



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**4th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 51**

**Wednesday, November 2, 2016**

**Pages 2809 – 2866**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. George Kuksuk**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

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

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

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(Rankin Inlet South)

**Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

**Joe Enook**  
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**Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment*

**Hon. George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention*

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(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**  
(Quttiktuq)

**David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration*

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2809
Ministers' Statements .....	2809
Members' Statements .....	2813
Returns to Oral Questions .....	2819
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2822
Oral Questions.....	2823
Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.....	2848
Tabling of Documents .....	2848
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	2849
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	2865
Orders of the Day .....	2865

**A.**

**Daily References**

Wednesday, November 2, 2016.....2809

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

203 – 4(3): NDAP Residency Requirements (Kuksuk).....2809  
204 – 4(3): Sivumuaqatigiit Reorganization (Taptuna).....2810  
205 – 4(3): Inuktitut in Our Schools (Quassa).....2811  
206 – 4(3): Summer Employment for Nunavut Students in the Private Sector (Mike).....2811  
207 – 4(3): Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre (Ell-Kanayuk) .....2812  
208 – 4(3): Aboriginal Language Revitalization (Quassa).....2812

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

378 – 4(3): The Development of Diabetes in Nunavut (Angnakak) .....2813  
379 – 4(3): Supporting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Principles (Shooyook).....2814  
380 – 4(3): Suicide Prevention (Qirngnuq) .....2816  
381 – 4(3): Sharing Responsibility (Joanasie).....2816  
382 – 4(3): Death of an Elder in Taloyoak (Akoak).....2817  
383 – 4(3): Support for Clyde River in Seismic Testing Case (Keyootak) .....2817  
384 – 4(3): Elections in Inuit Organizations (Okalik).....2818  
385 – 4(3): Appreciation of Ilisaqsivik (Quassa) .....2818

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 418 – 4(3): Community Transportation Initiatives Program – Correction  
to Information Provided (Ell-Kanayuk) .....2819

Return to Oral Question 446 – 4(3): Maintaining Dental and Medical Equipment (Hickes).....2820

Return to Oral Question 465 – 4(3): Inuit Language Implementation Fund (Kuksuk) .....2821

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

516 – 4(3): The Development of Diabetes in Nunavut (Angnakak) .....2823

517 – 4(3): Community-based Search and Rescue Organizations (Sammurtok, T).....2825

518 – 4(3): Federal Fall Economic Statement (Mikkungwak) .....2827

519 – 4(3): Government of Nunavut Responses to Resolutions Adopted at the 2016 Annual  
General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (Akoak).....2829

520 – 4(3): Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation (Enook).....2831

521 – 4(3): Conservation Officer Boat in Qikiqtarjuaq (Keyootak).....2832

522 – 4(3): Funding Increase Request (Okalik) .....2834

523 – 4(3): Evaluating Educational Standards (Joanasie) .....2835

524 – 4(3): Suicide Prevention Initiatives in the Kitikmeot (Qirngnuq) .....2836

525 – 4(3): High Arctic Transportation (Shooyook) .....2838

526 – 4(3): Need for Swimming Pools in Nunavut (Mapsalak) .....2840

527 – 4(3): Devolution (Angnakak) .....2842

528 – 4(3): Suicide Prevention Conference (Okalik) .....2844

529 – 4(3): Streaming Students (Mikkungwak) .....2846

**F.**

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

Committee Report 016 – 4(3): Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act  
(Sammurtok, T).....2848

**G.**

**Tabling of Documents**

206 – 4(3): Responses to the 2016-2017 Letters of Expectation (Peterson) .....2848  
207 – 4(3): Kenojuak Ashevak Heritage Minute (Joanasie) .....2848  
208 – 4(3): Printout of Signatories to Online Petition Concerning Smoking Ban in Multiunit  
Dwellings (Angnakak) .....2848  
209 – 4(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sitzings of the House and Meetings of  
Committees and Caucuses for the Period April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016 (Speaker) .....2849  
210 – 4(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sitzings of the House and Meetings of  
Committees and Caucuses for the Period July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016 (Speaker) ..2849

**H.**

**Motions**

036 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period (Mikkungwak) .....2840

**I.**

**Bills**

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Nunavut Housing Corporation –  
Consideration in Committee .....2850

**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Wednesday, November 2, 2016****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, 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 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Mr. Taptuna, 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.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 203 – 4(3):  
NDAP Residency Requirements**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow Nunavummiut,

residents of Arviat and Whale Cove, as well as my colleagues. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program is an important program that assists Nunavummiut in becoming homeowners and supports the development of private real estate markets in the territory.

I am pleased to announce that based on feedback from the Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be making a change to the eligibility requirements for the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program.

Mr. Speaker, starting on April 1, 2017 only Nunavummiut that have lived in the territory for one year or more will be eligible to receive a forgivable loan to support the purchase of a new or existing home.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

>>*Applause*

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Mr. Speaker, the program offers a forgivable loan of up to \$30,000 to those purchasing a home that will be their primary residence. Forgiveness on this loan does not begin until after five years of residency in the home and the loan is only fully forgivable after ten years.

I hope that the new residency requirements will demonstrate to the members and their constituents that the government values long-term investment in Nunavut.

I encourage anyone interested in applying for homeownership program support to call the toll-free number and the number is 1-844-413-9355 to see if they are eligible or visit the website at [www.nunavuthousing.ca](http://www.nunavuthousing.ca) for more information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 204 – 4(3):  
Sivumuaqatigiit Reorganization**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon, my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to an effective and functional public service that is representative of the population it serves and that meets the requirements of Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Mr. Speaker, as Premier, I am committed to enhancing Inuit employment in our public service. As a result of the settlement of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* implementation lawsuit that was settled last year, the Government of Nunavut has access to \$40 million to implement Article 23 for the duration of the contract period that concludes in 2023.

To that end the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has reorganized its Sivumuaqatigiit Division

to focus purely on Inuit employment initiatives and to provide support and guidance to departments and corporations to implement their Inuit employment plans.

Mr. Speaker, the streamlined Sivumuaqatigiit Division is responsible for providing human resources planning and direction on initiatives aimed at increasing and maintaining Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut and oversees development and delivery of new training programs specifically designed for Inuit employees.

Mr. Speaker, the newly formed Public Service Training Division designs, develops, and delivers training and development programs for all public servants at headquarters and decentralized communities. The division also oversees the decentralization action plan and coordinates initiatives to support the decentralized model.

Mr. Speaker, this reorganization positions the Government of Nunavut to dedicate appropriate resources to oversee our obligations to implement Article 23 and enable us to ensure there is proper oversight with the expected expenditures of the settlement agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 205 – 4(3):  
Inuktitut in Our Schools**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Before sharing my Minister's Statement, I wish to acknowledge and express my appreciation for MLA Joanasié for sharing his apology in the House yesterday regarding the process by which these concerns were brought to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to update my colleagues about a matter that was brought to my attention last Tuesday. We were informed of an alleged incident in one of our schools. The allegation made was that a student was discouraged and even punished for speaking Inuktitut in our school.

Mr. Speaker, at this time an extensive investigation into the alleged incident in Kinngait has taken place to ensure that all those with knowledge of the matter have had an opportunity to go on record so that we can obtain a thorough understanding of the events that took place.

I want to assure everyone that the events described last Tuesday were unfounded and that no student was discouraged from speaking Inuktitut or punished for doing so. This incident has, however, brought greater attention related to bullying and acceptable school behaviour. On this, I wish to state that bullying in any language is unacceptable and that we will take further action along these lines.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues and the public that should they learn of an

incident occurring within our schools, they take their concerns first to the school and the district education authority and to escalate these concerns to the department or even myself if they are not satisfied with the response.

I wish to also go on record in our legislature to state clearly that our government supports and encourages the use of our official languages within our schools. Inuktitut, which is the mother tongue of the majority of our territory's population, continues to be spoken in our homes, in our schools, and in our places of work. We must and will do all that we can to support the living language that is Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 206 – 4(3):  
Summer Employment for Nunavut  
Students in the Private Sector**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavummiut and residents of my community, as well as the visitors in the gallery, welcome to the House.

Mr. Speaker, this past summer my department piloted a new work experience program for high school and post-secondary students called the Summer Employment for Nunavut Students program. Thirty students and six employers participated in the program in Arviat, Cape Dorset, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet, an uptake that was five times greater than our initial goal.

(interpretation ends) While there are several summer employment experience programs in Nunavut for post-secondary students, including the Government of Nunavut's Summer Student Employment Equity Program, (interpretation) there are no programs that target high school youth or private sector employers in our communities. The Summer Employment for Nunavut Students program addresses this gap by providing high school students with work experience with a local private sector employer, non-governmental sector employer, or hamlet.

My department is proud to offer the program again in summer 2017 and we look forward to increasing on-the-job training and mentorship opportunities for young Nunavummiut who wish to further their career goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Minister's Statement 207 – 4(3):  
Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present the Kivalliq is the only Nunavut region without a full visitor centre. I am pleased to provide my colleagues with an update on the progress on the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, planning took place in 2014-15 and the construction of the visitor centre began this past spring and

will be completed in December 2017. This is new centre will provide important visitor support for the Kivalliq region.

Visitor centres are attractions in their own right, but they also help communicate information about the tourism services available in the region. For these reasons, this visitor centre will support the implementation of *Tunngasaiji: A Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut*.

Mr. Speaker, the department continues to meet with Kivalliq communities to ensure each community has input into the exhibits and information to be displayed in the visitor centre.

I look forward to the opening of the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre in Rankin Inlet and I am sure it will make an important contribution to tourism in the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 208 – 4(3):  
Aboriginal Language  
Revitalization**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise in the House today to announce the delivery of the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization Program that will be offered in Cambridge Bay this month, October 2016, through Nunavut Arctic College.

A partnership was established with the University of Victoria in 2014 and we have been running the program every year ever since.

Mr. Speaker, in 2014 the executive director of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association reported that there are fewer than 400 Inuinnaqtun language speakers. I am very pleased to inform you that Nunavut Arctic College is working very hard to ensure the survival of Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut are supported. With a program such as the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization, it enables Inuit to become strong advocates of Inuktitut and actively support effective language learning strategies within their home communities.

Mr. Speaker, upon completing the certificate, the students will have learned the reasons why people stop speaking Inuktitut and choose instead to speak English. They will also learn about what is done today across Canada and the world to ensure the use, revitalization, and protection of indigenous languages. Students will learn on how individuals, families, and communities can work together to strengthen the use of Inuktitut every day. Mr. Speaker, using Inuktitut is an effort all Nunavummiut must make to ensure the survival of our language.

Mr. Speaker, we have had a total of 17 students enrolled since the program began in 2014 and 9 are now registered for the October courses. I would like to thank the Department of Culture and Heritage for supporting and enabling Nunavut Arctic College, through the Inuit Language Implementation Fund, to deliver this successful Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization. (interpretation) 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 Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

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

#### **Member's Statement 378 – 4(3): The Development of Diabetes in Nunavut**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a growing concern across Nunavut: the development of diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I have been recently diagnosed with diabetes, and I know from personal experience that diabetes is something that could sneak up on you, take you by surprise, and force sudden changes in your diet, lifestyle, and activity level.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a growing concern in northern populations, where diets have changed rapidly from generation to generation, and the choice of foods we now eat are largely determined by what's on the shelves in our stores and what's affordable. As we know, the issue of affordability and nutritious food is one that affects northerners deeply.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from the High Arctic noted concerns raised by his constituents who travel away from home for medical reasons that are finding that their dietary restrictions are not

accounted for when they stay in the medical boarding homes.

