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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

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(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
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Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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Tom Sammurtok
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Hon. Joe Savikataaq
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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
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(South Baffin)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, November 4, 2016**

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, 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 9:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Before we begin, I wish to inform you that the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa will be absent from the House this morning.

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 213 – 4(3):
Nunavut Parks Youth Camp**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This fall the Kimmirut Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers Association and the Department of Environment co-hosted a youth camp at the Katannilik Territorial Park.

Mr. Speaker, the camp took place over four days and was primarily run in Inuktitut. Inuit elders also took part in helping to shape the learning outcomes of the camp.

Mr. Speaker, 24 youth participated and they were taught our practices of traditional land travel by using Inuksuit, the basics of weather reading, and the medicinal uses of plants. Camp participants were also taught traditional stone construction techniques, such as the basics of constructing overnight sleeping platforms, fox traps, and meat caches.

Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to see the success of bringing youth and elders together through programs that pass on traditional on-the-land skills. I would like to thank the Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers Association and all those who helped to make this camp excursion successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 214 – 4(3):
Iqaluit Airport P3 Project**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome this opportunity to rise today before the Members of this House to update them on the progress of the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project.

The third year of construction has now come to a close on this project. We have all seen the improvements taking shape over these past few years, and most of the airside movements areas are now in use. We are looking forward to next August, when construction and commissioning of the buildings are complete and we can take full advantage of the new facility.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of foresight and consideration has gone into the planning and design of this airport, and it will be a fully modern facility which we can expect to serve us 40 years into the future and beyond.

In particular we are very pleased with the improvements we will be making to accessibility. Through good design and modern technology, we will virtually eliminate the need for passengers to deal with stairs at any point between the parking lot and the door of the aircraft. I am pleased to announce that this will include boarding ramps, which will be operational by 2017.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the success of this project has involved a great deal of effort and oversight from several of our departments. In particular I would like to thank the departments of Justice, Community and Government Services, and Finance for their continuing legal,

project and financial oversight as we bring this important project to successful completion.

I would also like to thank Infrastructure Canada which, through the P3 Canada Fund, is providing invaluable financial support for this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 215 – 4(3):
Student Scholarships**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavummiut and residents of my community, you are in my thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, my department is proud to recognize the academic excellence and hard work of Nunavut's post-secondary students who have received scholarships through the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) program. (interpretation ends) For the 2015-16 academic year FANS awarded a total of 52 scholarships, which is the highest number of scholarships awarded to date.

(interpretation) Scholarships are awarded to full-time students who graduate from a Nunavut secondary school with an 80 percent or higher average in grade 12 or received an "A" average in the previous year of study for undergraduate or graduate programs. This year 16 high school graduates were awarded a \$500 scholarship, 23 undergraduate students were awarded a

\$750 scholarship, and one \$1,000 scholarship was awarded for masters' studies. The scholarship award for doctoral students is \$1,500.

We wish our students much success as they continue their education or enter the workforce. Our territory has always placed a high value on learning, and our increased scholarship numbers reflect that students share this value and continue to achieve academic success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of... (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 216 – 4(3):
Council of the Federation Summer
Meeting 2016**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about a meeting with my fellow premiers over the summer.

Mr. Speaker, the summer meeting of Canada's premiers took place July 21 to 22 in Whitehorse. The Council of the Federation is made up of all 13 of Canada's premiers.

The Council of the Federation enables premiers to work collaboratively, form closer ties, foster constructive

relationships between governments, and show leadership in important issues that matter to all Canadians. These meetings are an important opportunity for premiers from across the country to exchange ideas and work together.

The major agenda items for our meetings this summer were infrastructure, international and internal trade, energy development, and health care. The next summer meeting of Canada's premiers will be hosted by Alberta in July of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the premiers' meetings present an important venue to showcase Nunavut's strengths and highlight some of the challenges facing our territory. I assure you I will continue to be active in intergovernmental forums and be a strong voice to ensure that our territory's interests are addressed. I look forward to reporting back to my colleagues on other collaborative summits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 217 – 4(3): Law
Degree Program**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, residents of my community and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House this morning to announce the official opening of the application process for

the Law Degree Program that will be offered in Iqaluit in September 2017 through Nunavut Arctic College in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to indicate that potential students are now encouraged to apply to the program. Applications can be picked up through the community learning centres in each community or at any one of our campuses in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, or Iqaluit. The application process as well as additional program-related information is also available on the college website, www.arcticcollege.ca.

Mr. Speaker, applications for the Law Degree Program will be accepted until December 31, 2016. A review committee will determine acceptance into the program in March, with final notices going out to all students in early April 2017.

Mr. Speaker, potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Iqaluit Campus registrar should they have any questions in relation to the program or the application process.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the first intake of students into the law program in the fall of 2017. 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 Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 389 – 4(3): Arts and Crafts Economy in Pangnirtung

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, fellow residents of my community. You are in my thoughts this morning, people of Pangnirtung and Nunavummiut.

Actually, today I rise to speak about the residents of Pangnirtung. The residents are very adept at trying out ways to be economically self-sufficient in sectors such as fisheries, arts, sewing, weaving, and tourism.

I want to commend the Pangnirtung Uqurmiut Society who is responsible for the arts and crafts sector, and I want to voice my pleasure in their success as they have operated for many years. They support the arts and crafts sector by selling their wares. To cite an example, in the year 2012 they generated almost \$800,000 in revenue for arts and crafts in the community.

This is beneficial as our tourists purchase these items, and tourism generates a lot of income for our community as well. The tourism sector is important and we have several companies providing various services. Tourism in Pangnirtung has operated for approximately 40 years now and it has benefited our community as per some of the details I have stated.

Another important sector is fisheries, which is another Pangnirtung specialty. In the past I have made statements about our winter fisheries for turbot and the revenue that accrues to our fishers. Mr. Speaker, there are different types of winter fisheries, with the deepwater

fishing of turbot as well as the inland lakes fisheries. The revenue generated in this sector can reach \$7 million per annum. This is entirely generated by our fishing sector.

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

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues.

Indeed, when we speak about economic issues, the people of Pangnirtung are quite independent in this regard, as the revenue they generate is important. If they didn't attempt various means of economic development, they would most likely wait for assistance.

Nonetheless, due to their independent spirit and entrepreneurial mentality, they are aggressive when it comes to creating economic development opportunities. In looking at the offshore and inland fisheries sector, including the arts and crafts sector that Uqqurmiut oversees, and tourism combined generates over \$8 million per year that is of benefit to the community directly.

