid of sea mammals and that hunting has been poor in the area for quite a while now.

Mr. Speaker, after the statement yesterday I have received phone calls and emails from constituents as well as other residents in Nunavut concerned about the issue.

The sound that has been heard in the area seems to be emitted from the seabed and underwater. As well, this past summer, a private sailboat reported to the community of Igloolik that they also had picked up a strange noise or pinging sound in the area.

Mr. Speaker, after confirming with various agencies, including the Nunavut Research Institute, there was no science or other types of permits that would account for the noise. We went to the next level.

As I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, through the Premier's Office we contacted the Department of National Defence. The location of the noise is less than 70 kilometres north of the north warning main site at Hall Beach, or Fox-Main.

Mr. Speaker, DND has been informed of the situation and the Canadian Armed Forces are taking the appropriate steps.

Mr. Speaker, we will await the Department of National Defence review, and again I want to thank the community of Igloolik for bringing this information forward. If any other information is

forthcoming, we will update the House.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 339 – 4(3):
Qikiqtarjuaq Port**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again
speak about the importance of
constructing a deepwater port in the
community of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, the construction of a
deepwater port in Qikiqtarjuaq would be
of strategic benefit to the community,
the territory, and the country.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents do not
want to live in poverty and they do not
want to depend on welfare. They want to
work and they want to contribute.

Mr. Speaker, the fishing sector is our
community's best chance for a
sustainable and prosperous economic
future. Our strategic location makes the
construction of a deepwater port a
logical choice.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to be very
frustrated at the lack of clarity
concerning what the Government of
Nunavut and the Government of Canada
have done to support this project.

Although the current business plan of the
Department of Economic Development
and Transportation indicates that, and I
quote, "A business case has been
completed for the Qikiqtarjuaq facility,"
it is not clear to me if this business case
has actually been submitted to the

federal government for consideration
under the New Building Canada Fund or
other program.

Speaker: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Mr.
Speaker, I would like to ask for
unanimous consent to conclude my
statement.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my
colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the current business plan of
the Department of Economic
Development and Transportation does
indicate that business cases for new
marine infrastructure projects in Iqaluit
and Pond Inlet were submitted to the
federal government, and we know that
these projects have been approved for
funding.

Mr. Speaker, the local news media
recently reported that a request for
funding for Qikiqtarjuaq's deepwater
port was rejected. However, I cannot get
a clear answer from our government as
to whether this rejection came from the
federal government and, if so, the
specific reasons for why it was rejected.

Mr. Speaker, we need to know what we
have to do to make our case for this
essential project. My community is
ready to work with the territorial and
federal governments as well as the

private sector to do whatever is necessary to move this project forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am again calling on our government to provide me and the community of Qikiqtarjuaq with clear answers to some very clear questions.

Has the Government of Nunavut formally submitted the business case for the Qikiqtarjuaq port to the federal government for consideration under the New Building Canada Fund?

If so, when was the business case formally submitted and when did the federal government formally provide its decision?

If not, why was the business case for the Qikiqtarjuaq port not formally submitted for consideration given that the Government of Nunavut's own documents indicate that one has been prepared?

What does the community need to do to improve or change the business case for the Qikiqtarjuaq port so that it can be submitted or resubmitted to the federal government?

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to raise this issue until the community and I receive clear answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 340 – 4(3):
Canadian Association for Suicide
Prevention Conference**

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the House.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to welcome all the delegates who will be attending the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention conference which opens tomorrow in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, "Hope, Help and Healing" is the title of this conference and these themes reflect different focuses planned for the sessions and workshops.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, the rate of suicide in Nunavut is one of the highest in the country. Almost exactly one year ago today our Premier declared suicide a crisis in our territory. Sadly, the situation remains a critical social concern.

Mr. Speaker, we are very fortunate to have people, such as those involved in organizing and delivering the CASP conference, who are dedicated to finding solutions, promoting actions, and raising the level of awareness and recognition of what can be done to prevent suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of those who work towards helping others to embrace life, to encourage positive and healthy lifestyles, and to reaffirm life as the best choice.

Mr. Speaker, it is tempting to acknowledge specific individuals and organizations who are involved in this wonderful effort. However, in keeping

with the affirmation of the conference planning committee that we all have a role to play in suicide reduction and the promotion of life, I would like to recognize the effort and dedication of everyone involved in this important endeavour.

I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming the participants in CASP 2016 – Hope, Help and Healing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 341 – 4(3):
Tribute to Rudy Aaluk**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to a young man from my community, Rudy Aaluk, who passed away this summer in a tragic accident.

Mr. Speaker, Rudy is greatly missed by his loved ones, his friends and family, and by the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Rudy is perhaps most well known by other Nunavummiut for his winning entry into a contest to name Nunavut's research vessel.

As my colleagues will recall, Rudy Aaluk submitted the name "Nuliajuk" to the Department of Environment during its naming contest.

Shortly thereafter Rudy received the exciting news that his entry had been

selected and that he had named the territory's new research vessel, which continues to support science-based conservation and the sustainable development of Nunavut fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, while I know that very little can help to ease the pain that Rudy's family is suffering in their loss, I take great pride and comfort in knowing that his name will carry on through the ongoing voyages of the Nuliajuk research vessel.

May the memory of his youth sail on forever in those that love him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 342 – 4(3):
Language Use in Schools**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, visitors, colleagues, and every resident in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very serious concern that has been brought to my attention.

Mr. Speaker, a young grade 8 student was reprimanded for speaking Inuktitut in school.

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame!

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): In fact, the student was told that there was a three-strike rule and if it happened three

times, then they would be suspended from school for speaking Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that many of my colleagues will note the disturbing similarity to language policies that were practised in residential schools, where aboriginal students were forbidden from speaking their mother tongue. The consequences of those policies were destructive and far-reaching.

Mr. Speaker, I have been given to understand that the rationale for the current policy of forbidding the use of Inuktitut in class is due to the concern that bullying is going on and teachers are unable to address the bullying if it is in a language they don't understand.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the message that bullying should not be tolerated. It should not be tolerated in any form, in any language. However, we should be addressing bullying at its roots, not using language as a scapegoat.

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

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I have contacted the Minister of Education on this issue and I am confident that the local district education authority will also be

addressing it. However, this is not an issue that can be easily swept away.

Language rights are paramount in Nunavut, protected by legislation and, supposedly, supported by our education system. Let us move forward in a positive manner and not go backwards by repeating the mistakes of the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 343 – 4(3): Successful Bowhead Hunt in Pangnirtung

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I wish to make an announcement on events that transpired in Pangnirtung, actually outside of the community.

This summer our local whale hunting crew was successful in harvesting a bowhead whale. The local HTO as well as the Suqqait Committee were instrumental in planning this hunt and in organizing the hunt, including the harvest of the whale itself.

The bowhead whale caught by the hunters was a female measuring in at 38 feet, 6 inches and was caught on September 9, 2016. The crew harvested the whale offshore of the old Kekerten whaling station, which was used in the 1800s.

I apologize as I didn't quite grasp the wording used for the whale that was caught, but different terms exist for bowhead whales. The terms include *qinaujjaluktut* (arched upper jaw) adult

whales and *qinaujjattiariktut* (nice smooth upper jaw). Unfortunately I was unable to decipher which term described this bowhead whale, so I apologize for that.

All bowhead whale harvests are considered extremely important according to Inuit customs, at least for the residents of Pangnirtung.

The hunting crew included a captain and they chose Adamee Veevee, as this is his fourth bowhead whale hunt ever since Nunavummiut became able to harvest bowhead whales. The members of the crew included approximately 30 individuals. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the members' names for recognition purposes to be included in the *Hansard*, so I will be tabling my document through that avenue.

I wish to add that the bowhead whale hunts are extremely important to the Inuit in the communities and throughout Nunavut, and ties into the Inuit hunting prowess or ability to harvest animals for food. Even non-Inuit take pride in the harvests of the community. Whale hunting is very important to Inuit, along with our cultural hunting traditions.

I take this opportunity to express my pride in the accomplishments of our fellow residents and to celebrate this catch with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Mr. Paul Quassa, Member for Aggu.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was getting impatient to get to this part of our sitting because we generally only recognize two, three, or four people, but I have to recognize many people today.

>> *Laughter*

I explained that the people here with us today are community school counsellors from across Nunavut. There are 37 delegates that have arrived to Iqaluit to do a workshop and their work is extremely important.

The delegates from the Kitikmeot region are:

Allen Aglukkaq
Helen Blewett
Bessie Joy Haomik
Sam Inaksajak
Komek Nivingalok
Eunice Laura Panigayak
Christine Porter
Kenneth Taptuna, and
Elik Tologanak

Those are the delegates from the Kitikmeot.

The delegates from the Kivalliq region are:

Christina Aupaluktuq
Mike Gibbons
Lucy Maklagak
Solomon Malliki
Susan Pameok

Jean Pudnak
Mary Tatty
Noah Tiktak, and
Billy Ukutak

The delegates from the Baffin region are:

Kootoo Alainga
Meeka Alivaktuk
Rosemary Akoomalik
Raigili Amaaq
Annie Lamittuq
Stevie Aulaqiaq
Annie Ipirq
Elizabeth Inuarak
Natsiq Kango
Mary Kellypalik
Iga Kiguktak
Shoopee Kooneeloosie
Rosie Kopalie
Nala Lyta
Mukshowya Niviaqsi
Oqqallak Panipak
Opah Picco
Lizzie Qanatsiaq, and
Tapitia Takawgak

Those are the delegates that I would like to recognize. There are quite a number of them that have come from all across Nunavut. Welcome to Iqaluit and thank you for being here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): For those who were just recognized, welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be able to stand and recognize

the residents from Kugluktuk who are visiting today. The following individuals were acknowledged, but I still wish to name them as they are my fellow Kugluktuk residents, my nephew, who is my blood relative in Inuinnaqtun, Kenny Taptuna and Margo Nivingalok. I am pleased that residents of Kugluktuk were invited here to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all the members here that are participating in the Canadian Association on Suicide Prevention conference later this week, but I do recognize one of my constituents here, Ms. Natsiq Kango, that I would like to recognize. 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, too, would like to welcome some of visitors to the gallery from Cambridge Bay. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we don't get very many people come from this great a distance from the Kitikmeot that often. It gives me a great opportunity to welcome Elik Tologanak, Helen Blewett, and Bessie Joy to the gallery, sitting right behind me here.

Welcome.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize individuals from my community, my sister-in-law Meeka Alivaktuk and Shoopee Kooneeloosie. Welcome to the legislature, all of you who are here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again say “good day” to my fellow Nunavummiut. I recognize some of the visitors in the gallery, although I won’t be acknowledging them all. Welcome.

Mr. Speaker, it’s not every day that I have an opportunity to recognize individuals because we are from a community quite far away. I would like to recognize two individuals, my sister whose Inuktitut name is Olibuk, but her English name is Mary and she has her husband’s last name, Tatty. Mary Olibuk Tatty, please rise so people can see you.