Mr. Speaker, in order to combat diabetes, we need resources and supports such as dieticians and nutritionists, counselling for addressing lifestyle changes brought on by a diabetes diagnosis, and appropriate guidance for monitoring blood sugar status and treatment options.

Since my diagnoses, I have met other Nunavummiut who also have diabetes and often I hear them tell me how frustrated they are because they don't know where to turn to for support or advice on how to manage their sugar levels or, for that matter, what to eat.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement today.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement today. Are there any nays? (interpretation) I don't hear any nays. Please proceed, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, when you become a diabetic, you find out very fast that everything has sugar. Even the foods that you thought were healthy are, in most cases, full of sugar.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a relatively recent occurrence in our population, but it is fast becoming a disease of great concern. Diabetes should be a great concern for it is a disease that displays little symptoms yet is dangerous enough to cause death. Those with the disease

are at a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease, meaning a stroke or heart attack, nerve damage due to excess amounts of sugar, and kidney, eye and lower extremity damage.

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

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

### **Member's Statement 379 – 4(3): Supporting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Principles**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut, residents of my community, and my colleagues.

I rise today to show my gratitude and happiness regarding something that I have worked hard on and I finally realized that. I woke up unexpectedly very happy about it this morning. I will be elaborating more about this issue that is near and dear to my heart.

Mr. Speaker, after I was elected and from the time I sat in the Legislative Assembly, I have worked very hard to make sure that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* (Inuit traditional knowledge) is fully recognized within the government. It is also something that must be implemented.

Traditional counselling is very important. It has strength within this House. Mr. Speaker, there were some young people sitting over in the gallery who were working very hard on this

issue and rightly recognized for it.

This government has to make sure that Inuit traditional knowledge is fully recognized in the workplace in a serious and proper manner. Those who commit suicide do so out of an overpowering sense of loss and disorientation. We must find ways to treat this issue not as a sickness. It is only if we provide counselling that we can treat this tragedy. We have to place it as a priority. Otherwise we will continue to run around trying to find solutions. Let's give it a whole new review.

As I am running out of time and there are a number of things I would like to say, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues for their show of support.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, I have been very diligent about bringing up *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and the implementation of it within the government.

Mr. Speaker, I am very approachable if anybody has any questions about why Mr. Shooyook is working very hard to implement Inuit traditional knowledge. The reason why I am so committed is that our lives are administered by another culture, thereby usurping the power of the parents of the children. That is part of the reason why lives are

being destroyed, with no seeming understanding of the impacts. I now understand that this is part of the reason why Inuit are having such difficulties.

I am not belittling any of the ministers and I fully support them, but what I oppose is the cultural ambivalence of their departments. They must acknowledge traditional knowledge through your ministerial portfolios and incorporate it into departmental operations.

During the sittings of the House I urge the ministers to recognize and implement Inuit traditional knowledge. The ministers respond by saying they fully support it and then I feel that it is going to be implemented within this government. Within the four years I have not seen any implementation of the Inuit traditional knowledge nor the resources provided to make sure that it is utilized.

Mr. Speaker, traditional counselling is also not being utilized, which is part of the problem. Can we at least try to utilize Inuit traditional knowledge without punishment for disciplining our children? That's part of the problem. What do we have to do so that there is full recognition and inclusion of Inuit knowledge within the government?

There are very few people left who know the traditional way of life. Who are we going to ask after they have passed away? I am urging the government while I'm still on this planet to make sure that the traditional knowledge is recorded and documented.

I urge the ministers to implement Inuit traditional knowledge and to put the old

and the new together. This is something that is very close to my heart and we only have 10 months left before the end of our term. We don't even have a year left. With that, let's come to an agreement so that we can start implementing it from 2017 and on.

During my term this will be my last statement regarding Inuit traditional knowledge, so I'm going to be looking forward to your support for IQ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 380 – 4(3):  
Suicide Prevention**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, fellow residents of Kugaaruk and people of Taloyoak, as well as my colleagues in the House.

I will start with a preamble prior to commencing my statement. An individual I represented in Taloyoak just passed on yesterday, who was an elder, Peeteekootee Tucktoo. I send my condolences to her family and children and we shall remember them in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my campaign platform when I ran and during the by-election part of my reasoning was to support youth, as my colleague alluded to earlier, who are at risk for suicide. As I campaigned in Taloyoak, I went on the radio with a phone-in show. It was also open to non-aired questions.

One woman called and stated, "If you are elected, I want you to champion suicide and prevention at the legislature during your term." She asked me that because of her compassion towards youth and now that lady is no longer with us as she passed away shortly after I was elected.

Just last week prior to the weekend a large conference was held in Iqaluit on this theme and prevention, and it was obvious it was a heavy subject as it isn't a little subject. I would ask those involved to ensure they take breaks when dealing with clients as it will be very difficult and hard, but to continue supporting them to have good lives.

I sincerely appreciate people in this field who can counsel others, and I know this issue was debated and discussed prior to my own election. I thank the people who are working on behalf of this.

I have run out of time, so I will just thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 381 – 4(3):  
Sharing Responsibility**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues, residents of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, as well as Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the need for us all to work together as community members, parents, and responsible citizens to find answers and solutions to social challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before of the need to relearn our traditional roles and responsibilities. The current need for responsible parenting skills can be attributed to the impact of historical events, which has affected many generations of Inuit. Mr. Speaker, it is important for the safety of our children and of our community that we work to regain the skills and strengths in parenting.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of potential routes we can take. Working with our local district education authorities, we can set up parent associations to promote parental engagement. We can use resources such as those published on the government's culture and heritage website, which provides guidelines for those in counselling roles for fellow Inuit. We can introduce and share traditional concepts by distributing short documents or reading out information over the local radio.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the government to work together with community groups and agencies to support initiatives which foster local self-empowerment. I believe that by working together, we can find solutions and improve our social well-being. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 382 – 4(3):  
Death of an Elder in Taloyoak**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues, ministers, Premier, Nunavummiut,

(interpretation) residents of Gjoa Haven, and those watching the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Yesterday the community of Taloyoak lost an elder, as mentioned by my colleague. She was a mother, grandmother, aunt, and sister-in-law to many. My condolences go out to the family of the elder. Mr. Speaker, she is also the sister-in-law of my wife. I was not in Gjoa Haven to comfort my wife and I wish I was.

Mr. Speaker, as in every small community, people will go to the person that has lost a relative. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say "thank you very much" to the people that went to my wife to comfort her at the time of her in need. Again I would like to say "thank you" to the community members of Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 383 – 4(3):  
Support for Clyde River in Seismic  
Testing Case**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my support for the community and people of Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, on the 30th of this month, just a few weeks from now, the Supreme Court of Canada is scheduled to hear Clyde River's appeal regarding the issue of seismic testing in the waters near the community.

Mr. Speaker, let me take a moment to read into the record the official Supreme Court summary of this case:

“The respondents applied to the National Energy Board for authorization to undertake a marine seismic survey program in coastal waters in Nunavut. Local Inuit groups and communities objected to the project. The NEB issued the requested authorization to the project proponents, on specified terms and conditions. The NEB also provided an environmental assessment report which outlined the consultation steps and activities undertaken by the project proponents and by the NEB itself. The Inuit of Clyde River brought an application for judicial review of the authorization, on various grounds including inadequate consultation.”

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that a number of entities, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board...

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, although I'm almost finished.

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

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

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has been actively seeking intervenor status.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important matter and I support my community and constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 384 – 4(3): Elections in Inuit Organizations**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As people may know, this week is when nominations will close for the position of the NTI president. I encourage individuals contemplating running and being elected for positions to this Inuit organization. I will appreciate all Inuit who run for putting their names forward as they are committed to serving fellow Inuit.

The land claims agreement we are abiding by took many years to negotiate and it was not a breezy affair as many issues were very complicated. The land claims agreement also requires this government to implement certain parts. Some parts have been implemented properly, yet we have areas that are not even implemented.

I further encourage all those Inuit interested in running for the position and to see if the NLCA can be further improved not just as Inuit for Inuit, but to benefit Nunavut as a whole. I will provide my support to all who run, just as I assist my fellow Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 385 – 4(3): Appreciation of Iisqaqivik**

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

I just want you to be aware that the Ilisaqsivik Society goes out to the communities to provide services to other communities, of which I am quite proud of, so I want to mention them to my colleagues.

The society recently travelled to Arctic Bay and I appreciate the hospitality of Arctic Bay residents as they went to the meetings offered to the community. They were very supportive. The group enjoyed the residents' involvement and it was quite easy to see the contribution of the group. I want to extend further thanks to the residents of Arctic Bay for being so welcoming and receptive to the delegation that travelled to their community.

I just wanted to speak to the success of the Ilisaqsivik Society as they are very dedicated with tangible benefits and I am even more grateful for that. Further, the fact that they travel to communities throughout Nunavut is another source of pride.

I again express my thanks to the Arctic Bay residents for their hospitality and warm welcome. I just wanted to speak to this event for my colleagues' benefit and to fellow Nunavummiut. 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. Member of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

#### **Return to Oral Question 418 – 4(3): Community Transportation Initiatives Program – Correction to Information Provided**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Return to oral question asked by Tom Sammurtok, MLA for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Question No. 418 – 4(3) on October 20, 2016 on the Community Transportation Initiatives Program – Correction to Information Provided.

The question was:

I was very pleased to note that a total of \$150,000 was provided during the 2015-16 fiscal year for the community access road projects in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

Can the minister indicate what projects her department has approved for funding in Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet for the current 2016-17 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Answer:

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Community Transportation Initiatives Program funding levels in fiscal year 2016-17 for Chesterfield Inlet was approved for \$100,000 in funding under Schedule A of the Community Transportation Initiatives Program, which is for community access roads funding.

Rankin Inlet was approved for \$70,000 of community access road funding and an additional \$17,200 in funding under

Schedule B of the policy, which is the small craft harbours capital program.

Question:

The government's *Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy* states that an annual call for proposals will be sent to all municipalities before the beginning of a new fiscal year.

Can the minister confirm what the deadline is for proposals to be submitted from municipalities to her department for funding during the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year?

Answer:

With regard to the deadline for proposals for the 2017-18 fiscal year, each March the department sends letters to all Nunavut municipalities seeking applications under this program. These letters set out a submission deadline, which is usually in the latter part of April. For the 2017-18 fiscal year the deadline is likely to be in April 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

**Return to Oral Question 446 – 4(3):  
Maintaining Dental and Medical  
Equipment**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond to an oral question asked by Mr. Alexander Sammurtoq, MLA for Rankin Inlet South, whereas he had asked me:

“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?”

Mr. Speaker, at the time I provided the member with some general information. I would like to provide a more detailed response, as I committed to.

My response is:

The Department of Health has a territorial procurement committee to look at replacing old equipment and set standards for the replacement process to ensure any new equipment purchased has preventative maintenance included.