For these reasons and their drive to generate economic development opportunities, Pangnirtung residents are amongst Nunavut's most productive citizens. If we look at the generation of the \$8 million in revenue, it would not be possible if the residents were not as

fiercely driven to independently create these opportunities for their community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak to this venture that I have been involved in various ways, and that is the fisheries. I speak to this because it can lead to self-sufficiency for our residents. These are the main points I am voicing and I am quite happy for the residents of Pangnirtung who are involved in these various sectors and wish to voice my pride in their accomplishments.

I also urge other communities to look at economic development opportunities because once a community commits to a sector, they can be very successful. I also want to state that once the infrastructure of Pangnirtung improves, specifically the airport challenges we face, and once we have an adequate airport, these revenues would largely increase based on the economic sectors Pangnirtung residents are involved in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 390 – 4(3): Pages from Rankin Inlet

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say good morning to the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the pages who have been providing their service in the House, who are from Rankin Inlet. I would like to thank

(interpretation ends) Augatnaaq Eccles with a “G” as she corrected me this morning, (interpretation) Leticia Mercer, and Christine Sammurtok, who was their chaperone.

On another matter, I would also like to commend the Rankin Inlet search and rescue crew. They conducted a search for a person yesterday. There was a person who was overdue and relatives were worried, but they have found that individual and he’s okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member’s Statement 391 – 4(3):
Services for Elders in Nunavut**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk. I know for a fact some of them have been up since 4:00 this morning. Good morning to the residents of Taloyoak, our Premier, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this fine morning to speak to a matter my colleagues sometimes raise in the House related to our elders.

Our elders are sometimes sent outside of Nunavut and we know that existing elders’ care facilities are full with no spaces. When our elders are sent outside of their communities, either within Nunavut or outside of the territory, they sometimes experience regrettable situations and hardships, as we all know, and it is sad to see.

Mr. Speaker, we knew our elders who are sent outside of Nunavut as adults, yet we sit here older but with the same faces. They were our caregivers, they ensured our survival, and they hunted for the food we consumed. Mr. Speaker, our elders, when we ourselves were youth, spent many years beside us without ever leaving us.

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

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

As I was saying, our elders arose every morning in the cold of our traditional igloos to start the day’s activities that allowed us to survive and live another day.

Mr. Speaker, our elders spent their lives in a constant battle to survive when they were adults like us here so that we could continue to see the future. Their battle to survive has resulted in us being here, so we would like to show gratitude to our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members’ Statements. The Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 392 – 4(3):
Elders in Care in Ottawa**

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to make a statement related to what my colleague just talked about.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to join my colleagues in calling on the government to improve services for Nunavut elders who are placed in care in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, have heard concerns regarding the lack of Inuit language interpretation services for elders who are in care at an Ottawa facility that does not fall under the Ottawa Health Services Network contract.

Mr. Speaker, our elders are already feeling far removed from their homes, families, and culture.

I have heard that one specific facility does not even provide country food to Inuit clients. In fact, when Inuit who live down in Ottawa try to visit the elders and bring them country food, they are denied visiting access because they are not immediate family members.

Mr. Speaker, our elders deserve appropriate care and comfort. While I recognize that Nunavut does not yet have the capacity to provide long-term care services at home for everyone who needs it and that some individuals are placed outside of the territory, this should not mean that our elders are deprived of hearing a familiar language, seeing familiar faces, and eating a familiar diet.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health has indicated that not all care facilities in Ottawa which provide services to our elders fall under the Ottawa Health Services Network contract. I encourage the government to work harder to find alternative means to provide culturally appropriate support to our elders and other Nunavut clients who are receiving care a long way from home, in southern locations such as Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, since today is National Day of Random Kindness, I will not have any questions to the minister today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 393 – 4(3):
Happy Anniversary to Wife**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, ministers, Premier, Nunavummiut, and the community of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs, we are away from our home to celebrate such as birthdays or special days for the family. Tomorrow my wife and I will be celebrating our 39th anniversary and I wish her well tomorrow. I hope she enjoys her day tomorrow. Today being Friday I will say that she is a good-hearted woman in love with a good-timing man.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 394 – 4(3):
Happy Birthday to Son and
Daughter**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the residents of Arviat, Whale Cove, and Nunavut, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise this morning to speak to two issues as tomorrow is Saturday and we will not be meeting then.

I have two special people of my own that will celebrate their birthdays tomorrow, my daughter who is in Ottawa and may be watching, and my son in Arviat. They share the same birthdates, although they aren't twins. Just so people know, they are (interpretation ends) one year apart (interpretation) sharing the same day. I wish them a special day tomorrow and I wish to see but won't have the chance. We are close to the end of our session, so I shall see them eventually.

Mr. Speaker, the other matter that I wish to speak to today is related to my colleague and friend who spoke previously about our trip together. Unfortunately the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa isn't here, so I can't finish the story and I will wait until he is back to finish it. We were hunting together in Arviat and his statement referred to one

day out of this trip. However, what I am going to say is that his part of the story comprised a very small section of the whole trip, as he didn't mention some of the hunting which was quite enjoyable as we did a lot of things.

I will wait until he is back in this House before I continue. I am guessing he knew beforehand that I would finish the story, so he is conveniently absent.

>> *Laughter*

I will patiently wait until he returns and relate the entire story of the hunting trip.

To the residents of Nunavut, Arviat, and Whale Cove, please have a safe and enjoyable weekend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will proceed. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

**Question 539 – 4(3): Continuing Care
in Gjoa Haven**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Gjoa Haven is home to one of Nunavut's two continuing care facilities. There are a limited number of beds and it has been filled to capacity for some time. I

understand that there is a long waiting list for beds in the facility.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether any consideration has been given to expanding the Gjoa Haven continuing care facility to add beds and increase the number of individuals who can receive care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the member asking that question. It gives me an opportunity to talk about some of the work that's being done at the Department of Health currently right now. With anticipation of taking responsibility for other elder care homes from Family Services back into Health in the next fiscal year, we have been doing an analysis, not only of the needs but what is the right size facility to bring the best efficiencies fiscally as well as the level of care to residents, to senior residents of Nunavut.

Just to directly answer the question from the member, in our ongoing capital one of the projects we will be looking at a pre-feasibility study of an extension to existing continuing care homes, including Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. Mr. Speaker, the population in the community of Gjoa Haven itself is steadily aging. Currently there is an individual from Gjoa Haven

who needs 24-hour care but cannot be accommodated at the facility.