>> *Laughter*

I would also like to recognize a person from Arviat who is a member of this

group. I know that they have a very heavy responsibility with their careers. I would like to acknowledge my brother-in-law from Arviat, Mike Gibbons. We call him Tunaalaaq in Inuktitut. He is also an Anglican layperson, (interpretation ends) Reverend Gibbons.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and welcome them to the gallery while they are staying here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery for those who were just mentioned. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon. Although I acknowledge every one of you, specifically from my constituency are Opah Picco as well as residents of Iqaluit Rosie Kopalie, Annie Shappa, Natsiq Kango, and Kootoo Alainga. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my paternal uncle Mathewsie Kellypalik and my cousin, Teresa Kellypalik. I would like to welcome the South Baffin delegates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery for those who were just mentioned. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununig, Mr. Joe Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome each and every one of the delegates here, but we thank you ever since you've had a very heavy responsibility in your career. Thank you for your tireless work and efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize individuals from my community, Elizabeth Inuarak and Tapitia Takawgak. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery for those who were just mentioned. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize people in the gallery. I would like to welcome every visitor and people of Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and our fellow Nunavummiut. I would like to recognize fellow residents of Rankin Inlet, Mary Olibuk Tatty and Noah Tiktak. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of

Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not too often I get to stand and recognize people from Sanikiluaq. I think it's the very first time I'm allowed the opportunity to correct somebody in the proper pronunciation of somebody's name...

>> *Laughter*

...from Sanikiluaq.

The lady I would like to recognize has lived in Sanikiluaq for a very long time, all of her life I do believe, and she has been a mayor of the community for a long time and is presently working at Paatsaali High School. Please welcome Ms. Annie Amitook. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the first time I have more than one name on the list.

>> *Laughter*

I would like to recognize school counsellors from Gjoa Haven, Allen Aglukkaq and Christine Porter. Thank you for doing your job.

>> *Applause*

I also would like to recognize my brother-in-law, Casimir Tungilik, who is

an escort to our two pages for this week from Gjoa Haven. Their names are Erica Tungilik and also Ikey Kogvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): To all visitors, welcome to the gallery. Cousin, welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I had my very first win in a territorial election, I recognized only one person during my first tenure as an MLA, and now in this term, although three years have now passed, I will be able to recognize another resident and it is very pleasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the current mayor of Naujaat. Although he was previously acknowledged in his role with the school, he is our mayor in Naujaat who is visiting here. I am very pleased and wish to welcome Solomon Malliki. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): To all visitors and my brother-in-law, welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wanted to stand and recognize each and every one of you. As you are currently sitting inside the Iqaluit-Manirajak riding, welcome to my riding.

The person I really wanted to recognize who is part of this group is related to my mother, so I would like to welcome my mother's cousin. I use the Baffin dialect. Mike Gibbons, welcome and we love you as a family.

Further, the member from Sanikiluaq was first in acknowledging this person I wanted to mention and that person is Annie Amitook.

This Sunday the elders had a feast at the Legion that was organized by the Ladies Auxiliary. We are thankful to the group for assisting the elders of Iqaluit, as the facility is also within the Iqaluit-Manirajak riding.

I would like to thank the group by naming them, as we enjoyed the feast tremendously, and Annie Amitook was sitting with me at our table in the Legion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery for those who were just mentioned. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand today and with immense pleasure I want to acknowledge the people from Baker Lake. I want them to feel very welcome to this House and they are Christina Aupaluktuq, Jean Pudnak, as well as the current Chairperson of the Baker Lake District Education Authority, David Simailak, who was a previous Member of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to welcome them

to the gallery. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize individuals from Rankin Inlet, Mary Tatty, Noah Tiktak, and Lucy Maklagak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize individuals from my constituency, even though they were recognized. From my community is Kisa Stevie Aulaciaq and from my constituency, Oqqallak Panipak, who is also from Clyde River. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally!

>> *Laughter*

It's a rare opportunity to acknowledge people from Arviat and please rise when I call your name. Mike Gibbons, Susan Pameok, and Billy Ukutak. Where is he? I think Billy Ukutak has already left. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. I'm very pleased to see people from Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. I have no more names on my list for Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I'm sorry. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel invisible at times when I am not acknowledged. I would also like to recognize an individual from my community, Mr. Tom Inaksajak. He is here to participate in the suicide prevention workshop. There is also an individual from Taloyoak, but I did not see that person. I would like ask that individual to stand up so that people can see the individual from my riding.

I know that the suicide prevention participants have a very difficult job, which I'm very grateful for them having done so. I know they will work hard on the issue because of their compassion for our children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery for all of those who were just mentioned.

I will recognize people from Igloolik and Hall Beach. Welcome.

Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions.
Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr.
Alexander Sammurtok.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 446 – 4(3): Maintaining Dental and Medical Equipment

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year it was
reported that dental services in the
community were cancelled due to
broken equipment. It is not clear how
often this type of equipment is serviced
and maintained.

Can the minister clearly explain how
decisions are made to replace or repair
medical or dental equipment? Thank
you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. Whenever a piece of equipment
or medical equipment is identified as
being in need of repair, it is brought to
the attention of the nurse-in-charge if it
is a community or their regional office if
it is in a regional centre and that piece of
equipment would either be repaired or
replaced as soon as possible. Thank you,
Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. It seems that in many health
centres across the Kivalliq region, the
equipment is very old. I have heard that
requests for new equipment are often
ignored. Can the minister clearly
describe what procedure is followed to
request new equipment and who has the
authority to approve or deny such
requests? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I
apologize for calling you Tom; I meant
to say Alexander. (interpretation ends)
The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr.
Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. The exercise that we are going
through later this week looking at
approving the Department of Health's
capital budget is a part of that process.
The repairs are taken a little different,
but the equipment replacement itself
comes out of our minor capital. I look
forward to all members of this
legislature approving the budget so that
we can act on the replacement of
equipment as soon as possible.

With that being said, we do have a lot of
needs across the territory and we do
have a ranking system that anytime a
piece of equipment can be repaired, we
are going to continue to use it. We will
try to get the full life's use out of any
piece of equipment that we have and
until such time that it is broken, that is
when we would look at replacing it.

We do attempt to be very proactive. The
communication from the residents and
from the staff in the health centres across
the territory is a very key component to
addressing what equipment needs to be

repaired or replaced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certain that most specialized medical or dental equipment requires a specific maintenance regime. Can the minister describe what contracts or arrangements are in place to ensure that specialized medical or dental equipment is inspected and repaired on a regular basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the specifics of an individual contract, I don't have all the details in front of me. My binders are thick enough as they are right now. I can assure the member that I will look into that specific issue that he is addressing and I will get back to him within the next couple of days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 447 – 4(3): Language Use in Nunavut Schools

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask a question on a matter one shouldn't even have to consider, yet it is very disturbing.

My colleague, the Member for South Baffin, made a statement earlier speaking to students being asked not to

speaking in Inuktitut. I was informed later on that that policy is also being practised here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, we are living in the Inuit homelands and Inuit have no other place on Earth to go to if they wish to strengthen and preserve the Inuit language. It is only here in the Inuit homelands where Inuktitut must be used.

The colonial era with their antiquated practices were left behind where they didn't want Inuit to speak their own language in the schools. I wonder if the minister can remind all teachers that we are now living in the year 2016 and we have no desire to return to administrations that almost caused the loss of the Inuit language in the past as we survived that era.

Can the minister clearly identify that throughout the entire territory of Nunavut, the Inuit language has to be respected and used everywhere? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for sharing his concern.

Mr. Speaker, people can see me right now as I am the epitome of students who experienced that type of colonial schooling. You can see me now and I heard the scolding in person not to speak in Inuktitut, though I doubt my colleague ever went through this type of directive. Nonetheless, what I can say is that I was personally shocked to hear that.

Part of the reasoning why Inuit fought so hard to get Nunavut was in order for Inuit to move forward. I have personal experiences in this process as well, as I sat in on the negotiations during the land claim process. The past experiences were the foundation to enact changes and Inuit were adamant that they didn't wish to see such practices.

I actually lived through that era when the teacher would reprimand me for speaking Inuktitut and whacked my hand with a yardstick. I actually experienced this first hand, so I am intimately aware of this fact. Further, I shall never approve of any directive asking students not to speak in Inuktitut nor shall I support such an initiative.

However, what I can say regarding that concern is that it shocked me and I have tasked departmental officials to resolve this issue. I have provided that directive and this case will be fully investigated. In all of our schools, none of our students should be scolded for speaking Inuktitut, so I have provided direction on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a personal level, this was so unexpected I first couldn't believe the story as it was related.

We are hearing about this issue in the Inuit homelands where children are being scolded for practising their language that they are trying to carry on. I would ask that the minister very clearly indicate to all the teachers that the Inuit language requires support and promotion and that they should not try to stop the

usage of Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier statement, I have instructed our departmental regional offices to send direction on this issue and that Inuktitut should not be belittled anywhere in Nunavut. This directive was sent to all teachers.

Further, what we have to be aware of is that Inuktitut is now a foundational language in our schools. It is also clearly laid out in our legislation that Inuktitut, English, and French languages are the official languages in all of our schools. This is a legislative requirement.

I would like to assure my colleague that I have already sent in my directive on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 448 – 4(3): Repurposing Taloyoak's Old Health Centre

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

I asked this question last year regarding the elders' wish to help our youth. Elders have the knowledge and that's why they want to help with respect to living a healthy lifestyle for their families and their children. They want a place where they can meet so that they can help.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last week I rose in this House to address the request of the Taloyoak Hamlet Council and the elders of the community for a space where they could meet amongst themselves and with the youth of the community to provide guidance and counselling.

Can the minister clarify whether the old health centre in Taloyoak could be repurposed into an elders facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my memory serves me correct from the information I received from the department, the Department of Health has surplused that building, so Community and Government Services would now be responsible for that structure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mayor of Taloyoak has written to the Minister of Health on this issue a number of times. Can the minister confirm that he has received the mayor's correspondence and, if he has, what options has he suggested for the hamlet to proceed with repurposing Taloyoak's old health centre into an elders centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever a facility has been surplused by a department, it goes to

Community and Government Services where they do an evaluation on potential uses to keep utilizing that infrastructure.

Again I would have to confirm, but I'm quite sure that Taloyoak's health centre has been surplused to Community and Government Services. I believe the mayor has also been touch with Community and Government Services or if not, then through my office. We're always going to explore different opportunities to keep infrastructure that's still usable to make sure that it is utilized before it deteriorates even further through lack of use.

It does take some effort. Oftentimes there are upgrades or renovations that are needed to a facility; identifying monies of where that's going to come from. Depending upon the programming that it is going to be utilized in the facility, I would very much entertain speaking with Mr. Qirngnuq a little bit further to explore all avenues available to that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 449 – 4(3): Service Contracts Outside of Nunavut

Ms Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we're going to keep the health minister on his toes.

Mr. Speaker, last week the minister, in response to my colleague's question about interpreting services in Ottawa, mentioned that he had recently met with the chair of the board of the Ottawa

Health Services Network, known as OHSNI, and its executive director.