Inspection of dental equipment is an ongoing process. There are a number of dental providers who service, repair, and install dental equipment as it is required across the territory. After a dental team visits a community, a trip report is submitted to the Department of Health that outlines the status of each piece of dental equipment in the clinic. There is also a capital survey given to all dental providers visiting the community to verify the make, model, serial number, and inventory tags of the equipment. The results of the survey help to determine if the equipment has to be repaired or replaced.

In terms of medical equipment, the Department of Health has multiple preventative maintenance contracts in place for key medical equipment, such as CT scanners and ultrasound machines, and continues discussions with

manufacturers on all medical equipment assets.

The Department of Health makes efforts to address medical equipment needs. An RFP to purchase and install digital radiography equipment in community health centres is now in the evaluation phase. Updated diagnostic equipment will improve patient care, decrease wait times, and reduce waste products and chemicals associated with film X-ray machines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Languages, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Return to Oral Question 465 – 4(3):  
Inuit Language Implementation  
Fund**

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question that was asked by MLA for Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak, the number is 465 – 4(3), on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, and the subject is Inuit language implementation.

The question was:

“Can the minister indicate when the government plans to bring [sections 3 to 5, 9, and 10] of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* into force?”

My response:

The implementation of these provisions requires careful considerations. The Office of the Languages Commissioner assessed the readiness of businesses in meeting the requirements of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. It was found

that while businesses surveyed generally provide their reception services, signage, advertising, and posters in Inuktitut, few have their brochures or websites in Inuktitut, few have prepared a language plan, and most require more information about their specific obligations. On average, businesses estimated that it would take them about 1.8 years to be compliant with the Act.

Taking stock of these findings, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation awarded a contribution to the Nunavut Economic Development Association to improve communications and training on the requirements of the language legislation. This resulted in the development of the *Handbook: How to Comply with Nunavut’s Language Acts* and the delivery of workshops in 2014-15 and 2015-16 to train community economic development officers, who are often the main contact person for local businesses. These professionals are now better informed and have the tools to assist their community members to ensure a smoother and more successful implementation across the territory.

Since 2013-14 the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has also made funding available to small businesses to help them improve compliance with their Inuit language obligations. However, there have been minimal requests for it to date. As we start working on the next Uqausivut Language Plan, we will review the program and how to make it more effective.

In consultation with my colleagues, I am committed to prepare for the coming into force of subsection 12(7)(c) of the

*Official Languages Act* and sections 3 to 5, 9, and 10 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* by the end of the current fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Siku Rojas. This bright grade niner is here today from the Iqaluit high school on Take Your Kid to Work Day. She is my niece and I would like for you to welcome her. One day she wishes to become a politician, so hopefully I have given her a little bit of a taste of what it's like and please join me in welcoming her.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Thomas Rohner, a *Nunatsiaq News* reporter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): 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 like to recognize a resident of my community Hanna Nookiguak. She has been an observer/communicator for a very long time. I would like my colleagues to join me in acknowledging her. 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. This is the first I have beat my colleague to recognize visitors, as he generally goes first whenever we try to recognize residents from our community.

Mr. Speaker, without further ado I wish to recognize a visitor in the gallery. This person works in the Arviat hamlet as the operations (interpretation ends) work foreman and public works director, (interpretation) and I believe these two terms are interchangeable. He is also my maternal cousin, a fellow resident of Arviat, Daniel Kablutsiak. Please welcome him to the gallery and the House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

>> *Laughter*

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Is this the bilingual version?

>> *Laughter*

I would like to welcome Mr. Daniel Kablutsiak from Arviat. He's the hamlet foreman. I'll have to elaborate more than

my counterpart. He's the one that makes sure everyone has water in their house, gets sewage pumped out, gets the snow cleared off the roads in the winter, and he's the best dust suppression guy to do it. If communities want to know how to stop their dust, talk to Daniel Kablutsiak. He knows his stuff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): As usual.

>> *Laughter*

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 516 – 4(3): The Development of Diabetes in Nunavut

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Hurray! Thanks for being allowed to go first.

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

Mr. Speaker, in my statement earlier today I addressed the growing concern of diabetes in the north. It seems to me that the number of new cases diagnosed is rapidly increasing and it is not clear to us how the Department of Health is responding to this development.

Can the minister provide an update on the rates of diabetes in the territory and

indicate whether he would be willing to provide details on the number of cases of diabetes that have been diagnosed in Nunavut over the past ten years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for picking up the torch from where I left off from when I was a regular member. I believe I had asked some questions on diabetes in the past and it was a question that I brought forward into my new role early on.

Just to give the member the direct response to her answer, approximately 4 out of 1,000 or little bit less than. It has been quite consistent over the last six to seven years. In the last ten years there have been approximately 1,200 cases across the territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his response. As I noted earlier, it seems that the number of new cases of diabetes in Nunavut is increasing, but the amount of funding and resources dedicated to addressing this issue does not seem to be increasing.

Can the minister clarify what specific resources and funding allocations have been put in place to address the development of diabetes across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do beg to differ a little bit on the member's presumption of ever-increasing numbers. We do have new cases that are identified every year. That being said, the numbers are fairly consistent. Although one is too many, I recognize that, it is a chronic disease that has been more and more prevalent throughout the country and the world in a lot of jurisdictions.

With regard to funding, it is difficult to identify specific funding to diabetes. There are so many programs that are involved. I have spoken in the previous week to community health and wellness committees and coordinators that identify issues in their communities that they want to develop programming to focus on. That is an option for those coordinators to put submissions forward.

There are a number of different healthy living literature and recommendations that we're continuously promoting through our Healthy Living, including through our website [livinghealthy.gov.nu.ca](http://livinghealthy.gov.nu.ca) that give people very detailed information on what constitutes a healthy diet. There are recipe programs. There are lists of healthy food that we recommend on the website. There is also information comparing country food to store-bought food.

When the member is asking me for specific funding numbers, I can't do that, Mr. Speaker. We're taking a very diverse approach to this issue. In recognition of how it has occurred in other populations that have been

introduced to store-bought food, we recognize that that is something and that's why we work from an educational standpoint so that we can help mitigate the number of cases of diabetes in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually I think I remember in the past there was a specific funding allocation for diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I have noted from personal experience an extreme lack of services to assist individuals suffering from diabetes to manage and cope with this disease.

In some jurisdictions there are entities such as diabetes medical committees which provide support and education, and I understand in Ontario it's like up to three weeks they work with individuals who have been diagnosed with diabetes, which provide support and education for individuals with diabetes.

Will the minister commit to setting up similar committees across Nunavut to assist individuals in managing this disease? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly do recognize the impact that this diagnosis has had on the member and, through personal experiences, identified that there are some perceived gaps in the level of information through the health centres. I

do want to assure the member that there is information available and if she feels that there's an individual circumstance that I can look into personally, I will. That being said, our community health professionals are very well trained to educate people on how to mitigate symptoms to how to adapt their lifestyle to make sure that diabetes doesn't have a negative impact on their lifestyle.

I'm not sure where the member thinks we get all resources to create all these committees and such. I can't commit to that right now. It's all part of our Healthy Living experience and program provision that the Department of Health has to help educate on what options and what services are available. Maybe the member wants to write me a formal letter to describe a little bit more how she envisions a committee such as this impacting Nunavummiut. When the cases are so scattered across the territory, it would be difficult to coordinate such a venture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurток.

#### **Question 517 – 4(3): Community-based Search and Rescue Organizations**

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

Mr. Speaker, community search and rescue organizations provide an invaluable service to our territory and I applaud the government for continuing

to demonstrate its support for these organizations through its annual funding contributions.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, according to the current main estimates, the department allocated \$500,000 to community search and rescue organizations for the 2015-16 fiscal year, which ended on March 31, 2016.

Can the minister tell us today how many community search and rescue organizations did his department provide funding to during the 2015-16 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that search and rescue in each community plays a vital role. Like I stated before, they're one organization that you hope you never have to use, but you're sure happy they're there when you need them.

As for the amount of funding that has gone, I can't tell him exactly how much each community got, but we have had searches in every community in Nunavut. I can just assume from that that each community got money, but as for the breakdown of how much each community got, I don't have that level of detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a number of my colleagues have previously indicated in the House, community search and rescue organizations continue to struggle to access adequate funding to meet their equipment needs. While I recognize that each organization is responsible for applying for funding under the department's *Community Search and Rescue Organization Support Policy*, I believe that it is important that each community maintain a well-equipped search and rescue organization when possible.

Can the minister tell us today under what circumstances would a community search and rescue organization's request for funding for mobile equipment be refused? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my current understanding that there is no way right now where the GN buys capital equipment on a regular basis for search and rescue committees. I know at one time, I don't know if it's all but a lot of them were given ARGOs as a piece of capital equipment for searches, an all-terrain vehicle.

As Mr. Rumbolt had asked me earlier about the search and rescue policy, we still haven't finalized or haven't signed off yet where we can buy replacement parts for searchers for their private equipment. I know that some communities run bingos and other fundraising methods to buy their own capital equipment, such as snowmobiles, ATVs, and boats, but as of right now we

don't have a mechanism in place to fund search and rescue committees on a regular basis to buy capital mobile equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. Mobile equipment, while long-lasting, ultimately has a limited lifespan. Community search and rescue organizations will continue to need mobile equipment replacements on a regular basis. While the government may not always have the funding available to meet these needs, it may have the resources to assist search and rescue organizations to access funding from other venues.

Can the minister tell us what specific discussions, if any, his department has had with its federal counterparts or other organizations to secure funding for community-based search and rescue organizations? 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 haven't had any discussions myself with any counterparts, but I know my staff always has discussions and I know one of the discussions that have been going on is the Coast Guard Auxiliary program to come up to Nunavut. It is in some communities now and right now within that program, the people in the auxiliary are using their own boats, but I know there have been talks as to how we can acquire boats

from the Coast Guard in terms of helping out the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the programs. We're just in the very preliminary stages of talking, but I know that these talks are ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 518 – 4(3): Federal Fall Economic Statement**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, good afternoon to the people of Baker Lake, all Nunavummiut, and my colleagues.

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

Yesterday the federal finance minister delivered his fall economic statement. I want to focus my question today on the federal announcement that \$2 billion in infrastructure funding will be provided over 11 years for rural and northern communities. If my calculator is working correctly, that works out to just a little over \$181 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, his 2012 Budget Address estimated that Nunavut's infrastructure deficit was approximately \$6 billion, and that figure is almost five years out of date.

Is our minister satisfied with yesterday's federal announcement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for that interesting question.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the federal finance minister issued the news release or statement yesterday to get everybody's attention for the upcoming 2017 budget and he certainly got my attention.

Last year I was in Ottawa and I presented him with two business cases for housing and energy. My officials and I are working on similar business cases now that I will present to the minister of finance. There's no question that that statement yesterday is important, but we don't have any details. We still have to get the details to see what he's referring to, but we're certainly encouraged by his statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister sort of led into my first supplementary here.

Yesterday's federal announcement indicated that one of its priorities will be to fund projects that will, and I quote, "reduce reliance on diesel."

We all know that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is in urgent need of resources with which to replace aging power plants across the territory.