Can the minister clarify what steps can be taken to ensure that individuals who are from the community of Gjoa Haven and are living in the community of Gjoa Haven can be accommodated at the Gjoa Haven continuing care facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like a couple of the members' statements that I heard earlier this morning, it is obviously a priority for us to try to make sure that we keep our residents at home.

That being said, it all depends on the level of care. There are different ratings associated with the needs of seniors as they enter into an age or recognition of their abilities. When you exceed the level of care that's being offered in the facilities that we have here in Nunavut, we have no other alternative but at the moment to send people to other facilities outside the territory to make sure that they're getting the care of level that they physically and mentally need. Is that an easy decision? No, but at the same time our priority is to make sure that our residents get the level of care that they deserve and if we can't provide it here, we're going to make sure that we find a facility that can provide it.

We work very hard with home care to make sure that people can stay in their homes as long as possible. We do have continuing care centres in the territory. We do have some elder homes in the

territory. When people exceed the level of care that those facilities can provide, we are left no recourse but to look at placements outside the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently the Gjoa Haven continuing care facility has residents from Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, and the Kivalliq region. Now that the Cambridge Bay Health Centre will be opening long-term care beds, will the department be working to ensure that long-term care clients will be accommodated closer to their homes and families? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we look at placements, it is definitely one of the criteria that we look at. We want to make sure that people are able to be near their friends and family and the support systems that come with that proximity. I'm not sure what else to say to the member, but other than that, yes, that is one of the conditions and factors that we take into consideration when we look residential placements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 540 – 4(3): Operational Audit of Government of Nunavut Programs

Ms. Angnakak: Good morning, everybody. *Ullaakkut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

On March 16 of this year the Premier tabled the summary report on phase 1 of the operational audit of Government of Nunavut programs that has been underway for some time. Can the Premier advise us today as to what actions the government has been taking over the past seven months to implement the recommendations from this audit? 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 excellent question. Mr. Speaker, in the early days we decided we're going to do an operational audit to streamline and make our operations through our government departments more effective, all departments, including the corporations, to find a way to make it more effective to serve the people of Nunavut.

As the member has indicated, phase 1 is done and the report is out there. Now we're working on phase 2. There have been some things that were identified in phase 1. There's some in-depth review that has taken place. One of the things that have been looked at this point is shared services. That includes human resources, IT functions, procurement, and the other things throughout our departments. Mr. Speaker, that includes business planning. We want to ensure that our departments have a positive business plan that's acceptable and

factual to a degree where it becomes more effective or efficient for all departments involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his response. He alludes a little bit into what I'm going to be asking next.

The next general election will be held less than a year from now and the last budget of our term as Members of the Fourth Legislative Assembly will be introduced a few months from now.

Can the Premier describe the extent to which the government's 2017 budget will reflect recommendations from the operational audit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's the intention, to ensure that we try to get this completed before the next general election. As I have indicated in the past, we want to make sure that we do this right and we want to make sure that we come up with a plan that's effective for Nunavummiut and the Government of Nunavut to ensure that the service provided for Nunavummiut is effective.

Mr. Speaker, in January phase 2 of the report will be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier. We will be looking forward to that tabling.

A few days ago the Premier updated us on the progress that has been made towards signing a devolution agreement with the federal government. It is commonly understood that this will involve transferring federal programs and employees to the territorial government. Can the Premier indicate how the operational audit process is taking into account the devolution process? 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 appreciate the question from the member. At this point I don't have that information.

Mr. Speaker, through other devolution negotiations that are taken into account, we do have it tabled separately for strictly human resources, and we do have people in there negotiating with the federal government strictly on human resources and personnel transfer from the federal government into the Government of Nunavut. That's a few steps away yet.

We do want to get an agreement in principle intact before we get into the final details of the phase 2 negotiations, which may include the transfer of human resources from the federal government to the Government of Nunavut. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 541 – 4(3): Polar Bear
Defence Kills and Quotas**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning wishes to Nunavummiut, the audience watching, as well as my colleagues here.

My question will be directed to the Minister of Environment this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to keep returning to this question, but I want to be very clear in my understanding of polar bear issues. I'm referring to polar bear tags. Once the polar bear hunting season ends, the polar bears tend to roam into our communities, which generally leads to defence kills. That impacts a community's quota and eats into their seasonal tags at the end of the day. Some communities end up with hardly any tags within the ice-free season.

How will this be resolved? I know that NWMB is working on our future system, but this system has existed since 1970 when the tag quota system was first introduced. Ever since that time there hasn't been any changes for about 50 years. Will we be stuck forever with this management system? Can you please elaborate on this issue and what our future holds in this area, as you are the current minister responsible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question on polar bears. Back in the 1970s the problem bears or raiding bears were killed but not taken off the quota. In this current system all bears killed by humans are removed from the total allowable harvest. As per your commentary, it can lead to communities with no leftover tags when defence kills occur.

Yes, you spoke the truth when you said that when a community loses all their tags and a polar bear has to be killed for safety of life or property, it would have to be taken from the next year's quota. However, when there is a number of tags available, then the tags are taken from the community's quota that are usually provided for hunting bears in season.

However, with respect to future plans in our polar bear management system, we will continue to use this management practice of using tags for harvesting polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. This is very disconcerting to some communities and I share this concern of managing our problem bears.

One of the biggest problems in my view is when the polar bear season is over and a defence kill happens, not only is the tag removed but the person will no longer be eligible for a tag. The conservation officers confiscate the polar bear skin, which is what at least occurs in my community. When our local HTO

holds an AGM, they pull names out of a hat and the person then gets the defence kill polar bear skin.

Mr. Speaker, the way it is currently managed is very problematic here in Nunavut. Is there any way to make improvements in this system? As an example, can't the person who killed a bear in self-defence be given the tag and the skin retroactively when the new season opens? Will the confiscation always occur? It is quite a problem when you have to confiscate another person's harvest, as in the old days that would impact their survival.

I do understand that the bear is confiscated when it is killed outside the hunting season when a person is forced to kill it. I wonder if there is any way to improve these current confiscation methods and whether you can provide more information on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood my colleague's statement, his concern is when a defence kill occurs where the person has the polar bear confiscated and transferred to the HTO, who then draws names to present the skins to the winner. If I understood that, I will try to clarify the issue.