Can the minister clearly describe what kinds of services are covered under the OHSNI contract and how the fees for those services are negotiated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The OHSN services that are provided in Ottawa are quite extensive. To summarize it, they look after our residents from the moment they land in Ottawa with interpretation services available.

In cooperation with Larga Baffin and the medical facilities that we utilize around the area of Ottawa, they look after making sure the appointments are kept and made. In addition too, they work with our patients to make sure that they understand the procedures that are going on. There is charting that's done where they make sure that the advice is applicable to somebody when they're returning back to Nunavut.

It's quite an exhaustive list. I guess I could sit down with the member and go into a little bit more detail. Basically from the moment they step off the plane until they're back in their community, OHSNI has a part to play in the health care that is provided to our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, I know that patients from the Baffin region usually travel to Ottawa for medical services that are not available in Nunavut. Residents in the Kivalliq region and from Sanikiluaq go to Winnipeg and others travel to Edmonton or Yellowknife.

Can the minister clarify whether there are similar contracted services in those other locations for patients travelling outside of Nunavut and, if so, which companies provide those services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a number of briefing notes. I don't recall the numbers or the names of the companies off the top of my head that utilize the services in Winnipeg. In Winnipeg it's a partnership group that's associated with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunasi Corporation, and there's another partner I can't remember the name off the top of my head.

There is a similar contract with Alberta services being provided. There's also a Larga centre in Alberta that looks after the accommodations, food, and boarding for our residents. That is in partnership with the Government of Northwest Territories to utilize that service there.

Again I'll have to follow up with the member on the specifics of the contractors that are providing that service. I just don't have it readily at my

fingertips. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I think all of us here would appreciate that information, so perhaps you can give that information to the Speaker then we can all get it.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Nunavut does need to rely on outside agencies to provide assistance with accessing medical services in other jurisdictions. How often does the minister put out a call for proposals for agencies in jurisdictions outside of Nunavut to organize and provide services to our medical clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I just don't have that level of detail on when contracts are expiring. If and when they go out, a lot of the services that we get provided by contractors, it's an ongoing relationship, just as recently as I met with OHSNI last week to negotiate the as-needed services for residents that are at Embassy West. The conditions of the contracts can change as needs increase or decrease in some cases. At the same time, again I'll provide the level of detail that the member is looking for through your office, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South

Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

Question 450 – 4(3): Language Use in Nunavut Schools

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

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement I spoke about language use in schools and bullying. I first want to ask about what I raised in my Member's Statement on what actions the government will be taking at the Department of Education.

Will the minister write to parents about this matter? What immediate actions will he take and what long-term plan will he be tabling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for bringing his concern up. With this being a disconcerting matter, I recently received the information on this event and I would urge that the background be investigated by the Department of Education.

Currently I would like to see these allegations investigated by departmental officials. Once we learn of the actual details, we will review the case with the teachers to ensure that language is not used for this type of disciplinary action since language should not be a reason. The reason for that is we are in Nunavut, where Inuktitut forms the majority of the spoken language and the majority of our residents are Inuit. Due to these reasons,

we will ensure a proper review is undertaken.

Further, as per my previous statement, the Inuktitut language is one we want all our students to be able to speak and we will ensure that this is clearly identified to our teachers, schools, as well as the local DEAs. We will ensure this is passed on to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. I believe the case, at least in my estimation, revolves more around threats or bullying within our schools.

With this being the reason stated for this case, I would like to now ask the minister: what type of policies does the Department of Education have towards resolving bullying or threatening behaviours? If I stated it in English, it revolves around the (interpretation ends) anti-bullying campaign (interpretation) and what kinds of action items are included in this program to ensure our students don't practise bullying. 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 clarifying the matter. Yes, indeed, this issue is at the forefront of many of our schools, as obviously it is an important matter.

With respect to threatening, I wonder how best to term it. Threats or bullying actions or even just an attempt to go over their teacher are the reasons why the department holds many training sessions on bullying from several years ago following the (interpretation ends) Safe Schools Strategy (interpretation) on how to ensure our schools have a safe environment. This is why we publish reading and course materials specific to anti-bullying.

As a matter of fact, the (interpretation ends) Canadian Red Cross (interpretation) is one of our partner agencies, including the (interpretation ends) Embrace Life Council, (interpretation) on promotional activities within our schools, both for our teachers and our student bodies in the school.

Another program in our schools is the (interpretation ends) 10 Steps Workshop and Support Development Initiative, (interpretation) as an example, to provide the training materials, which we have sufficient supplies of and these are used within our schools. These are the types of reading materials made available to every school in the territory.

As well, if I say it in English, (interpretation ends) *Crisis Response Guidelines for Nunavut Schools*, staff and principal manuals, and Aulajaqtut (interpretation) are examples of the materials currently in use in our schools. These programs are successfully offered in our schools. Obviously the local DEAs have different approaches to the types of materials used. They also provide alternative measures and they have the ability to create their own materials.

This is how and where the department is focusing on, as our schools have to be safe, friendly, and welcoming to our students and to have harmonious relationships. These are our goals that every school in Nunavut is working towards. 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. We have many teachers here in Nunavut with no Inuktitut linguistic ability, which is sometimes cited as a reason for miscommunication between teachers and students.

I wonder if the Minister of Education can discuss this with his ministerial colleagues and perhaps come up with a plan to provide Inuktitut courses for teachers to ensure they understand the language and ascertain whether a student speaking in Inuktitut is using threatening language or bullying others. I wonder if this reason can form a foundation for providing courses to our teachers to resolve this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier statement, there are different materials provided for training the students and all teachers in the school. Furthermore, it includes an orientation course for new teachers who have been hired upon their first arrival into Nunavut about the territory and Inuit customs, including the language and

what makes Nunavut unique. These new teachers are provided with training.

However, for longer term teachers, there are also courses available with Nunavut-wide school access done via a (interpretation ends) school team (interpretation) that works with the teachers, parents, principals, and school counsellors, who were visiting us earlier. They are part of this team, including parents of students enrolled at the school. These are the school teams, working cooperatively to resolve challenges faced by the school, including dealing with bullying or discussions on the types of responses preferred. Every school in Nunavut has these school teams.

In light of the seriousness of this matter, we are trying to be proactive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 451 – 4(3): Search and Rescue Policies

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

As the minister is well aware, his department's search and rescue contributions policy and search and rescue organization support policy expired in 2008 and 2010 respectively.

On March 9 of 2016 I asked the minister a number of questions regarding these policies. In his response, the minister indicated that his department had

completed a new version of the search and rescue contributions policy and that the department was, at the time, consulting with the RCMP before finalizing the new policy.

Can the minister tell us today if his department has completed its consultations with the RCMP and when we can expect to see an updated version of the search and rescue contributions policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give the member his birthday answer.

Mr. Speaker, the situation has not changed since the last time when the member asked me a question on the policy. The policy is done, but as I stated at that time, due to factors beyond our control, we are still in the process of consultations. I'm sorry to say that I have no new updates for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both the department's search and rescue policies have been expired now for over five years. Once again winter is upon us and we have yet to see these updated policies, which are intended to support search and rescue initiatives and organizations.

As the minister is aware, searches that take place during these cold months put

a strain on the vehicles and equipment of all volunteers, who continue to commit their time and risk their safety to help their communities in time of distress.

Will the minister commit to putting pressure on the offices that are reviewing these policies to ensure that the government has updated search and rescue policies in place before the end of our term? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first assure the member and Nunavummiut that the searches will still be conducted professionally, whether the policies are expired or not. We are working on the expired policies. Yes, I can commit that we will do our best to get these done, but at times when there is stuff beyond our control, then that is just what it is, beyond our control. We will talk and we will try to get these policies updated.

As the member stated, we have people who are dedicated and they go out in the cold and their machines have wear and tear and they break. I stated here before that we do have a mechanism where we try to help out the searchers because they are using their own equipment and volunteer their own time, and we are very appreciative of that and we do help them out.

The policy will state that we will be able to help them out through the policy, but right now we still do help them out and each case is case by case and the policy will help and guide us. Let me just assure everyone in Nunavut that the

searches will go on and we will do our best to rescue people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister went on and answered my second supplementary question in his second question, so I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 452 – 4(3): Nursing Services in Community Health Centres

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

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the shortage of nursing staff is an issue across Canada and Nunavut also faces problems in this area.

The shortage of nursing staff at the Naujaat Health Centre often leads to a long backlog of appointments with patients sometimes waiting more than two weeks for an appointment.

Can the minister provide an update on what is being done to recruit and retain nurses for Nunavut's community health centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for recognizing that it is a challenge recruiting nurses. Almost globally, it seems to be a challenge, but it seems to be exaggerated here in Nunavut. Our HR department works very hard to make sure that nursing positions are filled, especially during cover-off periods in the summertime and when people are trying to take holidays.

Some of the steps we are taking specifically are looking at more of a focus on long-term recruitment of indeterminate nurses. We do have to rely on agency nurses still and probably for the short, foreseeable future. At the same time we have managed to streamline some of that process through our contracting and procurement. We have a number of different nursing agencies that we have available to us, which gives us access to a greater number of nurses so that we can fill these positions faster or more efficiently, but at the same time our goal is indeterminate nurses working and living in Nunavut.

I know it has been an ongoing focus and I have spoken to my officials at Health and they have been keeping me up to date on any and all progress that has been coming. It is a work in progress, but I can assure the member and all communities that my goal as the Minister of Health would be to have indeterminate nurses in all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to my question.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that it is not always possible to hire full-time indeterminate nurses for our community health centres and that we often use agency nurses to provide short-term relief. Can the minister clarify what steps are taken to ensure that agency nurses have the appropriate credentials for working in community health centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Specifically one of the things we're looking at doing is we've got a health professionals recruitment and retention strategy that we're looking at implementing in this fiscal year, 2016-17, so that we can take a look at some of the best practices. We also work very hard to make sure that our nursing grads that graduate here in the territory stay in the territory.

One of the goals that we have there is making sure that those resources are available in outlying communities, not just at the hospital in Iqaluit. It does take a special type of person to work in a community where you don't have the oversight of doctors and other health professionals or specialists. We work very hard with telehealth to make sure that our nurses get the resources that they need. Orientation sessions are being improved to make sure that when we do recruit nurses, they know what they're getting. It minimizes some of the culture shock.

Nunavut is a great place to live, but at the same time it does take not so much a special kind of person but a person that wants to get engaged in the community.

If it's just a matter of filling seats, agency nurses do that. We want to have people who want to move to Nunavut, live in Nunavut, and get engaged in the communities and the population of our great territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been an ongoing shortage of nursing staff at the Naujaat Health Centre. Will the minister commit to ensuring that all nursing positions at the Naujaat Health Centre will be filled with full-time indeterminate staff as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member bringing up his concerns for Naujaat specifically. My goal is to provide indeterminate staff in all of our communities. Again I'll look into if there's a way to accelerate the positions in Naujaat specifically. That being said, my goal is every community in Nunavut has full-time nursing staff that are engaged and participating in the community and with the residents of the territory as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 453 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

My first question concerns an issue that was recently raised with me by a constituent in Gjoa Haven. As the minister will be aware, the Government of Nunavut's current Staff Housing Policy provides that employees who live in staff housing contribute to paying for the cost of water, electricity, and other utilities for their units.