Can the minister indicate how quickly our government will be making a fresh proposal to Ottawa for funding in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, we're already working on it. There is an opportunity every year when we have our federal-provincial finance ministers' meeting for us to go down and meet with the finance minister.

Our officials actually meet beforehand, but then the finance ministers meet face-to-face and we have an opportunity to discuss our business cases, outline our issues in Nunavut, and I have been doing that for many years with Minister Morneau as the third federal finance minister. I'm certainly heartened by their awareness of our issues in the north. We have talked about housing. We have talked about the infrastructure deficit and certainly our energy deficit.

Last year we did put a proposal on the table for \$250 million for energy. Although we didn't get anything, much like everybody else, we have to lobby to make our case. We will be doing that again, especially in light of the recent announcement by the Prime Minister about carbon taxes and carbon pricing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, as one of my predecessors used to say, it's no secret that there are no roads connecting Nunavut to the south, and we are highly dependent on air travel.

Earlier in our sitting we spent several days considering the proposed capital

estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and significant attention was paid to the need for new and upgraded airport infrastructure, including for example improvements to Baker Lake's airport.

As I have pointed out on several occasions, the recent federal report of the *Canada Transportation Act Review Panel* recommended new investments in airport infrastructure in Nunavut. Will the minister ensure that Nunavut's submissions to the federal government take into account this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being a finance minister is a very challenging position and I listen to you all and to my colleagues as well.

Everybody is looking for additional funding for their communities and for our territory, and I'm no different than anyone else. I do acknowledge that there is a huge infrastructure deficit; municipal infrastructure, private sector infrastructure. I could stand here for hours and talk about it all. There is just not enough money to go around.

If the Minister of Finance Canada is signalling about his upcoming budget, I'm going to signal about our upcoming budget. We have been working very hard on this side about our budget for quite a while. In 2017 we're going to have to be very prudent about the funding we do have. I'm very heartened again, as I said, with the minister of

finance. I'm going to ask him for additional help for Nunavut.

As we saw last year, they cut us back on our Territorial Formula Financing. That's going to cost us \$40 million over the current and next two fiscal years. We've got some other additional cutbacks because of slower growth. We had a school burn down in Cape Dorset and that's costing us money. It's tough all over. It's no different in Nunavut.

My colleagues of course meet with their counterparts in Ottawa and the Premier meets with the Prime Minister at various meetings, and all of us make our cases why we need additional help in Nunavut to address our housing and infrastructure issues. "Invest in Nunavut," I have been saying it for years. I can go a long way back to my days as mayor and president of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

Invest in Nunavut and then we can return investments in southern Canada and increase the Gross Domestic Product. It creates jobs for Nunavummiut and Canadians. If we can get that message across, I think it would be very good for all of us in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 519 – 4(3): Government of Nunavut Responses to Resolutions Adopted at the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

As the Premier will recall, the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association was held last month in Cambridge Bay. A number of MLAs were able to take part in the meeting, and I had the privilege of tabling the adopted resolutions. There are eight of them there from the AGM earlier in our fall sitting.

Can the minister indicate which department has been assigned to coordinate the Government of Nunavut's formal responses to the resolutions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I did attend the KIA AGM and I did a presentation there. I was quite pleased that there were a lot of participants and a lot of passion about what's happening in the Kitikmeot specifically with the Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, I can't answer his question at this point, but I'll certainly get back to him on what resolutions pertain to exactly which departments. There are a number of different departments that were affected and I will certainly get back to him with a definitive answer on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the resolutions that were adopted at KIA's recent annual general meeting concerned the Grays Bay Road and Port Project.

On September 21, 2016 our Member of Parliament asked a question in the House of Commons concerning this project to the federal Minister of Infrastructure. In his response, the federal minister stated that the project, and I quote, “is not at the stage where it can move forward.”

Can the Premier indicate today how the GN will be responding to the resolution that was passed at KIA’s AGM concerning the Grays Bay Road and Port Project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. It’s certainly one of the questions that I can answer.

Mr. Speaker, we did submit to the federal government on the project along with three others and I am glad to say that two projects were approved in the past and they’re going into the construction phase.

For the Grays Bay Road and Port we just signed an MOU on July 9 with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association on working together to try to move that project forward. We do need a lot of federal assistance for the project to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, although we’re waiting for phase 2 of the federal government’s budget cycle, we have been modifying our proposals to suit their requirements and the criteria requested by the federal government. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to modify and do whatever we

can to move the file forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. Mr. Speaker, another one of the resolutions that were adopted at KIA’s recent annual general meeting concerned air services to the Kitikmeot. I anticipate that when the government responds to this resolution, it will provide an update on the federal Competition Bureau’s investigation into the codeshare agreements between the airlines that serve our communities.

Can the Premier tell us today if he has any news regarding the Competition Bureau’s investigation into the codeshare agreements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t have the actual facts of what the Competition Bureau is doing at this point, but everybody is aware the codeshare arrangement that the airlines had, including in the Kitikmeot. In the Kitikmeot there are over 400 seats that were lost for weeks, so it was very difficult for the smaller communities to get transportation in and out of their communities.

I can’t speak on behalf of what the Competition Bureau is going to be doing. I don’t fully have all the facts within my office, but once I do have that we will certainly share it with the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 520 – 4(3): Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, the new Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation was established earlier this year. The Premier and the Minister of Education sit on its board of directors alongside the president and vice-president of NTI and the heads of the three regional Inuit organizations. The Premier made a Minister's Statement on this new entity during our sitting of March 16, 2016.

Can the Premier update us today on how many meetings the board of directors has held since he last updated the House back in March? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. Mr. Speaker, on March 5 there was a signed agreement to the lawsuit that NTI had done for the federal government. There is an agreement between the three parties involved, the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and of course the Government of Canada.

Within that agreement it is articulated that the Nunavut Inuit training corporation be established. As the member has indicated, I do sit on the

board, the Inuit training corporation, which is called Makigiaqta, and of course Minister Quassa, Minister responsible for Education and Nunavut Arctic College, we both sit on that.

Mr. Speaker, since that time we've had two board meetings, one January 19 of 2016 and June 1 of 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation was established based on the settlement agreement that was reached in relation to NTI's lawsuit against the federal government. Its mandate is to "provide training and skills acquisition programs to Nunavut Inuit for the purpose of enhancing the ability of Inuit to qualify for, obtain, retain or advance in employment."

Can the Premier indicate today when he will be tabling the corporation's current budget and strategic plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member of the board of directors, we do participate in the discussions. At the last discussion of June 1 we did come up with a strategic plan that includes eight priority areas. Mr. Speaker, we also formed an advisory council to assist us in training proposals or any type of training that we want to include.

I did my Minister's Statement this afternoon on the extra \$40 million we received through that process. That's going to help us out because in the past we could not make multi-year plans that were suitable for Inuit training.

Now with this we do have an opportunity to train Inuit in professional positions. When I say "professional positions," I mean we need biologists, we need doctors, we need more nurses, and we need scientists and engineers. In the past it was very difficult to do that. Not only that, we really hope that we can get more Inuit involved in governments. We need more policy advisers and policy analysts, and there's no doubt that once an Inuk is trained in that, they would be working the next day in any government, including NTI.

Mr. Speaker, the eight priorities that we established and we want to pursue through our strategy are something that both Minister Quassa and I are quite proud of. It's something that we can work on some base work and actually start getting Inuit trained up for the employment that exists out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier responded to part of the question I was going to ask.

Earlier this year it was announced that an advisory council would be established. I'm not sure what the Inuktitut term is for "advisory." It would be established to provide advice to the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation on the "effective use of the training

fund." Can the Premier confirm who has been appointed to sit on the advisory council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. The advisory council is going to be assisting the board, both the Government of Canada and NTI of course, in evaluating and assessing proposals that come in. The proposals are going to be coming in from all levels of government, including industry and anybody else out there that may be interested in submitting proposals, including our Inuit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I do have the names in front of me here of the advisory council. There are seven: Aluki Kotierk of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; Michelle Buchan of Kitikmeot Inuit Association; Annie Tattuinee, Kivalliq Inuit Association; Eva Groves, Qikiqtani Inuit Association; Virginia Mearns, Government of Nunavut; Richard Paton, Government of Nunavut; Joanna Laskey, Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 521 – 4(3): Conservation Officer Boat in Qikiqtarjuaq**

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

Mr. Speaker, for many years in my community the conservation officers, who are sometimes called renewable resource officers, have had a boat. It hasn't been launched for many years and I imagine that other communities experience the same situation.

Mr. Speaker, with that being the circumstances in our communities, the boats serve no purpose and deteriorate due to weather conditions.

Mr. Speaker, is one of the reasons for the lack of usage of the boats that the conservation officers aren't taught the basics of marine boating safety or trained to operate the local boat? Is this part of the reason? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to his question, I can respond that his renewable resource officers, who are my conservation officers, do receive training to operate boats in marine waters, but it depends on numbers of trainees. Once a threshold is reached, the marine training and boat operation modules are taught. As a matter of fact when I used to be in that position, I was trained to operate our marine vessels, as well as cold water survival training.

I can't respond as to why the boat is not being launched in his community. However, the purpose overall is to have trained conservation officers capable of operating the boat in all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The boats can provide many benefits to our communities, especially to local search and rescue personnel. They don't have access to a boat in our community. During the summer many hunters are out and about and searches are required sometimes on multiple occasions.

Further, the local SAR groups conduct these searches using their own boats. These larger vessels would provide immediate benefits to these groups. The boat is simply sitting and in the case of our community, it has been sitting for many years now.

Can these matters be reviewed by the Minister of Environment to see how to better utilize the boats we have available so that communities can benefit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will direct my officials to look at that. However, if searches are required during the summer and the conservation officers have a boat and are willing to support the group, then they can assist, but I will consider this situation.

I can also tell the member that the boat can't just be used by anyone and we can't agree to its usage for search and rescue. If the conservation officers feel like assisting, they can use the boat to

assist. However, I will look at this matter further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 522 – 4(3): Funding Increase Request**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development.

It will pertain largely to the Hunter Support Program in our communities. The policy states that each community is eligible to receive \$30,000 from the program per year. As we all know, smaller, non-decentralized communities lack employment opportunities and obviously hunting contributes largely to people not involved in the workforce.

I would like to ask the minister if she can revisit this, as the \$30,000 today isn't tied to the cost of living and it rarely gets spent due to the limitation of the fund for one community. As a hunter, even just purchasing fuel, gasoline, bullets, and supplies is very expensive, especially as an unemployed hunter.

Can the minister revisit this program funding issue and consider increasing the funds to the smaller communities by adding to the \$30,000 for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. At this time the hamlet councils in the communities have a limit of \$30,000 to make applications. Looking at this, perhaps for the past two years of this program, these funds haven't really been accessed. We now have full staff that can negotiate with the communities. We just finally filled a position that can start communicating with the communities and we have noticed that there's more uptake of this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps you can commit to looking into this, especially for the smaller communities because this can be very beneficial to them. They have to fill out applications just for the \$30,000 to be used for a whole year.