During the off-season when a person has to kill a bear, the skin is confiscated by the conservation officer, but first an investigation is conducted to determine if the kill was indeed a defence kill and not intentional. Once the investigation

confirms that it was a defence kill, the skin is transferred to the HTO. The HTO board determines the impact on their quota, removes the tag, and when it reaches that stage, they have full discretion on how to deal with the skin.

As the Department of Environment, we can't force them to act a certain way as we are not their overseers, but we do tend to provide advice that it would be better not to return the skin to the person who killed the bear. The reason for that advice is because if some people know that a defence kill can somehow net them a skin, some but not all hunters may shoot bears in the off-season.

However, at this time the HTOs are given leeway on the polar bear skin and what they wish to do with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I totally understand that aspect of the system, but I wanted to share my concern as I feel improvements need to be made to our tag quota system for polar bears.

Polar bear numbers have exploded throughout Nunavut, with some communities experiencing many polar bears coming through in both the summer and fall seasons. This endangers many people who are on the land with the increasing numbers, which is why I feel improvements are required in our short-term future. I wonder how we can address this to meet our concerns.

I will now ask this question to you. In situations where polar bears are killed during the off-season, is this simply abiding by the legislation where the tags are removed? Will there ever be a provision to separate defence kills from the polar bear tags we hunt in the proper season?

If I am making myself understood here, can the tags be in addition to these off-season defence kills so that the tags aren't affected during hunting season? Will this system ever be improved to a point where it is no longer problematic? I am hoping I am understandable here, as I am asking again about improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand you and I am aware that some communities have many polar bears. I'm from Arviat and we get many polar bears in the fall coming into the community.

To count polar bears that are taken out of season a separate way other than through the quota, right now our quotas are set through agreements with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the federal government. I believe that system is going to stay that way for the future for now because if we don't take good care of our polar bears, the federal government may take away that responsibility from us and tell us "You're not managing it properly."

These days the polar bears that are killed are taken out of quotas no matter how

they are killed or what the circumstances. This is not the first time that this concern has been expressed and we will consider it. I believe that this system will stay like that for now and there have just been too many defence kills of polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 542 – 4(3): Nunavut Teacher Education Program – Independent Review

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and everyone who is listening.

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

During yesterday's Minister's Statement about the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and the curriculum, there was going to be an independent review. He stated that over 500 students have taken part in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. I would like to know how many to date are still teaching in schools. 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. Yesterday during my statement as Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, I gave you an update as to what we have been doing in working with the educators with the Department of Education.

The Nunavut Teacher Education Program has been regularly reviewed ever since it was introduced. Following the *Education Act*, we have to teach bilingually. Our teachers have to teach using two languages. It's called bilingual education. We had a comprehensive review on this to see how we can better follow the *Education Act*. Nunavut Arctic College and the DEAs reviewed this to see how it can be improved.

Once students graduate, we want to make sure they are able to teach in Inuktitut, English, or French completely. We know that this will occur and we've had 500 graduates. I expect that there will be new students that will be able to teach using the Inuktitut, English, and French languages, the three languages that we generally use. We want them to become complete teachers in Inuktitut and English and to be able to teach either language with the same strength. The local DEAs and Nunavut Arctic College have been reviewing that.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I completely answered the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to understand how many teachers out of those 500 graduates that took the teacher education program are still teaching in schools. Maybe he can provide me with that information.

My other question is about people leaving their careers for whatever reason. Can the minister tell me, for the teachers that took the NTEP program

and have quit, what has been the biggest reason for them resigning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking about details specific to this issue.

I don't have the actual figures on hand related to graduates of the NTEP program who quit their teaching positions or moved to other positions. What we have noted is that the first batch of students who graduated moved on to other positions and some of them have turned to curriculum development. This is one area where we noticed changes, as an example of the curriculum (interpretation ends) resources (interpretation) field where many past teachers are working in. They provide much needed support, even if they no longer teach.

We noticed that some of the other graduates are working within this government in non-educational fields, as an example, in the upper echelons of this government's management. Many past teachers have entered the public service and this is something we take pride in as well. We prefer that they continue in their teaching careers, but each person has choices they make in their lives and are free to choose new careers.

Nonetheless, we still take pride in these people who graduated from NTEP, became teachers, and moved on to other positions as they are still working for this government. It is obvious that they utilize their level of education in this

field when they wish to pursue other careers and we noted many such examples. Yes, this person is no longer a teacher, but they are part of the public servants, so they contribute in other ways.

As well, related to this program we continue to train new teachers and hope to produce many more, especially with our continued emphasis on the fact that all communities have the opportunity to take on this NTEP program within their hamlets. We will continue to push this initiative forward.

It is obvious since it is impossible to forecast our future, even some of the graduates of this program may end up in different careers and we can't control their choices. However, we encourage them to pursue teaching positions in our schools as teachers. That is what I can respond with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response, minister. It's like we lose the former teachers who have resigned from their positions, especially these bilingual teachers. That is a part of our mandate. I'm sure the teachers need more support. As the minister stated, they usually end up developing curriculum material instead in the hopes that this would be positive. The result, however, has been that they have to be replaced by former teachers. That is what I am emphasizing

This NTEP program will be independently reviewed and we know that Makigiaqta also involves a great deal of training. Maybe through this

independent review we can make sure they are included in finding solutions. I'm asking to make sure that they will be included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this independent review on improvements to the operations of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, it will include ways to retain current students within the positions and this is part of our comprehensive review to improve the program.

Yes, your comments were truthful as my colleague suggested and we are very pleased with the Makigiaqta program. Further, we will continue to push for this initiative as we have heard good things about it from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, who announced that we need more bilingual teachers and yes, we agree with that assessment. With Makigiaqta having been established, it will lead to further improvements.

At this time the Premier and I are members of the board. That will be our vision as we search for ways to leverage the funding to make improvements. That is what we will push for during this Makigiaqta mandate, as that is the purpose of the corporation on how to increase the numbers of Inuit employed within our public service and in particular our teachers. That will be our focus, which I want my colleagues to be fully aware of. We will push for and use this Makigiaqta mandate, which was quite comprehensive, to improve this situation, especially with our future teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 543 – 4(3): Food Allowances for Medical Travel Clients

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my first question, good morning to Nunavummiut and residents of Baker Lake. I have a grandchild who is now three years old today, Ursula Tatty-Niego.