The question that was raised with me is whether or not Government of Nunavut employees who live in public housing units also contribute to paying the cost of utilities. For the record, can the minister clarify whether or not GN employees who live in public housing units contribute to paying the cost of utilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a brief response. Any employee housed in a public housing unit and whether they pay into the cost of utilities is something I haven't been apprised of, but I can provide the information as to whether that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the minister tabled the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, which I have begun to review with care. The blueprint indicates that the government will, and I quote, "analyze the current staff housing rents and subsidies to determine appropriate subsidy levels." Can the minister indicate when this review is planned to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I made a statement on the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* because we worked hard on it, not just us but with other jurisdictions as well. To improve the housing situation in Nunavut, we want to use the blueprint to look for different solutions.

Mr. Speaker, as we are in this case, the government has many departments that we will be working with and there are many details that we have to work on. We used the *Igluliuqatigiilauqta: Let's Build a Home Together* document to develop the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that the contents of the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* will be included in all annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The blueprint also indicates that the

government will, and I quote, “review and revise the GN’s Staff Housing Policy.” Can the minister indicate when this review is planned to be completed? I think I already asked it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier statement on that matter, it will be reported on eventually. With respect to the question about our housing policy (interpretation ends) review (interpretation) and revision, I can’t answer that at this time. However, once the review has been completed, I can provide the response to my colleagues on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 454 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

A few days ago the (interpretation ends) *Blueprint for Action on Housing* (interpretation) was tabled and I have read it. It seems obvious that this one issue here relates to the mining development adjacent to Baker Lake, where a mine was built when I was elected as the MLA with several new units being constructed in town. However, many people are on this

waiting list for the housing units with the mine employing residents.

My question is related to the written material here where it states that the housing corporation will call local homeowners to determine if any private units are available for rental purposes. With regard to discussing the issue with homeowners and whether their units are rentable, when will this initiative be started? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the private homes that may be leased for rental purposes, it is the housing corporation that would first make an announcement of the needs, the process to be used, as well as the types of units being contemplated. This information will include details to be provided to all Nunavummiut. That is our approach currently. Different types of rentals were part of the discussions, but we will ensure that a fully detailed plan is released once we have completed it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the private homes that the housing corporation may contemplate leasing, will this request be in the form of a written letter or will the consultations only take place over the phone when this initiative is fully

underway? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It will be done in whichever way is more amenable to the homeowners. If it is impossible to call them directly, we can use email to try to consult with the homeowners. We will use the methods that are normally used for consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide further elaboration to me on the proposed time frame for consulting Baker Lake residents or the proposed dates? I suppose it is contingent on the officials who will conduct the consultations, but I would like to be included when the consultation process is commenced in Baker Lake. Can the minister commit to informing me prior to the start? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Kivalliq NHC (interpretation ends) district office (interpretation) is in Arviat and they deal with various management issues. Information requests can be submitted to the district office if the

member wishes to get more information. We may also provide the information to the district office so that people can request the information from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 455 – 4(3): Policies on Child Apprehensions

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Family Services. It is related to my line of questioning yesterday where I wanted further information on some issues.

Let me start by saying that all Nunavummiut, including myself, agree that safety of our children rests on the level of care provided. Children require careful management to ensure they are never placed in a dangerous situation wherever possible. This is quite obvious and one all members want to see implemented.

I would like to get some clarification from the minister's response to my question yesterday. Let me start by referring to the *Blues* from Monday, October 24 and specifically page 19 of the Inuktitut version. I will quote directly from the *Hansard*, although I know that the *Blues* are not the final version of the *Hansard*.

When I questioned the minister yesterday, the minister responded with this passage, and I quote part of the

response, “We follow the *Child and Family Services Act* and its regulations, which require us to involve parents in deciding what actions to take.” I will use this passage as my foundation and I have finished the quotation.

In using this as the foundation for my question, let me start by asking about this passage “require us to involve parents” Let me ask the minister what he was trying to say when he responded with that passage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for requesting further clarification on this passage. As per my statement, there are two avenues in this process related to child welfare. Indeed the legislation here is Nunavut-specific to child welfare and family relations and has two components that I identified yesterday.

The other legislation, the *Child and Family Service Act*, speaks to any problems between a child and their parents, which I believe applies when the child is about to be apprehended, as the parents have to be consulted on the process. Most parents are consulted prior to that action. This is what I stated was the easier process.

The more complex process I also mentioned comes from the legislation on child and family services and I clarified the situation there. My response is specific to the easier process within child

protection processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me then ask this secondary question based on the current family services legislation. Let me ask the minister this question: can a social worker apprehend a child to supervise under their care, yes or no? It is very easy to answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to his previous question where I stated I would look into this issue, this is still in my office related to the case and I have yet to receive a response to the query. I can’t answer this question with a yes or no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the minister was unaware, I was following the legislation that provides the mandate to the department, which specifically states that no social worker can supervise a child that they have apprehended. This is in case the minister isn’t aware of the language in the legislation.

Let me ask my last question then. With respect to a social worker who has to apprehend a child, I believe it was yesterday where you stated that the worker has to search for a temporary

caregiver. What would happen if a social worker apprehends a child and no space or caretaker is available, what is the legislated process they would follow? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying the foundation for this process, but on a personal level I was thinking of another matter when I responded to his question.

If any social worker has supervised a child after apprehending them, I would want to be informed of the details. Sometimes it is only when a question is raised that we find that a case may exist and is brought up in a question.

The member's question related to a social worker taking care of a child apprehended earlier and whether or not a social worker can legally take care of a child. The reason why I wanted to check into this matter is that I haven't been informed if any social worker has had to do that or if this has occurred yet with any of our social workers. This is the reason why I can't respond to a question asking for a quick response, but my officials are looking into this question and whether or not a social worker has had to supervise a child they apprehended.

With respect to the legal requirements, I was speaking about the more complex process that I can provide an example from. Let me refer to it in English here and it is specific to (interpretation ends) children removed from parental care without consent. (interpretation) This is

what we looked at where either a social worker or RCMP officer apprehends a child in a dangerous situation within their home for whatever reason is deemed acceptable to the agencies, whether it is stemming from the parents or others.

Parental rights are protected under the legislation, although the primary legislative mandate is the protection of the child. With the need to protect the child foremost, a social worker or RCMP officer may apprehend a child without any prior consultation. The primary protection is for the child, as no child should be in any type of dangerous situation and any parent foregoing their parental duties should not place a child in a dangerous situation.

All children should have a safe home environment and if this existed, then this process would not occur. It is only when something traumatic happens that this scenario I am referencing would occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 456 – 4(3): Abandoned Cabins

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment.

He tabled legislation for our environment. It seems like there were parts missing in that legislation. In Nunavut there are many people who now have cabins. For example, right across the river a couple of years ago, my partner and I found an abandoned cabin

which had blown away. It took us two days to burn the old wood and the old insulation that was blown apart. They don't look too good when they're strewn all over into the land.

I would like to ask the minister if he can direct his department to make sure that the public does not just leave those cabins behind out in the hinterland, as our land is precious. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. If I understood it correctly, we do have issues with litter. We're talking about the Sylvia Grinnell Park here with some issues with litter, but that is generally cleaned up by the staff. We are talking with seasonal tent frame owners in the park there and it's an ongoing issue. We want to work with the people who enjoy the park and we want people to be able to go a nice, clean, and environmentally-friendly park. I agree with the member that when someone goes to a park, they don't want to see old structures that appear to be abandoned. We are working with the people who own these seasonal tent frames. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I asked about cabins that are abandoned is that they are increasing in number everywhere and when they are

abandoned, they become litter on the land outside of the communities.

With respect to the environment outside of the municipal boundaries, most of the lands are the habitat of our wildlife, in most cases used by the caribou, which Inuit don't want contaminated.

Can the Department of Environment ensure these critical habitat areas are protected from this type of practice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, I misunderstood the member. I believe he's talking about the land in general outside communities.

There are two things here that we can deal with: one is just litter and the other which I believe the member is talking about is cabins. We don't know if most cabins are abandoned or not and we can't just destroy, move, or remove a cabin that appears to be abandoned. There are property ownership issues there, but we do want our land to look clean and nice.

I agree with the member that an old abandoned cabin with lots of garbage or scattered wood around is not a pretty site, but it depends on what kind of land it's on. If it's on Inuit-owned land, then I guess the regional Inuit organization would have to deal with that. If it's on public lands here, if it's on Crown land, then the federal government might have to deal with it.

If there are any such issues of a particular structure, then anyone can

bring that forth to the Department of Environment and we can investigate it and find out exactly if it's owned or not owned. Currently we don't administer the land in Nunavut right now. Most of the land is not administered by the [Government] of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government can enact legislation wherever we feel it requires protection within Nunavut, irrespective of whether it is Inuit-owned land or even Crown land.

Our environment, whether Inuit own the land or not, is still very desirable, particularly the lands the caribou utilize over the seasonal migrations, and when these lands are being contaminated, we need to do our part and prevent this.

Can the Department of Environment conduct research in the types of environmental legislation to see what type of protective measures can be taken for our wildlife habitat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will work with the HTOs in the communities to see what they would like to do on this issue, if the issue comes up. We do want to protect our environment and we do want to make sure that there's no hindrance to wildlife that we put up. At the same time we have to work with our HTOs and the

HTOs are the ones that determine what issues should be brought up and what are their concerns. Any HTO that brings an issue up to my department, we will work with that HTO and we will do our best to deal with that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

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

Committee Report 014 – 4(3): Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour of presenting the report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities on its review of the 2014-15 *Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth*.

Nunavut's *Representative for Children and Youth Act* was passed on September 17, 2013 by the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

The Office of the Representative for Children and Youth has a number of areas of responsibility relating to the

rights and interests of children and youth, including advocacy, advice, and assistance regarding government services for children and youth, as well as the administration of the office.

The *Representative for Children and Youth Act* provides for the Commissioner of Nunavut to appoint, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, a representative for children and youth for a five-year term of office.

Ms. Sherry McNeil-Mulak was appointed as Nunavut's representative for children and youth on June 2, 2014 and she assumed her duties on June 16, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, under section 35 of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, the representative for children and youth is required, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, to prepare and submit an annual report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on the conduct of the office and the discharge of the duties of the representative during the preceding year.

The standing committee's televised hearings on the annual reports of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly provide an opportunity for the issues raised in the annual report to be discussed in a public forum.

The 2014-15 Annual Report of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 30 of 2016. The appearance of the representative for children and youth and her staff before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly on September 15, 2016. The standing

committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the visitors' gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearings are made available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that the representative's first annual report covers a period of nine months instead of a full fiscal year. During this time, as indicated in the annual report, the representative's focus was on establishing her office from the ground up.

A number of themes and issues emerged during the standing committee's review of the representative for children and youth's first annual report to the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the standing committee appreciated the level of detail provided in the 2014-15 annual report which related to the history of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth, its role within the context of other child and youth advocacy initiatives across Canada, and the range of documents and concepts which guide the office's work. Issues relating to Inuit culture and the incorporation of Inuit societal values into the work of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth were addressed in some detail during the representative's appearance before the standing committee.