I believe that the department has to look into this further because the cost of fuel has to be paid for by the hunters. Perhaps the minister can commit to looking into this for the smaller communities especially to see if they can increase this line item. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. This is a program and we review the programs annually. Yes, we

will review it. I don't mind reviewing this because it's done annually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 523 – 4(3): Evaluating Educational Standards**

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

Mr. Speaker, it has often been stated that Nunavut students who move to other jurisdictions to continue their schooling find that their level of education is below the expected standard. On the other hand, there have been many Nunavut students who have graduated from Nunavut high schools and have gone on to be very successful in post-secondary programs.

Can the minister clearly describe what programs his department has in place to prepare students who seek out higher level and more challenging studies as they progress through the high school grades? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for requesting information on that. (interpretation ends) As the member is aware, our high school curriculum is based on the Alberta curriculum. Just to make it very clear that some of the elements of the schoolwork that we have are Nunavut-specific, but in general we utilize and follow the Alberta

curriculum, which meets the minimum national standard and is recognized by post-secondary and other institutions nationally.

(interpretation) The education system we are using in Nunavut has the same strength as Alberta's education system. That's why we use the curriculum from the Alberta education system and it could be recognized anywhere in Canada. I thank my colleague for asking that question because every time our students graduate, they can further their education anywhere in Canada.

There are different reasons why a student has lower education. We need to inform and consult with the parents through parental engagement. We have developed various initiatives. However, I would like to state that from kindergarten to grade 12, we use the Alberta curriculum, which has been recognized nationally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear a response, so I will ask it in Inuktitut. Can the minister clearly describe what programs his department has in place to prepare students who seek out higher level and more challenging studies as they progress through high school? I'm trying to find out if they have programs in the schools to prepare students to seek out higher education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. The current curriculum is designed so that students can learn different things. I can even show him 40 pages of courses for our students.

Every early spring the principal analyzes students to determine what they have or have not completed. Students have a choice of what they want to take. They make these choices in early spring. Once they get into the higher grades, they can select which stream they want to use.

That being the case, all the students and their parents know what the students are taking because the teachers keep them informed and provide direction as to which stream might be better. As I said, students can choose different courses and streams with help from their parents. This is so that the students make improvements when selecting their courses with their parents involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. When students feel they're not being challenged academically enough, they understandably wish to be helped and that is the main focus of my question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we occasionally hear stories of Nunavut students who have made great academic success, but I have never seen any official figures from the government on this, such as on how many high school graduates apply for and continue with post-secondary studies.

Can the minister clarify whether or not his department keeps track of the number of high school graduates who apply for and continue with post-secondary studies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're very proud of our high school graduates anywhere in Nunavut and they are prepared if they want to go anywhere else. Once they graduate from grade 12, if they want to take post-secondary studies, we don't have any such assistance right now. What I can tell you is that there are programs at Arctic College to assist and track the graduates as they advance through their studies. We don't really do that, but we are very proud of people who graduate from grade 12 and go on to post-secondary studies. I can provide more information to my colleague if we're going to keep track of high school graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 524 – 4(3): Suicide Prevention Initiatives in the Kitikmeot**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention.

As the minister will be aware, two of the resolutions that were adopted at the

recent annual general meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, which I had the honour of attending, concerned the importance of suicide prevention initiatives.

I want to acknowledge Kitty Taipagak, Shannon Kayaitok, Susie Kemaktun, and Betty Ann Kadlun for moving and seconding these important resolutions.

Can the minister indicate if he has had the opportunity to review these resolutions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Mr. George Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As these resolutions were tabled fairly recently, I have look at them, but I can't say with any confidence that I have analyzed them in any great detail. Work is ongoing and I'm sure we will be collaborating with the Premier's Office on a formal response to KIA.

That being said, whenever we look at suicide prevention activities and resolutions from organizations such as KIA, I applaud their continued focus on it and as I have said quite often and will continue to say, it's not just the government that is going to provide a solution to suicide prevention across this territory. It's going to come from all levels and partnerships and it's got to grow from the community to assist in overcoming some of these challenges that lead people to consider these thoughts.

When I do have an opportunity to look at those resolutions in further detail, I will definitely be following up with all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He said that he hasn't completely reviewed the resolutions from KIA. Now that he's aware, I have another question for the minister. (interpretation ends) In June of this year the Legislative Assembly approved approximately \$4.5 million in new funding for the implementation of the *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy*. Can the minister describe the extent to which this new funding included region-specific initiatives for the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. There is about \$4.5 million that was allocated through the Quality of Life Secretariat, of which I'm responsible for. To get into specifics, those monies were allocated and I'm going to say "finally" from actual actionable funding that we can provide to our action plans on prevention of suicide.

When we're looking at historical, there was a suicide strategy that was provided to Nunavut that a lot of hard work went into, but at the time there was no money allocated to fund some of the solutions that strategy outlined.

Now with the action plan that we're working on right now, we actually have some funding developed too. We've got more PYs. I know my Quality of Life Division and my associate deputy minister have been working very hard to staff the positions.

I don't have that level of detail to see what is exactly funded in the Kitikmeot, but I can say that over half the money, \$2.6 million, is planned to be spent on community-led initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his partial response. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate how many positions in his department focus on suicide prevention initiatives, and can he clarify how many of these positions are located in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Prevention of Suicide, Mr. Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had mentioned, my associate deputy minister has been working very hard to staff the positions that are outlined within the Quality of Life Division. Unfortunately I just don't have that information at my fingertips right now. Mr. Speaker, I can endeavour to communicate with the member opposite later on today. I can get that information to him and specifically whether any of those positions are

located in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 525 – 4(3): High Arctic Transportation**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in the High Arctic the airline service has been a real problem this fall. Maybe the weather was the problem. I don't know. Medical travellers trying to get home to Resolute Bay wait for long periods of time. The materials and fresh produce that are ordered are spoiled by the time they reach the people and the people who ordered them have to throw them away, which costs a lot of money. With that being the case, the medical travellers go through challenging times.

Can the minister consider how the services can be improved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, maybe I didn't quite understand. I think he's trying to ask the Department of Health about the services that are provided to people who go on medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Shooyook, please clarify your question.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about transportation. I'm asking about how there can be improvements in transportation in the High Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. I can consult with the Minister of Health and the member on exactly what the problems are with transportation or airlines and if it was due to weather. I'll look more closely into that and I can discuss that with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister consider how airline services in Resolute Bay can be improved? I know that airstrip conditions are the cause in Grise Fiord. That becomes a real problem when you travel to the community and even I've had problems. How can the airline services be improved? This has been an ongoing problem for residents of Grise Fiord throughout the years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Yes, we can look into that. The only airplanes that can land in Grise Fiord are DHC-6s. They have a small population of 163 people there.

We are presently looking at the document we tabled. It's not only for airplane traffic, but it's looking at air terminal buildings for the 20-year plan. That document describes what we should be doing, but some of them look very far into the future and it hasn't been defined yet. I'll ask my officials about the status of that plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for giving me a very clear answer. Thank you.

Minister, small twin-engine aircraft are used up there and I believe Kenn Borek operates that aircraft. It is just totally inconvenient. It goes there just twice a week. We should find a way to negotiate changes to the scheduling and routing of the flights so that they go there more often.

I would like to ask the minister because there are problems with the airstrip. When it gets warmer there and once you have the opportunity, can you go to that airport? There is another small airstrip near the community that is quite long. Can you consider the use of that other airstrip to see if it can be used to increase service? However, it's at a high

altitude. I would like to know if the minister can have that airstrip checked to see if it's safe to use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): I thank my colleague, Mr. Speaker. A very long time ago I landed in Grise Fiord on the sea ice. That was a long time ago. Your airstrip, not the airport terminal, was built in 1992. We already know that it needs to be upgraded and it needs to have gravel put on to the airstrip. They also need to have a gravel pile available for the airstrip all the time. The need for upgrading and gravel is already known. We have been told that it is usable until 2030, but I will check into your concerns to see exactly what they are, but from the information I have, it's not a critical matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The time for question period has expired. Member for (interpretation ends) Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

**Motion 036 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period**

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank

you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

**Question 526 – 4(3): Need for Swimming Pools in Nunavut**

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

Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions I have stood up in this House to raise my constituents' requests for a swimming pool. Residents from both Coral Harbour and Naujaat continue to approach me on a regular basis to discuss the need for swimming pools in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to emphasize that the smaller communities should have access to swimming facilities, which could help to improve the safety and well-being of Nunavummiut.

In fact the construction of a swimming pool has been one of the top priorities for Coral Harbour. According to its integrated community sustainability plan, a swimming pool has been the community's second priority for new infrastructure since 2010.

Can the minister indicate what specific discussions his department has had with the Municipality of Coral Harbour concerning the possibility of constructing a swimming pool in that community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for, at the very least, being persistent on his concerns. Coral Harbour and Naujaat both, according to the member, have been asking for that. When the infrastructure needs are so great in Nunavut here, it's hard to justify some of the stuff sometimes.

I'll take for example in Coral Harbour there, it was one of their priorities, but we also had the airport road that washed out and that was quite a substantial cost that had to be incurred. You have to weigh sometimes what is really needed. It was deemed that to fix the road to the airport was really needed because people have to be able to get to the airport when the plane comes to leave and to come.

Coral Harbour has been getting funds from the aquatic operations. It's not there for building a swimming pool or aquatic centre, but it's for operation of one and they have been getting funds. As for Naujaat, they have not been applying for any of the aquatic operation funds.

I know the member had brought up some of the concerns before about using existing buildings at times for a swimming pool when they are not being used, such as garages and stuff like that. I informed the member that due to mould issues, high humidity, and other stuff, it's not very practical.

As for exactly what talks have been going on between my department and the Municipality of Coral Harbour, I can't say exactly what they talked about.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year the federal and territorial governments jointly announced that Nunavut will be receiving more than \$25 million under the federal Small Communities Fund to, and I quote, "provide funding for priority public infrastructure projects that deliver on local needs in communities across the territory."

According to information provided by the federal and territorial governments, a portion of this funding will be allocated to the City of Iqaluit's new aquatic centre.

Can the minister indicate if any funding under the Small Communities Fund will be made available for the construction of swimming facilities in smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funds that were announced, yes, Iqaluit is getting their share. As for the remaining funds, none of it is earmarked for aquatic centres to other communities in Nunavut. The bulk of it will be used for fixing up solid waste facilities and to upgrade arenas. We don't have any plans right now to use any of that money for aquatic centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue is something that is really pushed hard on. During the mayors' conference in Rankin Inlet, which I attended, a member of the Coral Harbour hamlet council was there and posed a question to me. I know it's hard for departmental officials to answer questions, but I have requested it a number of times for both Coral Harbour and Taloyoak.

The minister should take this into consideration because the communities have been pushing for it. Can the minister keep requesting money for this from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Small Communities Fund is all spoken for. The projects are already identified and the monies are spoken for and will be spent.

As for the pushing for swimming pools for everybody, I know the member realizes that we are competing with schools, nursing stations, treatment centres, and elders facilities. I can go on and on. Our needs are just way more than the amount of money that we have, unless the federal government would come up with a program that says, "This is for aquatic centres." I'm not saying it will never happen, but there are a lot of pressing issues that generally get more urgent needs than the aquatic centre.

As for the Small Communities Fund, that fund is completely all spoken for, so there are no funds left there for that, but the door is not completely closed. It's just about closed on aquatic centres because of so many needs that are deemed to be priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 527 – 4(3): Devolution**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier and they concern the statement that he made on Monday concerning devolution.