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, medical clients often have to travel outside of the jurisdiction to receive health care. In some cases medical clients can stay at such facilities as the Winnipeg Inuit Centre or the Larga facility where meals are provided. However, from time to time medical clients stay elsewhere and they are given a meal allowance. A number of my constituents have noted that the meal allowance is not sufficient to buy a proper meal, especially if they are trying to eat healthy, nutritious food.

Can the minister clearly explain how the amount of food allowance is determined for medical travel clients who are not staying at a facility which provides meals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that question. It was a question I myself

have asked recently.

When people are travelling on medical travel and they stay at a hotel outside the boarding home due to space limitations, using Manitoba as an example, they typically place them in hotels that are very near the boarding home and food can be delivered from the boarding home to the residents at the hotel.

If those clients so choose to not partake of that service that is available to them, they do get food vouchers provided to them at the rates established from Non-Insured Health Benefits, which is a Health Canada program that Department of Health Nunavut administers on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that health insurance programs, such as the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, determine amounts for meals, accommodation, and other benefits for medical clients. However, those programs should take into account the actual costs of eating a healthy diet. Can the minister clarify what discussions he has had with health insurance providers, such as the managers of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, to negotiate a more appropriate food allowance for medical travel clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Myself personally I haven't been engaged in any negotiations, but I

do know staff from the Department of Health are continuous communication with Health Canada regarding NIHB. They do take consideration into the location of what food costs. Just as an example, the rate in southern Canada is \$50 a day, yet if you were a boarding home in Nunavut the rate is \$83 a day. They do take consideration into the costs of food in the locale, where you're located.

I understand that the member is concerned that maybe he feels that \$50 isn't enough and I'm sure my officials are listening and in their discussions with Health Canada regarding Non-Insured Health Benefits. I'm sure this is a topic that comes up very regularly, but again I'm sure they're listening and we will raise these concerns with Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, if it is not possible for NIHB benefits or other health insurance benefits to be renegotiated or upgraded, would the minister commit to looking into what it would cost for his department to supplement the amount of money given to clients so that they can eat properly while on medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said in my very first answer to the member's questions, there is a food service available from the boarding homes that will be delivered to

the residents in the hotels if they are concerned about their dietary needs. The benefit that is being provided is to people who wish to not partake in that. There is some choice in the matter that there is healthy food available through our contracts with boarding homes.

That being said, already Nunavut subsidizes some of the programs that we provide on behalf of Health Canada. We don't get full coverage through NIHB for some of the rates we are charged. To take a look at an additional supplement or subsidy to that, to be honest, with the limited resources we have, it's not something I would entertain right now, but it's something that I can discuss with my officials on the feasibility of it.

To take away resources to do a study on how much it would cost when those services are being provided through contracts right now, I don't personally see a valuable use of the resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 544 – 4(3): Contract for the Medical Inuit Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify when the contract will be ending for the facilities used by medical patients such as the (interpretation ends) Kivalliq Inuit Centre (interpretation) that I am referring to, where patients from our region fly to? This is the contract for

management of that centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the delay.

The current end date on that contract is May 31, 2017 and there is one more extension available to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per the minister's response, they can always extend the contract.

Mr. Speaker, the Kivalliq Inuit Centre has to be totally operational such that it is enjoyed by our patients. I wonder, once the contract renewal window has opened, if the minister knows the period or for how many years this contract will last. Hopefully I was understandable with my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak to what future negotiations may close out at as far as a length of term. I do know that we have very strict conditions within our contract on the type of service that is available.

If the member or constituents or medical travel patients feel that the services aren't being met, I would strongly

encourage them to contact our medical travel personnel or Patient Relations as well as the boarding home itself has a line where people can raise concerns to the executive director there.

I believe I had sent the contact information to the Kivalliq Inuit Association's board of directors and some of the executives to one of the other members. If the member wants that list from me, he is welcome to get it from me and he can raise his concerns with them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the people who are managing this are a private business and they can try to apply for the RFP. Do they use the NNI Policy when awarding a contract for this kind of service? 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 don't know specifically with this contract, but it's my understanding that all government contracts on a service provided, we use proper procurement policies for the Government of Nunavut, which would include NNI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 545 – 4(3): Heating Oil Tanks

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning and good morning to my grandson Jayden, who's probably still sleeping right now, but he might watch the reruns later today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program provides financial assistance to Nunavut homeowners for the replacement of heating oil tanks that are in poor condition or not meeting current standards.

I would also like to note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation also replaced all of the heating oil tanks for public housing units in Sanikiluaq. This program has resulted in a large number of used fuel tanks in the community.

Can the minister tell us today: how does the Nunavut Housing Corporation plan to properly dispose of the stockpile of unused heating oil tanks that are currently sitting in a lot beside the Sanikiluaq's community dump? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. Mr. Speaker, with respect to his question about the removal of tanks no longer in

use and the protocols or standards used in those cases, I can't respond in detail now unfortunately as I don't have (interpretation ends) that level of information (interpretation) available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I tabled a number of photographs that show some of the many heating oil tanks that are currently sitting in a lot outside the community of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, on March 12 of 2014 I asked the minister's officials during Committee of the Whole. I expressed my concerns about the number of empty fuel tanks that were accumulating outside the community. Two and a half years ago the minister told me that he agreed with me that it was a problem and that he would look into the used oil tanks and keep me up to date.

Mr. Speaker, it's two and a half years later and he still doesn't have the information. When can I get this information on what the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan is to deal with the empty fuel tanks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, I don't have the information in front of me. For example, if the oil tanks are no longer being used or if they have to be disposed or

transported outside of Nunavut, it wouldn't only be the responsibility of my department but also other departments. We're talking about different types of containers. Community and Government Services will have to get involved. Once we decide on how we're going to dispose of those containers, I will then make an announcement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize there are other departments involved, but as I stated earlier, it has been two and a half years and I thought there would be an update by now.

Will the minister commit to working with the ministers of Environment and Community and Government Services to develop a strategy by which used heating oil tanks can be adequately disposed of in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Environment is right beside me and we will work closely to make sure that these oil tanks are dealt with adequately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 546 – 4(3): Crime Prevention in Nunavut

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

On May 26, 2015 the minister of the day tabled the department's *Public Engagement Report for the Crime Prevention Strategy*. Since that date, over a year ago, Nunavummiut and I have been waiting patiently for the government's crime prevention strategy.

Can the minister provide us today with an update on when we can expect to see the government's crime prevention strategy for Nunavut tabled in the House?