Keeping in mind that the office itself did not officially open until September 30, 2015 and even though the 2014-15 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly well after that date, today's report focuses on basic themes which relate to the office's operational structure and procedures and

not on the office's more recent practices and experiences.

Accordingly, the standing committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the representative for children and youth clearly outline what steps are taken and what processes are followed by her office when addressing requests or enquiries relating to each of its core services.

Mr. Speaker, during the committee's proceedings, members raised a number of questions concerning policies, processes, and practices relating to the delivery of services for Nunavut's children and youth at the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth. While committee members appreciated the representative's descriptions of processes which may be followed when the office is contacted regarding an individual advocacy case or when systemic issues are identified, the standing committee is of the view that the office's annual reports could be strengthened by providing clear and concise outlines of how cases or reports are handled from the time they are presented at the office. The use of schematic diagrams or flowcharts could be useful in illustrating the flow of information and allocation of resources. In addition, the annual report could benefit from further clarity and detail with respect to the specific types of activities which support individual advocacy.

2. That the representative for children and youth establish measures to track the success of her office in addressing requests or enquiries relating to each of its core services.

Mr. Speaker, during the first nine months of her term, the period covered by her first annual report, the representative for children and youth faced the challenging task of establishing the very basic structure of her office's operations. While the committee appreciates that a great deal of work has been done to establish the routines and procedures necessary to carry out the functions of the office, members note that it is equally important to put measures in place from the outset that will enable the representative to evaluate which procedures are effective in reaching their desired objectives and which ones need to be changed or modified to achieve greater success.

3. That the representative for children and youth continue to explore options for incorporating Inuit culture and Inuit societal values into the structure and operations of her office.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee recognizes the efforts made by the representative for children and youth to adapt the guiding principles of Inuit societal values into the operations of her office. However, members questioned the direct relevance of certain values to specific advocacy activities. The representative is encouraged to continue in her efforts to find alternative approaches within the workings of her office which are representative of Inuit culture and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

Members note that a number of child and youth advocacy offices in Canada have developed initiatives which focus on the unique needs and challenges faced by aboriginal children in their jurisdictions. The committee encourages the representative to consult with such

entities as the Piquusilirivvik cultural school run by Nunavut Arctic College and the Ilisaqsivik Society which provides wellness counselling in the community of Clyde River, and to take advantage of resources which provide insight into Inuit cultural concepts of parenting and lifestyle as well as taking into account the legacy of historical events and circumstances which have had considerable impact on several generations of Inuit. The committee encourages the representative to place particular focus on children and youth who have been victims of trauma and to ensure that her office recognizes and adopts the principles of Inuit lifestyle counselling.

4. That the representative for children and youth continue to work towards ensuring that her office's services are made available in a linguistically appropriate manner.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee noted with some concern that there is only one Inuit language speaking staff member in the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth. Given that nearly 70 percent of Nunavut's population have the Inuit language as their mother tongue and that over 50 percent of Nunavut's population use the Inuit language most often at home, it is critical that individuals seeking to contact the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth are able to do so using the language of their choice. The standing committee encourages the representative to make greater efforts to retain Inuktitut language speaking staff. In addition, given the sensitivity of the kinds of issues that may be raised, it is important to ensure that Inuktitut language

speakers in the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth are fully proficient and qualified to address matters in much the same way that Inuit language speakers in Nunavut's health care system are trained and qualified to address sensitive medical matters.

With respect to the French language, the committee was pleased to note that the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth is able to offer services in French.

5. That the representative for children and youth ensure that her annual report is tabled within the deadline specified in the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my introduction, section 35 of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* requires the representative for children and youth to submit an annual report within six months after the end of each fiscal year. The 2014-15 *Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth* was tabled on May 30, 2016, which was almost eight months past the legislated deadline. The standing committee appreciates that during the 2014-15 fiscal year, the representative was extremely busy in the initial stages of establishing the operational foundations of her office. However, members noted that the lengthy delay in tabling the annual report for that year resulted in considerable overlap with the second year of the office's activities. This, in turn, led to considerable overlap in the topics that were raised and discussed during the representative's appearance before the committee to discuss her office's activities.

During her appearance before the standing committee on September 15, 2016, the representative for children and youth indicated that she again did not expect to meet the legislated deadline for the tabling of her 2015-16 annual report. The standing committee remains concerned with these ongoing delays. The timely submission of reports ensures that the scrutiny, review, and recommendations pertaining to each report can be conducted and considered in a timely manner. The standing committee urges the representative for children and youth to make greater efforts to meet the deadline for submitting her annual report as it is legislated.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee noted further that, while pleasing to the eye, the heavy use of photographic and artistic images in reports and other such documents often involves additional production time, increased costs, and requires the type of printing services that are often not available locally, leading to additional expense and potential delays in shipping and transportation. In the interest of saving time and cost, the committee encourages the representative to place greater emphasis on the substantive content of her annual reports.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee commends the representative for children and youth for her hard work in setting up and establishing her office with a view to providing a comprehensive and effective service for years to come.

Although this standing committee report does include recommendations for the consideration of the representative for children and youth, given the amount of

time that has already passed since the end of the period which is covered in the 2014-15 annual report, the committee is not requesting a response to its report.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 192 – 4(3): 2013 Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2013 *Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Tabled Document 193 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Nunavut Development Corporation

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2015-16 *Annual Report for the Nunavut Development Corporation*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 194 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Annual Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I am pleased to table the 2015-16 *Annual Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 195 – 4(3): Proposed New Construction for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) One more.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also pleased to table the *Proposed New Construction* for 2017-18 and 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Tabled Document 196 – 4(3): Nanuq Lodge Appraisal Documents and Photographs

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As my colleagues will be well aware, I have been urging the government to consider all options for establishing an elders facility in the community of Rankin Inlet.

Today I would like to table an appraisal of the Nanuq Lodge building in Rankin Inlet, along with some photographs and floor plans. I encourage the government to review these documents with care, as I am sure they will agree that this building would be ideal to convert to an elders facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Tabled Document 197 – 4(3): Successful Bowhead Whale Hunt in Pangnirtung 2016

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my Member's Statement earlier, I wish to table the list of names I alluded to earlier and I wish to table the participants of the Pangnirtung bowhead whale crew, including photographs and the names of the crew. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 20 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 20, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 20 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Bill 22 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 22 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 23 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Bill 21 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 21, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 21 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Community Government and Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – Second Reading

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon.

Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Consumer Protection Act* to add provisions about unfair and unconscionable consumer transactions as well as remedies with respect to such transactions and to limit fees charged for cashing government cheques. It also provides for increased penalties for offences under the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 25 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act – Second Reading

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the seconders are from Arviat today.

I move, seconded by Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be read for the second time.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the bill renames the *Social Assistance Act* as the *Income Assistance Act*, updates outdated terminology, references, appeal mechanisms, and regulation-making

authorities and modernizes provisions related to the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 26 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Bill 27 – Waste Reduction and Diversion Act – Second Reading

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 27, *Waste Reduction and Diversion Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill allows for the establishment and enforcement of programs to reduce, recover, or divert waste. It also allows for the prohibition of materials that cause impairment of the natural environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 27 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards – Second Reading

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Building Code Act* and the *Technical Standards and Safety Act* to harmonize appeal procedures under both Acts. It also adds provisions respecting investigations into both Acts and clarifies positions respecting administrative penalties in the *Technical Standards and Safety Act*.

Finally, it amends the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* and the *Hamlets Act* to provide for authority of municipalities with respect to building activities once the *Building Code Act* comes into force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 28 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 20, 22, 23, and 24 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority to me by Motion 30 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 16:09 and
Committee resumed at 16:35

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak)
(interpretation): Good day, people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 24. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 24 and the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2017-2018 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Yes.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me this afternoon to my left, Gershom Moyo, Chief Financial Officer with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my right is Terry Audla, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to the House. Minister Kuksuk, please proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporation's capital plan for 2017-18 consists of \$39,965,000 from the Government of Nunavut and funding of \$5,745,000 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) comprised of \$4.29 million under the Social Housing Agreement and \$1,455,000 through the Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement. These funding sources bring the total NHC capital budget for 2017-18 to \$45,721,000.

An additional \$30 million in CMHC social infrastructure funding will be combined with GN capital funding to increase the number of public housing units built in 2017-18.

Overall Capital Budget

NHC capital funding remains at approximately the same level as last year for Modernization and Improvement (M&I) for NHC-owned public housing and staff housing units, homeownership programs, including the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program and the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program.

Fire Damage Replacement Fund

Mr. Chairman, NHC's funding for the Fire Damage Replacement Fund will decrease by \$824,000 to \$2,558,000 in 2017-18. This funding includes \$1 million in base funding for repairs and \$1,558,000 for the replacement of two single family dwellings and the repair of two damaged units.

Mobile Equipment Fund

NHC's Mobile Equipment Fund will increase by \$29,000. This increase is to allow NHC and local housing organizations to keep up with the increase in public and staff housing units in our inventory across the territory.

Warehousing

LHO warehouse facilities in Nunavut have an average age of between 21 and 23 years old. In addition, there has been substantial growth in the number of housing units to be maintained and the sheer size of warehousing facilities

cannot accommodate current demands. To address this growth and attend to structural and safety concerns, NHC will be dedicating \$4,911,000 to be combined with funds carried forward from 2016-17 to replace the warehouse in Baker Lake.

New Construction – 2017-18

Staff Housing

There is no change from last year in staff housing construction funding. NHC is anticipating constructing 17 new staff housing units across the territory with \$5 million 2017-18 GN capital funding for staff housing construction, combined with savings and carryovers from previous years.

Several factors were considered when allocating new staff housing construction. These units will be critical to meeting the GN's recruitment and retention needs.

Public Housing

NHC anticipates an increase in public housing construction funding by \$2.5 million, from \$12.5 million to \$15 million, to gradually and steadily address Nunavut's growing public housing need.

In March 2016 NHC welcomed the announcement of new federal funding for housing through the federal Social Infrastructure Fund.

NHC is planning to tender the construction of 90 new public housing units in 2017-18 with combined funding of \$15 million of GN capital funding, the \$1,455,000 in Investment in Affordable

Housing federal funding, and \$30 million in social infrastructure funding.

As in previous years, NHC used its public housing construction allocation methodology to determine communities that would receive new public housing construction. Allocation of public housing was focused on moving all communities to approximately 30 percent need as a percentage of stock or better. The Social Infrastructure Fund money is \$76.7 million dedicated over two years, with \$46.7 million earmarked for 2018-19. Considering this, NHC was able to plan for an additional 95 units in 2018-19, for a total of 185 units over two years.