As we know, the devolution agreements that were signed with the Yukon and Northwest Territories governments resulted in the transfer of a number of federal public service positions to the two territorial governments.

When I last raised this issue back in March, the Premier estimated that approximately 138 federal positions could be coming over to us as part of a final devolution settlement.

Since the World Series is being played this week, can the Premier indicate today if this estimate is still "in the ballpark"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member for Niaqunngu. Mr.

Speaker, we're always trying to find ways to improve our situation here in Nunavut. Some of these things that we talk about, of course, are human resources. Once the transfer of authority is given to Nunavut, we do have to ensure that the requirements through devolution are met. There's no doubt that there are going to be some transfers of federal personnel into Nunavut. That was our best guess at the time and it still is at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Premier. As we know, the shortage of staff housing units in Nunavut has resulted in our government being unable to fill a significant number of its existing positions, so it is important for us to consider our ability to absorb between 100 and 200 new employees overnight. Can the Premier indicate if the devolution talks are also looking at transferring federal assets to the GN, including federal staff housing units and office space? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our negotiations there's a considerable amount of discussions that go on and yes, we look at all options, including that. I can't get into details of the discussions, but we're looking to find ways to ease the transfer of personnel into the Nunavut government and that's one of the discussions we're having throughout our

negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the issues that we talk a lot about in the House is the importance of increasing the number of Inuit employees in the territorial public service. Can the Premier indicate what impact the proposed transfer of federal positions is projected to have on our Inuit employment numbers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it absolutely clear that we haven't gotten back to the negotiating table with the new federal government. We have made efforts to get back to the negotiating table. Just recently there was a discussion with the tables there on setting up priorities and the scheduling for negotiations.

In December we will have a fairly good idea of what the negotiations are going to be, but of course there is going to be impact on the transfer of personnel into the Nunavut government. Just like anything else, we want to try to maintain our level of beneficiaries within this government and we will ensure that there are going to be quite a few discussions pertaining to that.

Mr. Speaker, we don't know exactly what may happen or how many positions

are going to be transferred over, but we do have an idea and we want to ensure that beneficiaries are given this opportunity for these positions. Again, with my colleagues here, we fully understand that there is going to be an impact and of course that's why I look to working very closely with the Nunavut Inuit training corporation, Makigiaqta, to ensure that we are able to put beneficiaries into these positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 528 – 4(3): Suicide Prevention Conference**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health.

I would first like to thank him for being very helpful when we had the suicide prevention workshop. I was able to participate at the conference after the sitting here. It was very hard to participate, but we do come up with new ideas when it comes to suicide prevention. It was very interesting and they had some very good ideas.

I would first like to ask the minister if he would be able to table a copy of the proceedings some time soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for again continuing to bring awareness to this conference that just

occurred. It's too often when we have conferences or meetings of this nature that there's a lot of energy that is drawn and used up during the conference. Invariably sometimes some of the momentum gets lost after, so I applaud the member for keeping the focus on some of the results from the conference that occurred with the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention.

With regard to a report or a summary of information, we don't have that right now. The conference did just end this past weekend. I know staff within the Quality of Life are going over a lot of the information and digesting it, and likely will produce an internal report that will be used. A lot of the information will be used to help us formulate our long-term suicide prevention strategy.

As far as tabling a report, until it's substantiated, researched, and worked into a strategy on how we can bring action to it, I'm not sure if it would bring the appropriate value to this legislature on something that's still in the works and needs implementation and action behind it.

Maybe I'm a little unclear on what exactly the member is looking for, but I hope that my response can give him an indication on what type of material we're looking at producing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were quite a lot of topics that were discussed when we broke up into groups and I wasn't able to participate in them all. There are some

issues that were covered that can be very useful. Our government provided the money to hold that conference. What I would like to see is a copy of the proceedings tabled in the House so that we can take action. It's going to be a benefit for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, like the member that's asking the question, I attended as many workshops and panels as I could outside of our sitting schedule and I spent quite a bit of time there. I very freely acknowledge that I didn't nearly attend as many as I would have liked, so I do understand where the member is coming from.

Although Quality of Life had a number of staff that were attending different workshops and different parts of the conferences, there are a number of factors I guess I have a little bit of an issue with. There were over 80 presentations made. It's going to be a challenge to correlate all that information.

There are going to be issues with privacy. Some of the workshops were very emotional. Some of the stories that were shared and some of the experiences that were shared are very emotional. There may be some issues with privacy with some of the participants. They participated on the understanding that their privacy would be honoured.

I do realize the minister is not asking me to go into naming names with this analysis report. At this time what I can commit to doing is, when I do see the

final product that comes out to me, I can evaluate it and see at that time whether the information in there would be relevant in sharing immediately or best left to assist with the design of the long-term suicide prevention strategy that we're working on right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very well aware that some of the information is confidential, but there's other information that can be made available as a report to outline what was covered and what more we can do to prevent suicide. It's not only Nunavummiut, but there are others who are also struggling outside of Nunavut. We would like to see if the minister could table that report so that it will be made public to the people of Nunavut. I would like to see that final product tabled in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his persistence on this. I guess it will depend on how that report is structured and on the value that it would bring. There were a number of different workshops and training sessions that were provided. As an example, school councillors were brought in from across the territory to further enhance their training. There are some components that may be very beneficial to share immediately. Until I see how the report is going to be structured and the level of detail in it, I

can't commit to tabling it, but it's something that I'll definitely consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 529 – 4(3): Streaming Students**

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

Mr. Speaker, by the time a student gets to the higher grades in high school, which are grades 10, 11, and 12, it becomes quite evident whether they are academically inclined or not. It is important that our education system is able to provide the appropriate studies and guidance to make sure that all students are working towards appropriate goals.

Can the minister provide an update on what measures are in place to ensure that students are directed into the appropriate stream, whether it be the academic stream or the mechanical stream or other types of studies by the time they reach high school? How is it structured? 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 this issue up because education is very important. If you can recall, I covered some of this issue when I made my Minister's

Statement. I indicated that the students and their parents usually have a meeting with their teacher to decide whether the student will be in the academic stream or another type of study. As I indicated earlier, they can decide on which stream they would like to take.

We have streams available for academic or other types of studies. In our schools there's one called career and technology studies, which is more for hands-on learning, and that would include carpentry, pipefitting, electronic or small engine repair. We make those streams available in the high schools for career purposes. In the new school in Naujaat they also have a classroom for small engine repair like snowmobiles and outboard motors, and so on. Those are going to be made available to the students.

There are different types of streams available and specialized classrooms for the academically inclined students. We also provide those types of studies using the Alberta curriculum and if they want to take academic courses, there's also distance learning available if they wanted to take on additional studies. They can choose which courses they would like to take from grade 10 onward. They have the student, parent, and teacher involved to decide which stream they would like to take on in the upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, in order for a student to move into a post-secondary program that will lead them to their chosen career, they

need to have completed the right courses. Can the minister clearly describe what guidance counselling is provided to Nunavut students to ensure that they take the right kind of courses, academic or otherwise, that will enable them to qualify for the post-secondary program of their choice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our schools we have a variety of different counsellors. For example, there are career counsellors available should a student desire to see one. Most schools also have counsellors who provide the kind of assistance that the member is asking about for students considering post-secondary education.

There are tutors and support programs in different schools. As I stated before, for students that require more help, we have this program called inclusive education. We have literacy coaches in all the schools. As I stated before about planning to enter universities, we have that program too in our schools.

The DEAs are very interested in hearing from the parents on what they would like to see their child take on as post-secondary education. The DEAs are there so they can provide help to the people in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Some students are not inclined towards the academic stream. They need alternative types of courses. Can the minister clearly describe what kinds of courses are offered to those students who may have strengths that are not academic but who still need to prepare for careers after they graduate from high school? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's why we have student and parental engagement. We meet with the parents and students to plan their education plan for the year. We make individual plans for some students and they plan with the principal, parents, and teacher. The students are evaluated on their strengths to help the students make their learning plan for the year with the help of their teachers. The students can also choose to work with the school principal in the planning. This way the principal will know exactly what grade a student is going into and what skills the student will acquire.

If a student was interested in taking an academic stream, they can take their parents and speak with the teachers so that the teacher can be aware of what they need to educate the child and what the child's strengths are. Yes, we do planning for our children for their education. I thank the students and parents for working together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has

expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) 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. Hon. Member for (interpretation) Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

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

**Committee Report 016 – 4(3): Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 16 will appear on the *Orders of the Day* for Friday.

Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 206 – 4(3): Responses to the 2016-2017 Letters of Expectation**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the responses to the 2016-17 Letters of Expectation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

**Tabled Document 207 – 4(3): Kenojuak Ashevak Heritage Minute**

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased today to table information concerning the new Kenojuak Ashevak Heritage Minute, which was recently premiered on national television.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the late Kenojuak Ashevak was a recipient of both the Order of Canada and the Order of Nunavut for her numerous contributions to the art world.

Mr. Speaker, this wonderful Heritage Minute was filmed in Cape Dorset and was produced in Inuktitut, English, and French. The performers include a number of the late Kenojuak's family.

I encourage all members and all Canadians to take a minute to learn about a truly remarkable individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

**Tabled Document 208 – 4(3): Printout of Signatories to Online Petition Concerning Smoking Ban in Multiunit Dwellings**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a printout of

names of over 400 individuals, most of whom live in Iqaluit, who have signed an online petition calling on the Government of Nunavut to ban smoking in multi-unit dwellings.

Although this document does not strictly conform to a formal petition under Rule 43, it does illustrate the concern that surrounds this issue.

I also wish to note for the record that I am proud to have also signed this petition which was organized by one of my own family members.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the item with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I, too, have two documents to table.

**Tabled Document 209 – 4(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016**

**Tabled Document 210 – 4(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016**

(interpretation ends) The first document is the Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the period April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016.

The second document is the same report for the period July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 20, 22, 23, and 24 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:15 and Committee resumed at 16:37*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole today, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 14, 20, 22, 23, and 24. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue our review of Bill 24 and the Nunavut Housing Corporation and if we can complete that, we will proceed with the review of Bills 20, 22, and 23. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Are we in agreement that we

first deal with Bill 24?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will proceed. Last week when we were dealing with the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates, we deferred it and I'm happy that we can get back to it.

Go back to page L-3. The opening comments of the minister and the chair of the standing committee were already made. We will just proceed with that page. We are on the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$39,965,000. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, I want to start by... .

**Chairman:** Excuse me, Mr. Rumbolt. My mistake. (interpretation) I apologize. Before you ask a question, Minister Kuksuk, let me first ask if you would like your officials at the witness table. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Yes, indeed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk would like to have his officials with him at the witness table. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut watching and listening to the proceedings.

With me this afternoon starting to my left is Gershom Moyo, whom we call the Chief Financial Officer, and to my right is Terry Audla, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Welcome to the House, Mr. Moyo and Mr. Audla. Let me again proceed and the first name on my list is Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to start with thanking the minister and his officials for the announcement that the minister made in the House today concerning the residency requirement for homeownership programs. The committee really appreciates the change that they made.