I think my colleague Mr. Joanasie raised this issue as well, but I think I would like clarification exactly when we can expect this tabling to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, there were quite extensive consultations across Nunavut. As I mentioned the other day, I like to review everything when I take on a new department. I had an opportunity to read through that rather massive document. I referred to it, I think, in COW at one point. It is being translated and I'm hopeful that it can be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. We will look forward to

reading that very important report.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to our territory's community justice committees and the department's Community Justice Division who, in cooperation with the RCMP's "V" Division, develop and coordinate a number of community-based crime prevention initiatives.

On June 7, 2016 I asked the minister why his department doesn't provide information on these initiatives in its Community Justice Division and *Family Abuse and Intervention Act* annual reports. I recognize that the minister has concerns that tabling all those reports that his department produces would require a lot of paper and kill a lot of trees. However, I would like to note that the department currently makes a number of its reports available on its website, which doesn't require the use of quite as much paper.

Will the minister commit to making information on the Community Justice Division's crime prevention initiatives available on his department's website at the earliest practicable opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it does seem like the government kills a forest every time we have a sitting. The massive amount of paper that we churn out that we have to read as cabinet ministers and MLAs is astounding, and we have to be on top of all the information from all the various

committees across Nunavut. The RCMP prepares reports for me as well that I receive and read. A shout-out to the RCMP for all the good work they do in the communities with our youth and justice committees.

Mr. Speaker, I will look into that to see what we can do, but I can't commit. There is a lot of information that we have to go through. I will talk to my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree there is a lot of reading we all have to do, but it's important, I think, to table as much as we can and to put on the websites that we have so that other people can see it.

As the minister is well aware, crime prevention is a community effort that requires coordination at all levels of government and in cooperation with families, law enforcement, and other organizations within a community.

Can the minister provide us with a list of the stakeholders that are currently involved in the development of the government's territory-wide crime prevention strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of people contributed a lot to that strategy. Of course we consulted with all the communities. I forget the exact number of individuals

and organizations that were involved, but there were a lot. The hamlets are certainly involved, the justice committees are involved, the RCMP is involved, and our department is involved. I'm not sure, but there may be some other government departments involved. There are a lot of people involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 217 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the 2015-16 *Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Tabled Document 218 – 4(3): FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety, Halifax, NS October 12 to 14, 2016

Tabled Document 219 – 4(3): FPT Ministers of Labour and Employment, Prince George, BC September 9, 2016

Tabled Document 220 – 4(3): Annual Report – Nunavut Law Foundation Year Ending December 31, 2015

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just a follow-up to Ms. Angnakak's question. There is a lot of paper; some more paper. These will be posted on the electronic website as well, the legislative website. I have three documents.

Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling the FPT ministers responsible for justice and public safety, Halifax, Nova Scotia meeting from October 12 to 14, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling the FPT ministers of labour and employment meeting held in Prince George, BC, September 9, 2016.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling the Nunavut Law Foundation's Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 221 – 4(3): FPT Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management, Toronto, ON May 5 and 6, 2016

**Tabled Document 222 – 4(3):
Provincial-Territorial Ministers
Responsible for Local
Government, Lethbridge, AB June
8 and 9, 2016**

**Tabled Document 223 – 4(3): FPT
Sport, Physical Activity and
Recreation Ministers' Meeting,
Quebec City, QC July 7, 2016**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have three documents to table and they're all under Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the FPT meeting responsible for emergency management, which was in Toronto, Ontario, May 5 and 6, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table another FPT meeting on sports and physical activity and recreational ministers' meeting in Lethbridge, Alberta, June 8 and 9 of 2016.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the FPT meeting of the ministers responsible for local government, which occurred in Quebec City on July 7, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First
Reading of Bills**

**Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Motor
Vehicles Act – Notice**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 7, 2016, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Fire
Prevention Act – Notice**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 7, 2016, that Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Human
Rights Act – Notice**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, November 7, 2016, that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) 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, 16, and 23 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:33 and Committee resumed at 10:57*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good morning, colleagues. Welcome, Nunavummiut listening to the radio and watching TV.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 23, 14, and 16. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and again good morning. Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the review of Bill 23 and the supporting document and, if time permits, the review of Bill 14 and Bill 16. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 23?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you and good morning, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have two officials I would like to bring to the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Peterson, please introduce your officials. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Dan Carlson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I am here today to present Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017*.

Bill 23 seeks authority to adjust the government's 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget by:

- Reducing the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's budget by \$697,000; and
- Increasing the Department of Environment's budget by \$697,000.

These adjustments support the transfer of the Energy Secretariat from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to the Department of Environment.

As part of this transfer, the government will merge the roles of the Energy Secretariat with the Department of Environment's existing Climate Change Section.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. We will now take questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The floor is now open for general comments. Seeing none, we will now proceed to the page-by-page review of Bill 23 starting on page 4. 2016-17 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No.2. Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Program Management. \$697,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$697,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 5. Economic Development and Transportation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Corporate Management. -\$697,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized.

-\$697,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 2. Government of Nunavut. 2016-17 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 2. Schedule 1: Operations and Maintenance. Do members agree to Schedule 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of Bill 23. Please go to Bill 23 in your legislative binder.

Thank you. Do you all have your Bill 23? Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2017. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Do members agree to the Schedule?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 1. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 23 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 23 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank Minister Ell-Kanayuk and Minister Savikataaq from the departments of Economic Development and Transportation and Community and Government Services for working hard on this new initiative, the Climate Change Secretariat. It's going to be a very important secretariat to Nunavut going forward.

Thank you to you and your committee for recognizing this and supporting us today to make this official.

I would like to thank my officials in Finance and other officials who worked hard to ensure that there is a smooth transition to budgets and person years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Health if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Hickes.

Bill 14 – Public Health Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. I have two officials that I would like to bring to the witness table. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Hickes, please introduce your officials. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me today Colleen Stockley, Deputy Minister for Health, and Jonathan Paradis, who is a policy analyst with the department. Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to your officials. Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. I am pleased to appear before you to discuss Bill 14, which creates a new *Public Health Act* for Nunavut.

I have already introduced my officials, but again, they're Colleen Stockley, Deputy Minister for Health, and Jonathan Paradis, who is a policy analyst with the department.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to appear before the Committee of the Whole for its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 14.

The current version of the *Public Health Act* dates from 1957 and is not comprehensive enough to respond to Nunavut's public health challenges. It is silent on some key elements, such as health promotion, that are recognized nationally and internationally.