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the steady application of NHC's allocation methodology for new construction, there has been noticeable reduction in the gap between communities in terms of their ranking of relative need. For example, following 2017-18 and 2018-19 proposed public housing construction, there will be no more communities with what we consider to be critical or high public housing need, as all communities will be below 35 percent need.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I look forward to a meaningful discussion and we will be pleased to hear your comments and to answer any questions you may have. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and again good afternoon.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations concerning its review of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2017-18 are \$39,965,000. The corporation's capital estimates were \$38,060,000 for the 2016-17 fiscal year and \$30,072,000 for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a number of different programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. Members note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is proposing a budget of \$4,616,000 for its various homeownership programs in its 2017-18 capital estimates. The corporation's budget for homeownership programs has not changed since the introduction of the 2011-12 capital estimates.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2014-15 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5 of 2015. This report provides important information concerning the administration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs. The standing committee notes improvements in the level of detail contained in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent annual report regarding the administration of its homeownership programs. This information will help all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public to better evaluate the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs are being

accessed in small, medium, and larger communities.

In October of 2015 the guidelines for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Housing Options Program were approved. The standing committee looks forward to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's next annual report accounting for the implementation and administration of this program.

The standing committee also notes that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has indicated that it "will determine if additional funding will be warranted for the 2018-2019 capital budget based on its analysis of NHC's homeownership program performance in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018."

In July of 2012 the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced changes to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program. This announcement indicated that "These changes aim to support the development of private real estate markets in Nunavut" and that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be able to "assist a greater number of Nunavummiut in becoming homeowners, and ensure fair access to assistance."

One of the changes made in 2012 to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program was the elimination of the two-year residency requirement that had previously been in place. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recently tabled annual report indicates that a total of \$602,794 was expended during the 2014-15 fiscal year on the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program.

Mr. Chairman, the importance of reinstating a residency requirement for this program has been an issue of concern for members for a number of years. This is a clear matter of principle and consistency. Individuals who choose to relocate to Nunavut are required to live in the territory for a full year before they're eligible to vote in a territorial election. Individuals seeking to apply for the significant financial assistance that is available under the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program should also have to meet a minimum residency requirement. I anticipate that the minister will be asked during today's proceedings to clarify what action he has taken in response to our concerns, at which point members will be in a position to determine our ability to support the proposed funding for this program.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, two other specific issues that have been raised by members in recent years concern the availability of certified contractors and tradespersons in smaller communities and the Nunavut Housing Corporation's income thresholds for its homeownership programs.

The standing committee is pleased to note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2014-15 annual report indicates that "...a new clause has been added to its home repair and maintenance program guidelines to allow additional program funding to include travel costs of bringing a contractor in to complete the job." The standing committee encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to regularly review its homeownership program income eligibility limits to

reflect the high cost of living in our isolated communities.

Mr. Chairman, the shortage of public housing in Nunavut's communities is an ongoing issue of significant concern to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. On May 13 of 2013 the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation tabled the Government of Nunavut's *Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy*. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's implementation of its *Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy*.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2017-18 include \$15.0 million in funding for new public housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current five-year capital plan indicates that this amount is projected to increase on an annual basis in coming years, reaching a total of \$25.0 million in the 2021-22 fiscal year. The March 2016 federal budget announced that \$76.7 million will be provided over two years to Nunavut through the Investment in Affordable Housing Initiative.

On March 23 of 2016 representatives from the Nunavut Housing Corporation appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples as part of the committee's examination of housing issues in the north. A copy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's presentation to the Senate committee was subsequently tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 7 of 2016.

The presentation indicated that the average annual operations and maintenance cost of one public housing unit is \$26,000.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2017-18 include \$5.0 million in funding for the construction of new staff housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that one of its ongoing priorities has been to "complete [a] comprehensive review of the GN staff housing policy and develop a long-term strategy for the staff housing program as part of the development of the Blueprint for Action." It also indicates that its final blueprint for action document will be "developed in the spring of 2016 and tabl[ed] in the fall of 2016."

I would like to note that the minister did table that document a couple of days ago and I thank him very much.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has previously indicated that "factors such as student-to-educator ratios, and addressing the ongoing issue of forced shared units, as well as a review of longstanding vacant positions, will impact each community's staff housing needs assessment." It has also indicated that it will "continue to explore other options, such as construction of larger multiplexes in communities with greater need, and purchasing existing buildings to be added to the staff housing inventory."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current five-year capital plan indicates that it will spend \$4.9 million in the 2017-18 fiscal year on a new warehousing facility in the community

of Baker Lake. The total cost for this project is now projected to be \$9.6 million. The Nunavut Housing Corporation previously indicated that it plans to “replace one warehouse each year, beginning in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, on a prioritized basis.” It now indicates that it will “replace or renovate warehouse/office/workshop complexes on a prioritized basis going forward.” The standing committee encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to clarify the methodology by which it determines the order in which these projects will occur.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$1,020,000 for the purpose of providing an annual contribution to local housing organizations for the creation of a vehicle reserve fund. The standing committee continues to recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s annual reports include a detailed listing of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by LHOs.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The floor is now open for general comments. I would like to remind members that the contents of the minister’s opening comments are covered in the different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches.

I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental

estimates starting on page L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I noted in my opening comments, an issue that MLAs have been raising for quite some time is the importance of reinstating the residency requirement of at least one year for the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program.

I have a simple question; it just requires a yes or no answer. Has the minister reinstated the residency requirement for the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s down-payment assistance program, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the question, that is in discussion with me and the department at this time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Mr. Chairman, thank you. If the minister could clarify: was that answer no? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, we are in discussions. The department is looking at this whole issue. At this point I cannot say if it’s a yes or no, but I will have a clearer answer at a later date, hopefully before the end of the year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Committee Motion 010 – 4(3):
Deferral of the Consideration of
the Proposed 2017-2018 Capital
Estimates of the Nunavut Housing
Corporation**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to give the minister and his staff some time to consider my question.

As of right now, I would like to move a motion. I move that the consideration of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation be deferred and that the committee proceed with its consideration of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please provide a copy of the motion to the table.

As the motion is not translated English to Inuktitut, we will take a short 10-minute break to have it translated.

>>Committee recessed at 17:01 and resumed at 17:16

Chairman: Order. The motion is in order.

Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes.

The mover of the motion speaks first.

The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I noted in my opening comments, the issue of reinstating a residency requirement for the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program is something that we have been raising for a number of years.

Although the most recent letter that was received from the minister indicates some willingness on the part of cabinet to reconsider this issue, it appears clear that the government has not yet changed the program's guidelines to reintroduce a residency requirement.

I am prepared to move a motion to reduce the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed overall budget for the homeownership program by the exact amount that the Nunavut Housing Corporation actually spent in the 2014-15 fiscal year on the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program.

However, before I do so, I want to give the government one more chance during our current sitting to make a very straightforward change to the program and to come back to the House.

This is why I'm moving that we defer consideration for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for the time being and return to the Nunavut Housing Corporation after we have completed other departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. I wish to inform the committee that I have

no more names on my list. Does the mover have any last reply? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I do not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed, please raise your hand. All those abstaining, please raise your hand. The motion is carried and the consideration of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation is deferred.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and his officials from the witness table.

Thank you. Next on our list is the consideration of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. Is the minister ready to proceed to the witness table? Please proceed, Minister Quassa.

I would now like to ask the Minister of Education if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Quassa.

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2017-2018 – Education –
Consideration in Committee**

Hon. Paul Quassa: Mr. Chairman, yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: Does the committee to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me this evening is someone who is well known to my left, Kathy Okpik, (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister, (interpretation) and to my right is Barry Cornthwaite, Manager of Capital Projects. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. You can now proceed with your opening comments. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present the proposed Department of Education capital projects budget for 2017-18.

Our 43 schools spread throughout Nunavut represent a significant capital investment and a commitment to education. Our schools house a total of 8,695 students from kindergarten to grade 12: 1,651 in the Kitikmeot region; 2,717 in the Kivalliq region; and 4,327 in the Qikiqtani region.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed capital budget for 2017-18 is \$34,990,000. Most of the \$34,990,000 for this upcoming fiscal year will be allocated to a number of ongoing projects. Capital projects across Nunavut that will continue during the 2017-18 fiscal year include:

- The design and build of a new high school in Cape Dorset is in its

second year with a budget of \$14,500,000.

- The renovation of Qiqirtaq High School in Gjoa Haven is in its warranty year with a budget of \$100,000.
- Work is continuing on the construction of the new high school in Igloodik with a budget of \$13,335,000.
- The new high school project in Naujaat is in its warranty year with a budget of \$50,000.
- The IT Infrastructure Project will continue with a budget of \$800,000. This project involves replacement of Internet-capable devices that require regular upgrading to ensure they are capable of working with updated software, such as computers, modems, routers, SMART boards, and printers.

Mr. Chairman, after careful consideration, the school projects in Baker Lake and Arviat have been removed from my department's capital plan. This is due to the drop in school enrolments to below 85 percent utilization in both communities.

In Baker Lake enrolments at Jonah Amitnaaq High School from the 2012-13 school year have dropped to 286 by the 2015-16 school year. What this means is that in 2015-16, the school capacity became 75 percent utilization. This has continued to drop. Enrolment at Rachel Arngnamaktiq School is now 233 students and a utilization rate of 74 for 2015-16.

In Arviat the school enrolments for Levi Angmak have also dropped from the 2012-13 school year to 2015-16 to 270. It also means that in 2015-16, the school was at 70 percent utilization.

There was a similar drop at the Qitiqliq School in Arviat with a student enrolment at 273, a utilization rate of 80 percent in 2015-16. We have also noted a drop in enrolment at the John Arnalukjuaq School to 248 students in 2015-16 or 59 percent utilization rate.

My department initiates planning for a new school or addition when a consistent 85 percent utilization rate is reached. For some time all the schools in both communities have been below this 85 percent threshold.

We have budgeted \$5 million for school capital projects with my department's ongoing lifecycle repairs initiative. Lifecycle items are the major components of a building, such as foundations, boilers, generators, roofs, siding, flooring, wall finishes, windows, or air-handling units. These are things that require periodic repairs or replacement based on whether they have met or exceeded their intended lifespan.

With the assistance of the Department of Community and Government Services, this initiative allows us to prioritize capital projects within our schools and prepare a repair or replacement program in a proactive manner that minimizes impacts to the delivery of the education program.

Mr. Chairman, my department also has a minor capital budget. This budget covers projects that are primarily health and safety related, as well as small projects

not identified in the capital planning process. We have budgeted \$925,000 to cover the repairs, renovations, and upgrades to be approved under the minor capital budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

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

Each year you may have noticed that we review requests for school buses and departmental vehicles. In 2017-18 we have budgeted \$280,000 for approved vehicle requests or the replacement of a school bus that is past its intended lifecycle.

I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion as we review the Department of Education's capital budget for 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2017-18 include four community-specific

projects which are ongoing from previous fiscal years and four projects for which funding will be allocated to meet various Nunavut-wide capital needs during the 2017-18 fiscal year in the areas of information technology, ongoing maintenance and repair, and for such items as school buses.

Mr. Chairman, while the committee recognizes the need for budgets to be allocated towards the ongoing maintenance of buildings and other such infrastructure, and also for the upgrading of equipment which is old or out of date, members have again noted a lack of detail regarding what specific repairs or purchases are being planned for the upcoming fiscal year. In addition, members have expressed some frustration with the lack of precision regarding the anticipated costs of various projects. The committee urges the minister and his staff to be more forthcoming with information regarding proposed purchases, especially under the small capital and ongoing lifecycle line items.