I want to start by talking about the public housing design for a minute. A while ago I brought up issues where the housing corporation changed their design in public housing units and they went from having two doors in a unit down to one. I'm wondering if the new construction will have the design

changed again to incorporate two doors into units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for his question. To answer the question briefly, we will just carry on with one entrance door. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many years ago and over the years the residents of Sanikiluaq have brought to my attention the issue of only having one door in a unit. I think it was in, I want to say, 2002 that the Nunavut Housing Corporation recognized that and they started incorporating two doors in a unit, and then all of a sudden now they have changed their mind and gone down to one-door units. That's a bit of a concern to the community.

When I was reading the blueprint for action, in there it states that the housing corporation would do community consultation and try to listen to the community and their concerns. Can the minister explain in detail why they will not go back to two doors in a unit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. NHC works with the local housing organizations on issues related to planning houses to be built in a

community. We have heard from a lot of people concerning public housing we're putting into the communities and this is part of the comments.

The original purpose for only one entrance, which I must explain, does not violate the safety code and thus we're able to save on the costs of construction. We save \$5,000 to \$10,000. We save up to \$10,000 because of that. That's how much money we save. Once it accumulates, we can use it on other units. That's why we're just carrying it on. I recently had discussions with local housing organizations, so we're just carrying on with the practice for saving up money. The money we're saving is slated towards other programs. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that only one door in a unit is up to code, but that's not the point I'm trying to make. The point I'm trying to make is over the years the residents, not only in Sanikiluaq but a lot of communities in Nunavut, expressed a lot of concern about only having one door in a unit. The community was quite pleased back in 2002 when the housing corporation listened to that request and started putting two doors in a unit, only to have it taken away 12 or 14 years later.

I think, as you go and consult with the communities in the future, it's going to be high on their list. It's something that's going to be brought up time and time again. I would recommend that you consider rethinking that issue and come up with a design where you can have

two doors. It's hard to believe that by taking a door out, you're saving \$10,000 or \$20,000. I can't see the extra door costing that much money. I would advise you to reconsider that in the future, and it will come up again.

Out of curiosity and other members asked me to ask about it too, what is the present cost to build a five-plex in a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When we build multiplexes here, it costs between \$450,000 and \$500,000. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Is that for the whole five-plex or per unit? Perhaps you can elaborate on that, Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I apologize. We're looking at that cost per unit. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. (interpretation ends) Approximately \$500,000 per unit. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked about a five-plex, so I would assume then that's about \$2.5 million for a five-plex and I'm getting a nod saying, "Yes, it is." Thank you for that information.

Considering it's between \$450,000 and \$500,000 per unit, just in the news the other day in Rankin Inlet a four-plex building burned down which was a

housing unit, not a public housing unit built for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but nonetheless it was a four-plex unit. They said that it totally burned to the ground; nothing left. In the news it reported that it was only \$1 million worth of damage.

Why is it in Rankin Inlet this company has a four-plex that's worth \$1 million, yet if the Nunavut Housing Corporation had the same thing, it would be about \$2 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I can't respond directly to that, but we have to follow codes for housing units that are built for the housing corporation. I know the codes are stricter than the buildings that we don't own that are constructed. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some communities and more for Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and maybe even Cambridge Bay, you have private developers building units in these communities and then renting them out to people. Has the housing corporation ever done a cost comparison to what it costs private companies to build houses compared to what it is costing our government to build houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Even if I don't respond directly to the question, when we make requests for proposals to construct buildings, we base the construction costs on the companies' or contractors' bids that they submit to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand how the RFP process works when it comes to contracting, but my question is: has the housing corporation ever done a comparison? You do an RFP and your building comes in at X number of dollars. Have you ever done a comparison to a different company, let's say, in Iqaluit that builds houses if their costs per square foot or cost per unit is coming in the same as your RFPs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The answer is no, (interpretation) we haven't made direct comparisons with other owners of buildings. I don't have that information. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the housing corporation wouldn't take it upon themselves to do that just for curiosity's sake to see if the private sector is building homes a lot cheaper than what

the government is getting units built for, and just so we can have some comparison as to the private industry compared to what the government is paying to get houses built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question and we will put it under consideration and look at it again. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister and staff, good afternoon.

On October 26 of 2015 you tabled a document in the Legislative Assembly which outlined the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plans for public and staff housing construction during the 2016-17 fiscal year. This document indicated that a total of 40 new public housing units would be constructed in six communities. They were Arctic Bay, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, and Kugaaruk with one five-plex each and Pond Inlet and Nauyasat with two five-plexes. As of today, has construction work in any of these communities fallen behind schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak): Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No, they're on schedule. (interpretation) That's all I can respond with. (interpretation ends)

Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the Nunavut Housing Corporation's tenders for the 40 new public housing units specify the same construction completion date of October 1, 2017? What is the timeline for occupancy for the new public housing units? When will you turn them over to the housing association so they can get them occupied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is asking when the units that are currently under construction will be turned over and when they will be occupied. Mr. Chairman, every time the units are completed by contractors and turned over to us, they are fully inspected. Once the inspections are successfully completed, we then work with the LHOs to finalize their readiness for occupation, which the LHOs are responsible for. I know the local housing organizations try to do it in good time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In March 2016 the federal budget announced that \$76.7 million in new housing funding would be provided to Nunavut.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's own budget for construction of public

housing units in the 2017-18 fiscal year is \$15 million. The Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to construct 90 new public housing units in the 2017-18 fiscal year and 95 new public housing units in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Will all the additional federal funding go towards the construction of new public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the money that he identified will be for new construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that, can you tell the viewing public how many buildings go to each community? How is it allocated to each community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can go through which communities they will go to in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Mr. Chairman, what he stated is correct. In 2017 there are 90 public housing units and to break that down, there will be 15 for Hall Beach, 15 for Kugaaruk, 20 for Gjoa Haven, 15 for Sanikiluaq, 10 for Cambridge Bay, 5 for Chesterfield Inlet,

5 for Taloyoak, and 5 for Cape Dorset. Those are set for 2017-18 public housing construction.

For 2018-19 public housing construction there will be 5 units in Sanikiluaq, 15 units in Cambridge Bay, 20 units in Arviat, 20 units in Iqaluit, 10 units in Pond Inlet, 10 units in Kugluktuk, 5 units in Nauyasat, 5 units in Kimmirut, and 5 units in Qikiqtarjuaq.

That's the proposed construction for public housing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for announcing. When I tried to get elected, I told my community that I would fight for more housing in my community and I would like to say "thank you very much."

>> *Laughter*

My last question would be: how will local housing organizations be consulted on public housing unit designs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that good question. We consulted with the local housing organizations in the Kivalliq, Kitikmeot, and Baffin regions. When we were consulting the local housing organizations, we talked about different topics such as whether there should be

single, double, or three units built together. Each community had different ideas and so we consulted with the local housing organizations to decide on one-, two-, or three-bedroom units to be built. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Following the list of names, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Kuksuk. Before I ask a question, I would like to go back to what you said about proposed construction for 2017-18 that will be going to the communities.

I know that some communities have problems with either the land or the need for more electricity. There have issues with a lack of capacity. Mr. Minister, please be aware that we have absolutely no capacity issues in Pond Inlet and we are ready to welcome the new units in 2017-18 if any of the other communities are not ready for them. We have adequate power poles already put up and we're very welcoming.

Let me ask this question first of all, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget includes the homeownership programs. Let me ask this question: why are the homeownership assistance programs in the capital budget? It's a program, but it's included in there whenever we get into the capital estimates.

I sometimes think that when we're talking about capital estimates, we usually refer to buildings and assets that will be owned by the government. Now this money is going to be used for private homes. Is it in the right place? I

would like to know the reasoning behind why it's included there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that good question. I would like Mr. Gershom Moyo to respond to that if you don't mind. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Moyo.

**Mr. Moyo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. We grapple with that as well. I think it's appropriate for it to be in our O&M budget. That's why it resides in the capital budget. As you correctly pointed out, really, these are not our assets; they are private homeowners' assets. Sorry to talk accounting, but when we account for homeownership programs, we actually expense them through the O&M budget. It's a disconnect, if I may say that. We continue to explore ways with the Department of Finance to see if it's possible to reclassify the homeownership budget into our O&M budget.

I want to add one more thing, Mr. Chairman. The benefit of having homeownership financing through the capital budget is that we're able to carry forward from one year to the next in case we don't fully spend what has been allocated to us. That's one specific reason that I can cite for including the homeownership budget in the capital budget. Whereas if we're to include them in our O&M, we will have to expense them and each year, we will

have to start afresh and write it off to accumulated surplus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm really proud. This is the first time I have ever been told I had a good question. I'm really happy about that.

Let me ask another question about that. I believe that I can ask this question. It follows people's salary eligibility requirements. If I make a certain amount of money, I'm eligible. If I make this certain amount of money, I'm not eligible. I know about those. Have you ever thought about reviewing that?

As I have said a number of times to Minister Kuksuk, everything is extremely expensive in Nunavut. There are younger people who are starting to make families, who are trying to do it the right way, and they want to have a proper home for their children. The only way they can keep up is to have both parents working if they're going to provide all the clothing, food, and everything. They're going to be staying in Nunavut and they will probably die here. All of their money is going to be spent in Nunavut. They exceed the income threshold, but they have to work in order to have a good home. Have you thought about reviewing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I

think I understand your question. You're asking whether we have thought of reviewing it or if we would review it. Yes, it can be looked at again in response to your question because of the reasoning that you put. In 2014, if I remember correctly, we had a revision of that for homeownership. In regard to your question if we can review it, yes, we can review it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it really needs to be reviewed. Our fellow residents of Nunavut who are younger than we are want to have a good career. They have a partner and they want to have everything that they need like transportation equipment, proper food and clothing. If they want to do that, they both have no choice but to work because it's so expensive. Now because they're both working, they're no longer eligible for our assistance. I encourage you, minister. I would be able to talk to you about this at a later time, if you didn't really understand me.

Mr. Chairman, let me ask you questions about housing construction now. There is something I don't understand. I'll use an example of what I know. In Pond Inlet they built houses last year and after they constructed them, they could not completely finish them because they had missing items. They had to wait for the 2016 summer sealift before those buildings could finally be completed. That is just a story. People moved into them before the exterior was completed.

My question is about the 10 units in Pond Inlet that comprise two five-plexes. They will not be fixed up until next spring and summer, and now you have stated that buildings have to be completed by October 2017, which is next year. Those buildings in our community are supposed to be completed in October 2017. Those people who build houses know what the deadline is and now they're only going to start working on them again next summer.

My concern is if they miss a whole bunch of stuff again. The ships fill up very quickly with cargo. What will they do? We have experienced this already last year in Pond Inlet. We had to wait until the next fall to complete. What would happen if that happens again? What if the ships are too full and they can't put any more building material on them and then they will have to wait until the next year to fix them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Whenever someone gets a contract to build houses in the communities and once we know who the contractor is, we agree with the contractor on a completion date and they sign off on that. They give us a date as to when the construction will be completed.

In regard to your question as to what would happen if there were missing materials that are supposed to be a part of that house that is being built, if all the parts don't arrive, it is the contractor's responsibility because of the agreement

with that contractor, along with the completion date. The contractor would have to meet the construction deadlines.