As we discuss this bill, it is important to keep in mind that Public Health is concerned with protecting and promoting the health of the population as a whole, not just the health of individuals. As such Public Health does not cover areas such as medical travel, medical services for individuals, the structure of the health system, or health insurance.

The bill before you will provide the Department of Health and the chief public health officer with more up-to-date legislation to better address

communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis, and other health hazards.

The bill grants the power to declare public health emergencies and provides legislative authority to support health promotion initiatives, such as campaigns to prevent fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Furthermore, it gives the chief public health officer the authority to monitor health determinants.

This initiative has been long in the making and I am very happy to see this bill considered today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 14, the proposed *Public Health Act*.

As members will recall, Bill 14 received second reading on March 11, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

Bill 14 establishes a proposed new legislative framework for a modern and comprehensive public health system for Nunavut, addressing the requirements to be met in order to protect public health and establishing the duties and powers of the minister, the chief public health officer, and other officers in ensuring the protection and promotion of public health.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 14, a total of 16 motions were moved to amend the bill. I am very pleased to note that the sponsoring minister formally concurred with each motion.

For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the major amendments to Bill 14.

Clause 3 of Bill 14 has been amended to include clearer definitions of "health hazard," "sewage," "sewage system," and "waste disposal system."

Clause 16 of Bill 14 has been amended to place greater safeguards on the access, use, and disclosure of personal health information and to correct a numerical error.

Clause 17 of Bill 14 has been amended to ensure that the chief public health officer may obtain assistance in the collection of personal health information.

Subclauses 24(2) and 28(2) of Bill 14 have been amended to provide greater consistency and clarity with respect to terms referring to waste disposal systems.

Clauses 31 and 32 of Bill 14 have been amended to provide greater clarity with respect to the definitions and associated requirements relating to disposal facilities.

Clause 43 of Bill 14 has been amended to strengthen tabling requirements of the annual report required under the Act.

Clause 47 of Bill 14 has been amended to ensure that environmental health officers appointed under the Act have the necessary qualifications.

Clause 48 of Bill 14 has been amended to clarify the role of community health and wellness committees with respect to the proposed legislation.

Clause 50 of Bill 14 has been amended to ensure that school principals are prohibited from sharing any personal health information provided by the chief public health officer with anyone other than the student involved or his or her legal guardian.

Subclause 59(4) of Bill 14 has been amended to clarify the reference to "person" within the clause.

Clause 64 of Bill 14 has been amended to ensure the appropriate interpretation and use of the term "certificate."

Clause 74 of Bill 14 has been amended to ensure that there are limitations on the collection and use of information.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner for providing comment and input to the committee during its review of Bill 14. The standing committee encourages the government to consult with the Information and Privacy Commissioner at the earliest possible stages of drafting any legislation which touches upon the collection, access, use, and disclosure of personal information.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee had raised the issue of the public's right of access to the results of health inspections and enforcement activities undertaken pursuant to the *Public Health Act*. While members appreciate that a statutory right of access exists under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the standing committee encourages the chief public health officer to proactively disclose public inspection reports or ratings regarding inspected premises.

Clause 85 of Bill 14 has been amended to provide greater clarity to the regulation-making authority with respect to sewage, waste and water supply systems.

On this issue the standing committee notes that once the legislation is passed, new regulations such as the *Public Drinking Water Regulations* will be brought forward. Providing safe drinking water is a fundamental responsibility of government. It was also noted that three communities in Nunavut currently add the chemical fluoride to their water systems as a dental health promotion measure. Members urge the government to closely monitor the risks and benefits of adding such chemicals as fluoride to community water supplies.

Finally, clause 94 of Bill 14 has been amended to clarify the definition of "food" under this part of the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the minister and his staff for working collaboratively with the committee to make Bill 14 a stronger, more balanced piece of legislation today than it was when it was first introduced.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 14, as amended and reprinted, to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. T. Sammurtok. The floor is now open for general comments. I want to remind members that the contents of the minister's opening comments are covered in the different branches of the department. General comments? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think maybe I would just like a little bit of feedback about enforcement of this legislation. There are a lot of areas where people are required to do certain things. For example, for communicable diseases and that, the chief medical officer has a big role.

I'm just wondering if you could give me some feedback on how you think the enforcement part of this law is going to be and how would you work it. I know that there are certain fines if you don't do certain things, but if somebody doesn't have an income, how are you going to do that? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that concern. This Act does give the chief medical officer quite a bit of authority and autonomous authority where there wouldn't be political or bureaucratic interference.

With regard to the specificity of the member's question, a lot of those concerns would be dealt with within the

creation of the regulations that actually outline how the enforcement policies would be created and adhered to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I just have one other question. One of the things that seem to come up, and I think there's some confusion in the public of who is really responsible for this, is the frustration over buying food that's rotten. You go home, you open up the package, and then you have rotten spare ribs and you have to go all the way back. I think this happens quite a lot. I see there are references here to expiry dates, but sometimes things don't have expiry dates or your product hasn't reached the expiry date but you can't eat them; they're just too bad.

Who is responsible for ensuring that the stores are storing meat, for example, the way that they're supposed to? When they continue to sell food that I would even think are over the expiry date, who is monitoring this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a very good point. This piece of legislation does give a lot more clarity to that issue with regard to environmental health officers visiting retail outlets and even going so far as to, if there is contaminated country food in a community, where it gives them investigative authority to find the root of the outbreak or illness or whatever the food is creating and enforcement opportunities to be able to deal with that.

When we're dealing with food that, in the member's example, may not have reached the expiry date but is still tainted, it would be up to the store to return. If the consumer has a concern, they are absolutely free to contact our environmental health officers for us to go in and do a spot inspection to make sure that the freezer and cooler temperature parameters are adhered to. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other two questions would be, the first one is how many environmental officers do you currently employ, and when it comes to restaurants, if restaurants happen to serve food that maybe makes somebody sick, what involvement, if any, does your department have under this proposed Act to cover that problem? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the first question, I don't have the exact numbers of how many environmental health officers we have right now. I didn't anticipate that question to come up. I apologize. I can get it to the committee members after a period of time. I see people on their devices soliciting that information now.

With regard to the example used of a restaurant, if there was some type of a food poisoning situation, that can happen, whether it be a public event or in a retail... It goes to, like I stated earlier, about having the investigative authority to be able to go in and do an

investigation and take samples of the foods, and in cases, where necessary, to dispose of those foods that are creating the health hazard.