Mr. Chairman, the 2017-18 fiscal year will see the final warranty year and completion of two school projects in Gjoa Haven and Naujaat while the new school in Igloolik will enter its second year of construction.

Mr. Chairman, a number of proposed school projects which appeared in previous capital plans are no longer included in the Department of Education's 2018-2022 five-year capital plans. In some cases funding for projects which was approved in the House and carried over from year to year was ultimately transferred to other projects altogether. Members have expressed

some frustration that funding allocated to school projects, with the past support of Members of the Legislative Assembly in this House, raising expectations at the community level and committing financial investment on behalf of the government, does not result in the proposed outcome.

In addition, it was felt that the government needs to be more transparent in providing regular updates to community representatives, such as district education authorities, regarding the status of proposed future projects which may be realigned, deferred, or deleted.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the department's current practice for prioritizing school projects takes into account such factors as current student enrolments, attendance rates, and existing school capacity. Committee members have noted that enrolment and attendance numbers can fluctuate from year to year and even from month to month and would appreciate receiving up-to-date information on enrolment and attendance rates for schools across Nunavut. The committee urges the department to put greater emphasis on long-term community population trends and anticipated future needs as part of its capital planning process.

Mr. Chairman, as we are all aware, the Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset burned down just over a year ago, at the very beginning of the 2015-16 school year. The standing committee notes with appreciation the department's ongoing work in Cape Dorset, in conjunction with the Department of Community and Government Services, to ensure that students are able continue with their

educational program. Members note that the installation of five portable classrooms and the use of two Nunavut Arctic College classrooms will enable students to attend classes this current school year without resorting to the split shift schedule which proved somewhat problematic for the community last year. The department's 2017-18 capital plan includes a request for funding for the construction of the replacement school in Cape Dorset. Members encourage the minister to provide ongoing updates on the progress of this project.

Mr. Chairman, there have been a number of incidents where schools have been badly damaged or destroyed due to the actions of individuals who have accessed areas underneath the buildings. Members encourage the department to consider installing skirting or other types of barriers which would prevent unauthorized access to vulnerable areas. The standing committee further encourages the department in its efforts to consider different security measures and options to address the ongoing threat of vandalism and property damage to school facilities.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the committee to discuss his department's draft capital estimates for 2017-18, the issue of housing for education staff was again addressed in some detail. While it is recognized that the government as a whole faces many pressures with respect to housing needs all across Nunavut, the standing committee continues to encourage the minister to work closely with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to establish a long-term housing strategy for education staff, especially in those

communities where the availability of housing for school staff has been identified as critical. The quality and continuity of educational programming that should be delivered to Nunavut's students is directly affected by the ability to hire and retain staff. The lack of adequate housing has a considerable impact on staff recruitment and retention.

Mr. Chairman, computer technology is now a standard tool in the delivery of education programs across Canada. Members are in full support of the minister's plans to update equipment across Nunavut's schools as technology evolves. The standing committee recognizes that the success of using modern technologies relies on access to adequate bandwidth and such components as dedicated servers in individual communities. Members support the department's efforts to work with the Department of Community and Government Services in this area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The floor is now open for general comments. I have no list of names. I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page G-3. Education. Corporate Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$34,990,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister and your officials. I would just like to get clarification as usual. In your opening comments in English on page 3, it refers to the (interpretation ends) IT infrastructure (interpretation) project. I haven't looked at the term in Inuktitut, perhaps for informatics and computer infrastructure. The project will "continue with a budget of \$800,000."

When the Minister of Community and Government Services appeared before the committee, he proposed \$2 million to improve the IT infrastructure. If I understood the minister correctly, he stated that the reason why there's a huge fund is because they're providing IT services to the other departments.

Is the \$800,000 separate from this CGS funding? I would like clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's separate, for your information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we ask questions on G-3 and G-4 at the same time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I believe you said yes, so I'll continue.

On page G-4 in English, Nunavut – Various, there is a request for \$925,000 in small capital. Is there a substantiation sheet? Perhaps I just didn't see it. Do you now have the details on what the small capital of \$925,000 is going to be used for? If so, can we get a copy of it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. I can elaborate further. We have already sent the letter regarding the \$925,000. We sent you a letter of correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleagues and I believe that we have never received the letter. I was asking my colleagues and I believe none of them have seen that correspondence. In spite of that, perhaps they can send that information to us again so that we will see it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to elaborate further. The letter was sent out on October 20. Perhaps you have not seen it. It details and responds to the questions that were posed and what this will be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I want to just ask a couple of questions on G-4 regarding ongoing lifecycle.

I would just like to ask what the plan is for the middle school here in Iqaluit. I have brought up the fact before with you, minister, that the siding is all starting to peel. I walk past it every day and it's only getting worse. I'm wondering how long you're going to wait before something is done.

The other question I will ask right away while I have your ear is about Joamie School. I have brought up the fact that I was quite concerned with the safety issue in regard to Joamie School with the parking, with buses and everyone dropping off their children all at the same time. If you experience that, you will see what I mean. There is a lot of traffic there. So if you could just update us.

Ongoing lifecycle, according to your opening comments, is for "major components of a building, such as foundations, boilers, generators, roofs, siding..." I'm bringing it up at this time and I decided I'll ask about Joamie while I'm asking you about the Iqaluit middle school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. In the 2017-18 fiscal year the Aqsarniit Middle School siding project will be done,

which I believe you're asking about. We have identified \$150,000 for this project in Iqaluit.

I believe the other part of your question is in regard to safety of the students at the bus parking lot. There's a portable building. I believe you have seen it when you pass by there. We are working with the Department of Community and Government Services on how to address the safety issue with respect to that question.

This building is located near Joamie School. We're working with the Department of CGS in regard to the safety of the school. In addition, the Iqaluit DEA passed a resolution for the old portable school that I mentioned to be removed. At this time this is what we're working on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Mikkungwak

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to ask a question on your opening comments, Mr. Quassa, Minister of Education, in which you identified some communities.

My first question is in regard to the new schools that Baker Lake and Arviat were slated to get in the previous years. The capital budget for those schools was approved for planning, design, and other things. These projects are no longer included in the five-year capital plan. What is the status of all the work that has already been funded and undertaken? That's my first question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to your question, this is the standard practice of the government. When I talk about government, I'm talking about all governments when it comes to capital planning. We have a duty to practice due diligence to ensure funding is utilized for maximum benefit.

We carefully look at which community has the most need. We did our analysis, for example, on new schools or school improvements or whether we need to make additions to a school. I know that the schools in Arviat and Baker Lake are not that old and they are in good condition to date.

As I stated before, we look at the school capacity of 85 percent. I'm sure you're going to get tired of hearing 85 percent. However, if the utilization rate is over 85 percent, then we will consider it. If the capacity is under 85 percent, we may have to make changes. That's how the system is.

The member is absolutely correct that the schools in Baker Lake, Arviat, and Coral Harbour were reviewed. However, after careful analysis and looking at the utilization rate, it was well below 85 percent.

We have to look at other community schools very carefully too. We make our decision based on that. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Let me remind you that we're on page G-3 in English and it includes

the contents of G-4. We're dealing with them at the same time, so you can ask questions relating to both of these pages. I'll go back to Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When I ask questions, I am representing Baker Lake. When you were making plans and the design of the middle school and others that need to be constructed, how much funding did you expend for all of these items? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date the Nunavut government has expended \$1.33 million on the design of the Arviat middle school. The education department has also expended \$40,000 for Baker Lake. It was for the study and travel by the DEA members or our inspectors. That's what the funding was used for. As I stated, \$40,000 was for Baker Lake and \$1.33 million was for Arviat. That's what was expended for those planned schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the money that was expended, at the time when you and your officials went to our community, we had already located the land, but the project was deferred. How many times has it been deferred since approval by the House? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have looked the project twice. If you can recall, I think it was last year or two years ago that we deferred the school projects for Baker Lake and Arviat. We made adjustments to those two projects. This year it is the second time that we have postponed the projects because of the school capacity percentage. Those were the two primary reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With the new middle school that was slated for Baker Lake, how much money did you spend for the design and other plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the first round, as I stated, it was \$40,000 for the middle school. That was for planning. That was the difference between what we were doing in Arviat and Baker Lake. The planning of the Arviat project was more advanced while we were just in the early planning phase for Baker Lake. In total \$1,650,000 was expended for Baker Lake.

Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you, I would like our projects manager, Mr. Cornthwaite, to elaborate on this. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Cornthwaite, go ahead.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is correct that both projects were in different phases. The project in Arviat was already designed. There was a tender-ready package that was ready to go to tender for construction to start. We were still planning the project in Baker Lake. Design hadn't started yet. We were still planning and that's when you review community needs. You look at potential lots to decide what your next step is with regard to design. Baker Lake was only in the planning stage, which is a very preliminary stage. We have spent approximately \$40,000 on that stage. Arviat was already a tender-ready project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I got a response to a question I didn't ask, so I'll ask it again. My question was about the middle school in Baker Lake with respect to the planning, pre-design work, and construction. If it had been completed, how much would it have cost in total? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize if I didn't respond, but I would like to refer this question to my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Okpik, go ahead.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was approved last year and is no longer included this year. \$1,650,000 was used and in total it would have been \$19,700,000. That was in the plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I finally got a coherent response. The minister had indicated earlier that there is an 85 percent utilization rate. This 85 percent utilization rate in getting a new school built in a community will seriously affect the safety of the children. This 85 percent utilization rate, which the minister keeps referring to, is it the anticipated number of students or the actual attendees of a school? That's my question for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. It refers to the actual number of students attending compared to the total capacity of the school. The 85 percent utilization rate is based on actual attendance, not for the eligible number of students. There are also a number of students who don't attend school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With this 85 percent utilization rate that you have established and looking at the

capital estimates for new schools in other communities, will that be the new basis for deciding where to build them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are building schools in Cape Dorset, Naujaat is now completed and utilized, and Igloolik. Cape Dorset and Igloolik are currently under construction.

In Igloolik at the Ataguttaluk School, the elementary side of the school is at 87 percent and the secondary side is at 85 percent. They had a certain percentage last year and we usually figure out what the increase is going to be for this year. If they're at 85 percent capacity, it probably wouldn't decrease the following year and it's likely to be higher.

I would like my deputy minister to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Okpik, go ahead.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the two schools we apply the capacity rate, the size of the school, and how many students it could hold. For example, the elementary school in Baker Lake has a capacity of 313 students and the high school can hold 382 students. If we look at the elementary schools, we usually use the numbers of last year's attendees.