If the construction is late, if they needed more money and the contractor could not complete the contract, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information. I would like my deputy minister to explain the process. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's in the contractor's best interest to complete by the specified completion date, October 1. If they don't, then they could risk penalties where their contract would be reviewed and looked at, and we would consider at NHC what penalties may apply. If it's monetary, then that would be considered as well. As it stands right now, it's always in the best interest of the contractor to ensure they are completed by the specified completion date. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what I'm concerned about. If the contractor does not complete the construction or they don't have enough material, then once again we will have to wait a whole year until they are resupplied. Why is that?

I'm just going to use an example. If I know there are two five-plexes and the completion date is October 1, 2017, if you had urged that the exterior has to be

completed and the roofing done prior to winter setting on, they can complete that within a month. In the winter when there's no light, they can take a break and start working again in the spring. It would be a lot more realistic if they finish the exterior so that they will know whether they need more supplies or not.

We have very limited housing and we wait very long, a year or more, because you're not urging them to keep on the timeline or in such cases where they have a shortage of construction material. I'm very concerned about that. What about you? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, contractors do bid on tenders and they sign contracts that contain completion dates. It would specify that the completion date would be on such-and-such date in this community. It's all outlined in black and white. Once the contractor agrees and signs the agreement, they start the construction and whatever they have to do to complete the construction of the house.

As my deputy minister indicated earlier, if they do not meet the completion date, then there would have to be a review of the contract and whether there are going to be penalties or some kind of action taken by the housing corporation. The contractor would look at the completion date and try to have it on or before that date. If they do not meet the completion date, then they will be penalized accordingly for not completing the construction of the house after it has been reviewed to remediate the problem.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask the minister: do you not understand my concern? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand your concern completely. It is outlined in the contract. There's a completion date indicated in the contract and they have to meet that deadline. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think we understand one another. What I'm trying to say is, yes, they do have a completion date and yes, I agree with it. However, I don't agree with completion deadlines because there might be other problems like a shortage of construction material not being able to get on the ship and then we would have to wait for a long time before we can occupy that building. My concern is if there is no room on the ship left to supply whatever material they need.

You indicated that there would be a penalty applied if they did not finish by the completion date. We have been waiting for years for additional housing. Even if a company is penalized, it's not going to matter to the people who are trying to get those houses. Wouldn't it

have been better if you have a law that the house's exterior has to be completely walled in and roofed? Yes, they can take a break in the winter as long as they can start again in the spring so that they will know earlier that they're lacking additional material or whatever. That's what I would like the housing corporation to look into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know exactly what his concern is, but they have been on time and they have completed it on or before the completion date. The housing corporation can also extend a completion date should there be, for example, lack of construction material to complete the house or if there's a good reason to extend the contract. The housing corporation has the right to extend a contract if necessary to complete a house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Following the list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Kuksuk and your officials. First of all I would like to support the Member for Hudson Bay for asking to have two entrances to a house. This concern is shared in the communities. I wanted to express my agreement with many who believe housing units should have two entrances and that needs to be reconsidered by the Nunavut Housing

Corporation.

Your capital estimates for renovation and improvement are usually the same just about every year, but most of the houses in Nunavut need to be improved because the housing stock is aging. They have to be improved or renovated and they're unoccupied for the time that they're working on the house.

Is it possible for the housing corporation to consider renovating or improving the interior of the houses? Of course it's very good to see new houses being built in the communities, but I'm talking about the current stock of 5,283 units. I don't know what percentage of those units are unoccupied because they are being renovated or improved. Have you ever considered modernizing and improving more houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook): Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Chairman. I also thank the member. Mr. Chairman, regarding modernization and improvement of the present stock that the housing corporation holds, the monies are set aside for the regions. We usually set aside some funds for M&I. The local housing organizations then let us know how many units of the present housing stock would have to be improved or renovated.

I understand that you want a larger budget for modernization and improvement. It is equally divided among the communities so that they have a budget for maintenance and

improvements. That's how we base our budget estimates. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a housing unit was poorly designed or if there are problems with a unit after the tenants have moved in, what can the local housing organizations do to have input into the design of their new houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I spoke to this issue earlier in response to a question that was posed. We have to work with the local housing organizations. We consult with them to find out exactly what they would like to see in the design. This is being reviewed and we are consulting with the communities in regard to this. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to another topic, you work with your counterparts in the federal government in trying to come up with buildings. For example, there is Habitat for Humanity. We have heard that they have built housing in Iqaluit. Have you worked with Habitat for Humanity to build houses from that organization in other communities? Have you started working with this entity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond as to whether we've had those types of discussions. Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have approached Habitat for Humanity. We asked them to see if they can construct homes in communities other than Iqaluit, whether it is in the Kivalliq, Kitikmeot, or other smaller communities. We have discussed that with Habitat for Humanity.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. What kinds of discussions have you had with them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to continue responding. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have discussed the difficulty in the logistics involved when it comes to smaller communities. They added expenses for transportation purposes as well as a local labour pool and how we

can try to best fit that type of scenario within those communities. We will continue to try to look at that option.

As it stands right now, because the local Habitat for Humanity has been Iqaluit-centric, we have made the suggestion of going into the other communities as well where they have capacity, but that involves also speaking with either territorial and regional representatives for Habitat for Humanity. As an example, Edmonton mostly looks at northern builds and we would want to discuss with them as to the viability, if we look at the expenses as well as the potential of local labour force. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for the proper response and clarifying it. When someone alluded to the cost of constructing a new unit, they said that it would cost about \$500,000 per unit and a five-plex would cost approximately \$2.5 million to construct.

For example, in order to adequately expend the funds, do you provide funding to do research to save costs? If a building is a certain size in the north, it would cost the least amount of money. Have you looked at small houses that have trended internationally? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Briefly, no, we haven't looked into other

international countries, but it is starting to become evident that when we use the designs for five-plex or ten-plex units, it's a lot cheaper to construct. We save more money using the same design. We use a common design and that saves us a lot of money with the multiplexes. That's what you see with the multiplexes in the communities.

My response is that we haven't done any fact-finding to other countries to see if there are better designs that can be used for the north. However, the (interpretation ends) *Blueprint for Action on Housing* (interpretation) which I referenced in the House a few days ago contains many of these, including which kind of building design is best for the north to make sure that these units are not too drafty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am asking the housing corporation to see if this can be considered. I know that you have funding available for this kind of work. I realize you have a very huge responsibility, but perhaps you can look at new options and be open to more options for Nunavut in regard to housing design. That's just a comment.

Moving on to another topic, in your opening comments you indicated which staff housing units will be built in which communities. When you're identifying which communities will be allocated staff housing, in 2017-18, \$5 million will be used for four communities, if I'm not mistaken. Can you explain what process

was used to come up with this decision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There are various reasons, such as which communities are in shortage of staff housing. Under the Staff Housing Program, we consider the communities with the greatest need for staff housing units.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the member is asking about which communities will receive staff housing in 2017-18. There are four communities where we will construct 17 new staff housing units across the territory; 2 units in Sanikiluaq, 5 units in Taloyoak, 5 units in Cape Dorset, and 5 units in Baker Lake. In total 17 staff housing units will be built in 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Moving on, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and thank him for his opening comments on the homeownership programs. I would like to ask about the homeownership programs. It is very rewarding when you own your home and it contributes to the economy of the community.

In the past, before the creation of Nunavut, there used to be assistance where they would deliver the construction material to the community. The applicants who applied for the HAP

program would help to construct the unit. Sometimes they would be done by the contractors.

For example, in Nunavut, in some communities we don't have financial institutions and this program can have a good benefit to the people and create jobs. It's very expensive to construct a home. I was wondering if the housing corporation can come up with a similar program to help the homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for his question. Mr. Chairman, even though the old program is no longer being used, we now have a new program called the Tenant to Owner Program. If a tenant wants to buy their unit, they can use the Tenant to Owner Program.

In regard to the member's question, we have not considered that, so I can't really respond to his question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I am very happy about this program, these units are usually very old and people who want to own their home would like a new home to make sure that their home is maintained properly. When the house starts to deteriorate, they have to pay for the resulting increase in maintenance costs of the unit.

The HAP program was very beneficial in the smaller communities. Maybe you can consider putting that program back in Nunavut. Many Nunavummiut are dreaming of living in a nice home. Can the housing corporation start planning for this kind of program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer his question to move this forward, yes, we can reconsider that. I can't say exactly what we will do about it, but we can surely look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The homeowners pay for fuel, electricity, water and sewage. These costs were supposed to have been paid by the government, but are now paid by the homeowners instead.

These costs could really be reduced if our government bought those units owned by their employees who were moved elsewhere. Those units would then be available to those who are underhoused. If we look at it that way, it would have a considerable benefit not just to homeowners in Nunavut.

If you look at it that way, you could have more programs for homeowners. The homeownership program we had in the past achieved this to this very day. Now that there are more people working in the communities who want to own their own homes, perhaps it can be looked at

again. It can be a great benefit and I want to see that in the future. If they can respond by saying that they will definitely look at it again, that's when I'll stop asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for his question. As I stated earlier, we can take a look at it again, what problems would be there or what problems they had in the past, and if those types of homeownership programs are benefiting everybody.

New houses were built. There's data out there. They started out good as homeowners, but for some reason they couldn't afford the cost of homeownership. There were 13 homeowners under that program who gave up or couldn't pay for their home anymore.

Those were some of the reasons the program stopped, but we can take a look at it again. We can look at what the consequences would be if we return the program, but I can't tell you if we're going to move ahead with it or not. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You were the Speaker for a while because you're the Deputy Speaker.

He mentioned the 13, but there are so many more who are successfully

continuing as homeowners and they are proud to be homeowners because they don't have to rely on the government. If we look at the smaller communities, there are many government employees now who want to own their homes.

There are no financial institutions to approach for a mortgage and a program like that would be of great benefit for people who want to own their home. I don't want to hear about the few problems in the past. I would like to see new assistance programs for people who want to own and maintain their homes. I would like to point out that I will not stop asking about this, even if I may take a pause on the issue.

The second question I wanted to ask is here in Iqaluit they will be constructing more units and we know that we're very short of land for construction. It's becoming harder to construct units in Iqaluit due to lack of land. Would the money that was set aside be used properly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For the construction of housing in Iqaluit, I know the Iqaluit MLAs are quite aware that acquiring land for public housing construction has been a cause of delays to date. Right now we are working together with the City of Iqaluit and the Department of Community and Government Services. We had discussions about land in Iqaluit and that's ongoing work. We talked with private homeowners. Iqaluit is going to do proper land planning for new construction of units so that they can

have a proper land plan and to have them identify land. The lack of available land delays the building of units in Iqaluit.

That's how I can respond right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't want our share to be taken away and have them transferred to Pond Inlet. I'll stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, don't forget the comments that I made.

Moving on, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Tomorrow we will continue with our review of the proposed capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. We will see you again tomorrow.

I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 24 and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

>> *Laughter*

(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. Hon. Minister... . 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 the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for November 3:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
  5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
  6. Oral Questions
  7. Written Questions
  8. Returns to Written Questions
  9. Replies to Opening Address
  10. 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 14
    - 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 Thursday, November 3, at 1:30 p.m.
- (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.
- >>*House adjourned at 17:55*