If there were 233 students last year and looking at the increase, it would be at 74

percent capacity. If there are 382 students at the high school, there were 286 students last year and it would be at 75 percent. If they're way below 85 percent, we consider removing them from the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We're dealing with the capital estimates. Two years ago we were slated to construct a middle school for Baker Lake after we approved it in the House. Now what? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every year we look at the new monies and every year there's a change and it's the same cycle that we are going through. That's all I can respond with, Mr. Chairman. We look at new projects every year. Some of the projects go ahead and some of them get dropped. That's the way the whole thing goes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When I was asking for numbers, two years ago and last year we approved the monies for a middle school that was slated to be built in Baker Lake, \$19,700,000. After the drop in the utilization rate, will it be deferred again? It has already been deferred for one year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa, before you respond, you always have an opportunity to talk to one another so that you can respond properly. You can press the mute button if you want to have a private conversation, as we don't want to hear you whispering. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

If we recall correctly, the project was deferred two years ago. Yes, I know because I was here too. The money stayed there; it was just deferred to a later time. The same thing happened two years ago and it was deferred to a different year.

The main reason for us was that we could further study the utilization to see if it is going to go down or up. We were waiting for that information and that's why the project was still in the books for the \$19 million you just mentioned. We wanted to know if it was going to decrease or keep increasing. That was the main reason.

If we recall, we kept the Baker Lake District Education Authority informed last year and if the enrolment decreased considerably, the school project might be cancelled. We kept the DEA informed in the whole process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation)

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am fully aware because I read the documents. I know you kept them informed.

I am asking if you're going to drop a capital project, you should visit the community again to encourage children to go to school. As the Fourth Assembly, we made education our priority. I am asking now: if you're going to cancel a capital project, why didn't you just defer it again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To remind my colleague, we had done that for this project for two years. We knew for two years that we won't be doing it just like that. We look at estimates every year for capital projects. For instance, we will keep monitoring that. We monitor all communities, including Baker Lake. If the utilization rate of the school goes up to 85 percent or even higher next year, the project will be back in the books.

We follow all the schools and we have to look at all the other schools carefully, such as Coral Harbour and Taloyoak. We have looked at their numbers and they are way higher than 85 percent. We also have to look at other communities. That's how I can respond, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been noted and made very clear that attendance rates are the

critical factor in determining whether a community needs a new school.

How does the department take into account other factors such as long-term population projections or the impact of local school attendance policies to anticipate when a community may need a new school within the five-year capital plan cycle? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The district education authority tries to look at the long-term future. We have a 20-year plan. Please keep in mind and I keep stating that there are movements, depending on the enrolment, or if governments change, these kinds of factors are reasons for change.

The capital data is looked at carefully on exactly the situation. A database on enrolment is kept on school attendance, the school's capacity, as well as other variables. We also look at the age of the schools. Those are the different types of things we look at if we're going to be considering new schools or making an expansion or addition to a school. There can be different reasons that we follow.

We also work with Community and Government Services. I stated earlier that we also work with the district education authority in the communities when we're discussing new schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. He keeps mentioning the 85 percent. If enrolment goes over that number in Baker Lake, would your department then have to submit a supplementary appropriation and would the numbers change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, we follow that process. For instance, if we look at the capacity of any school in any community and it reaches over 85 percent, then we would look at that and the funding that would be needed. As I stated earlier, we would be working with the Department of Community and Government Services before we start making plans to bring the project back online. That's our usual practice. We would do the same thing for Baker Lake as we would for any other community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): I didn't hear a response to the question, so I'll ask again. The minister released the capital project for the middle school in Baker Lake, which would have been constructed. I am asking: once the utilization rate goes over 85 percent, would you be asking for money again for the planning, design, and other things? Would you have to aside new funding for this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the others in the document, the construction of some schools have been completed and some have been started. For a new school project, if attendance unexpectedly goes under 85 percent, would that change also be reflected in the document? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The planned construction will go ahead. Once a contract is let, we cannot drop the project. Is that clear? Once the contract is signed, we would not be able to drop it. At that stage it would be under the control of CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes it takes a long time for government to do a project. According to his answer, how fast would they move? Would it take a whole year to do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps he can elaborate on his question. I didn't quite get it. I would like to understand his question, so maybe he can elaborate or ask it a different way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak, please elaborate.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to be very proficient here.

>> *Laughter*

From planning to pre-design to design to construction, as we all know, sometimes things in government work take a long process. When we look at that from planning to pre-design to design to construction, how fast can that process be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can explain the process. I think my colleague is already familiar with preplanning, design, construction, and the last phase, which is the warranty. I touched on this earlier. For instance, Naujaat is on its warranty year. We set aside \$50,000. Looking at the length of time, planning is for two or three years. The actual construction of the structure is about three to four years. According to our experience in constructing buildings as a government, it takes two to three years for preplanning and design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) With 24 seconds, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's quite a lengthy process and a number of years. When you look at the middle school and the utilization rate that had dropped, the numbers go right back up. Now you're working backwards. Would it not have been wise to defer the Baker Lake middle school by another year instead of dropping the capital that was assigned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we reconsider the utilization of the capacity. I know I keep restating the 85 percent utilization.

Perhaps to further elaborate the difference between Arviat and Baker Lake, I think the Arviat project had gone to tender and the tender was already planned, which was not the case for Baker Lake. That's a minor difference. I can state, looking at both schools today, they're at 74 percent and the other one is at 75 percent. That's the main reason that we're in this situation.

On your question of whether it would be better to just defer it and it was halted even though the money is still there, I will provide you with further explanation. After the Cape Dorset school burnt down, they had to clean up the site. The money we had set aside for Baker Lake was used for the clean-up in Cape Dorset. That's where we stand right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. We're on page G-3 and that includes G-4. Following the list of names, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief comment on the minister's opening comments.

First of all I would like to acknowledge the person from my home community who is visiting in the gallery, Remy Qirqqut.

I have a question, but my colleague has already mentioned it in regard to cancelled school projects in the communities. It is regrettable that students looking forward to high school will not get that opportunity.

I want to mention about the request I made a few days ago that was not approved since it's not included in the capital estimates for my community. We can't approve it because it's not included here. I would like to talk about our students. The minister knows about the percentage of the utilization rate. Because the utilization is below the established rate, the proposed school was dropped.

I mention this because the high school students only receive two hours of classroom time in the morning and afternoon. It's unfortunate that there won't be a change to that situation. As a parent, I want our children to receive a good education. I believe that they could have good education and there are only two hours. It results in children simply dropping out despite our urging them to stay in school.

The question I want to ask is this: when this is reflected in a drop in the utilization rate, what measures are taken for students who drop out? What happens in that case? I would like a response to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for asking questions in regard to that. First of all in Kugaaruk, I believe there are 294 students attending the school, which has a total capacity of 352. In looking at that, they're at 84 percent. You are correct and I know for sure what the attendance rate is in Kugaaruk. It is obvious that the DEA there knows how many students are attending their school.

The DEA is well informed and as the Department of Education, we pass on that information and we try to inform the parents on how they can be engaged. We try to encourage the parents to be more involved in helping their children to keep attending school. These are the issues that we raise throughout various media and we try to encourage the students to remain in school in all communities. These are various encouragements we do.

When we meet with the coalition of DEAs, these are the issues that we raise such as how we can retain the students in school. That's how we try to keep the students in school as the education department. We keep encouraging them through means of media in which I

encourage them to stay in school. That's how it is with one's education.

We can't force them what to do, but students need to find the will to go to school. The encouragement of parents is also essential. These are various things that we do to make sure that the students remain in school, those that are of school age in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We cannot control other individuals, whether they're adults or children. With that in mind, when the utilization rate starts lowering, what kind of programs do you have to motivate students to return to school, whether it's through the DEA or the teachers? What kind of programs do they have to make sure that the students get back to school? I'm unaware of measures that are available and so I would like to ask the minister to enlighten me about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I'm coming across.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I know that this is not part of the capital estimates, but Mr. Quassa, if you would like to respond. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm here to talk about these issues. Thank you for elaborating on this capital issue.

The DEAs are allocated funding to find ways for children not in school to return to the classroom. We also provide funding to DEAs for parental engagement. We have made a big push

for parental engagement through various media. These are the ways we are trying to reach out to children who are not in school. We try to provide incentives for students to stay in school. As I have mentioned, we provide funding to DEAs for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We're dealing with capital estimates, just for your information. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the issues that I wanted to get clarification on and now I have a better understanding. I'm sure I'll have other comments later on and I'm sure that my colleagues who have been here longer than I have been asking good questions. I'll leave my questions at that. Thank you for enlightening me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I take that as a comment. Following the list of names, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to ask a few questions under small capital.

Vandalism is becoming a problem across Nunavut communities and schools are often targeted. I'm just wondering if you can update us today on how many schools across Nunavut have security cameras. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question, so I'll have the project

manager respond with figures. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I'll have Barry Cornthwaite respond. I'll probably be able to supplement his response later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an initiative quite a few years ago to install cameras in all Nunavut schools. Recently the Department of Education is acting upon a standing offer agreement for the maintaining of these cameras. Now that there's a standing offer agreement in place, we can call up the standing offer and repair the cameras, replace the systems, or replace other components of the systems as they wear out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. For example, there are 23 schools that have operating cameras. Out of a total of 43 schools, there are 11 schools that have some problems with their cameras and there are 20 schools that need repairs that are being worked on to date. I hope we gave him the proper response because the two of us had responded to his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. When it comes to security, having cameras at our schools is great. They're great for catching thieves or

vandals after the effect, but it doesn't prevent vandalism from happening, for example, the school burning down in Cape Dorset.

Has your department ever considered setting up a camera system where they're monitored remotely by, let's say, a third party or somehow operated where, if they're activated, somebody is notified that there is an issue at the school and they can act upon that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I can briefly answer that, all the cameras that we have in our schools are "monitorable," if that's the word in English, "monitorable." I'm referring to the new ones that we have installed. They're all "monitorable," if that's a word that the House can accept.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) I apologize. I can only respond that way, but if you want me to elaborate further, I can do so, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that technology is out there where you can install cameras in certain areas and you can have somebody monitoring that system at a different location. It has the capabilities of taking video and forwarding it to the RCMP or other people you want to send

it to, to prevent vandals from getting into the schools and whatnot. You say that these cameras you're putting in now may have that capability. Will you be going further and having this kind of system where somebody can monitor it at a remote location? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to remember that the government has a lot of buildings, including our schools, and despite their large number, they have to be constantly monitored. This is probably a very good idea where we would install such devices, especially working with Community and Government Services, because our schools and all our other assets have to be properly taken care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As MLAs, it's our jobs to suggest ways and helping out in saving money for the government.

I have no idea on the cost of implementing such a camera system throughout Nunavut or whatnot, but I think it might be worthwhile to do some research on it and maybe get back to members with some kind of cost that may be associated with it. Thinking long term, if you had these cameras set up, maybe your insurance dollars will go down, the cost of insurance maybe. If you save one school, it's \$40 million saved. I think the benefits of having such

a system may outweigh the costs of implementing it.

I'll just leave that as a comment and hopefully some day, you guys can get back to us with some better information on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The member indicated that it was just a comment. Mr. Enook.

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

Chairman: 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.

We will come back tomorrow with the minister and his officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 24 and would like to report progress with one committee motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a

seconder? Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that tomorrow, the Standing Committee on Legislation meets at nine o'clock in the morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 26:

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

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 20
 - Bill 22
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 24
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 26, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:57*