This piece of legislation basically brings public health into this century. The legislation we're working under is over 50 years old or 60 years old almost. A lot of the restrictions that were in there are dealt with in this legislation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to food, I have heard people wonder about this. I'm going to ask you: would environmental health officers inspect restaurants? Do they have to give notice? Can they do spot inspections? Do they only look at the kitchens and that? I'm talking about food safety here and the safety of people. How far do they go when they make inspections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They don't just look at the kitchen. They've got the ability to look at the entire facility. With regard to the member's question, they don't have to give notice; they can do spot inspections. They do have a schedule that they're trying to adhere to, to make sure that they're getting to all facilities in a period of time. That being said, if there is ever a concern or if anyone brings to raise an issue, it would be dealt with immediately. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about the smaller communities? It's easy to do spot inspections here because, I think, you're based here. What about in Qikiqtarjuaq? Maybe there's a pizza place there. Who is looking after that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In communities where there is not an environmental health officer located, they do visit regularly. Now, if somebody were to know from the airport who that inspector is that is flying in, they might be able to give the establishment a 10-minute heads up that somebody is in town, but I don't think a quick sponge bath of a place would fool any of our environmental health officers. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other thing that comes to mind when we talk about food safety and public health is daycares. We don't have enough daycares, but we do have quite a few daycares across Nunavut and all of them serve food. Who is looking after that? Is it the same environmental inspectors looking after daycares, restaurants, and other areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the delay; I was just having a little discussion here.

I'm not aware if there's a mandatory regular check that they do at daycares.

Again, they do have the authority to go in or this legislation will give them the enforcement authority that they can go in and do spot checks if concerns are raised, especially to the point where I was talking about earlier if there's an incident that a number of people are getting sick from the same type of food or the same establishment or a public function. The investigation goes back to find out what the source of that is. They would have the authority to go in.

I'm not aware right now if there's a mandatory regular check. Again, that's something that we will take note of and we will have to return to the committee. I apologize for not having that information. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, why I think you have this Act is to try to stop people from getting sick. I would think that you would want to go into daycares because we're talking about little children, who are much more susceptible to this kind of illness, especially when it comes to food, that kind of ailment where they get sick, botulism or whatever, just food poisoning.

If they make a visit to a community, I think they should go to daycares, not that I'm targeting them, but just for the safety of children and it could be an educational thing too because just the storage of food and that and how it should be done might be a really good thing to talk about with them.

Is it possible to get a list from you? I'm just curious about inspections and I would like to know how many times the

community... . You say they go there regularly, but it would be good to see, over the last year, how many communities have been visited and what kind of investigations they did. Is that possible to get? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the first part of the member's preamble about daycares, there are notes that have been taken and when we're drafting the regulations, that's something we will take into consideration.

With regard to the specific question of the regularity, we do have tracking information. Again, as this legislation matures, it will give us more opportunities to streamline our reporting so that we can make sure that we're reporting things in a way that still maintains the privacy conditions, somewhat the privacy commissioner brought to our attention to make sure that we are adhering to ATIPP legislation. The department does track the number of visits.

Again, I don't have that information with me today. I can talk to the Chair or the committee or maybe we can discuss this after on what level of detail that you're looking for. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that. Yes, I understand completely about the confidentiality. I don't think I'm looking for that kind of detail. I'm looking for information how many times

communities have been visited by the environmental protection officers, which place did they visit and in general what are the most common types of infractions, perhaps, that they have come across, just like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The environmental health officers, the goal is to go at least twice a year to each community. With regard to the most common infractions, again I don't have that information with me. I'm not sure. We can look into it.

One of the things that I think people need to realize that when these environmental health officers go into a facility, they're not just looking for cleanliness. They talk to the staff about food handling practices. They talk to the ownership to make sure that they're training the staff properly on safe food handling procedures. It's not just a visual inspection; there's also an inspection of their practices. It is quite encompassing.

I applaud the work they're doing and we don't hear that often of instances of people getting sick from restaurants in Nunavut, so obviously I think they're doing a pretty darn good job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's what I would like to see on paper. I think they are doing a good job, but let's see how many communities have been visited, which places they visit, and the most common

infractions just to give us a sense of what kind work is being done. I'm not looking for like, "Oh well, this person did this." I'm just looking for a general picture. If you can give me a general picture, that's what I'm looking for. I agree with you that's why I brought up the fact about the daycares. It's not just to go and say, "Okay, daycares, let me look at what you're doing," but also as an educational opportunity too.

The other thing and perhaps my last question, unless you answer in a way that makes me want to ask more questions, one of the things that everybody in this room experiences when we go to a store to buy cereal or some other kind of product, there's sometimes a little contest and you can apply to be in the contest, but then you realize the cereal, for example, is like three years old and the best-before date was 2015 or 2014. Who's looking after that? Is that allowed? I don't think it's like an expiry; it's a best-before date and there is a difference between the two. Is there anything that protects us in that the person selling the product needs to tell us that the best-before date is way past? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. There is a difference between a best-before date and an expiry date. An expiry date has health implications whereas the best before, you may lose the flavour or maybe some of the nutritional value, but it doesn't impact food safety. The rules are very lax, I guess, around if you want to call selling foods past the best-before date.

That being said, it is up to the consumer to try to put fresh food products in front of us in the stores. Realistically you're looking at raising concerns with the store itself. The labelling system that is on food products right now is overseen by the federal government. If there are concerns of much outdated food products and we have them in Nunavut too, we have all experienced it. You order sealift and you get all nice fresh stuff and you go to the store and they should have just had their sealift, but it's all expired. It is overseen by the federal government.

To me the recourse is through the retailer, through communication to the retailer of dissatisfaction or if you feel that it's long overdue, there are federal agencies that can assist in that regard. I'm sure I can steer you down that path. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for your answer. I want to talk about food with my next question, but it might not fit under here. I'm not too sure. One of the things that I have read that's starting to... I don't know if it's something that has gone on for a long time, but I just read about it. In some provinces they force stores that sell food that best-before date things that they want to throw out like Wal-Mart, the food that they want to throw out in the past have always just gone into the garbage. Now there's a big push for that food that stores throw out that are still good, you could still eat them, but maybe they're going to expire in a couple of days and they're forced to be given to those in poverty.

I'm not too sure how it would fall under here, what kind of impact that would have under Bill 14, but has there been any kind of discussion about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're talking about foods that are nearing their best-before date that stores want to give away, we do have the *Donation of Food Act* that allows for those provisions. Instead of throwing it away, if it's still consumable, retailers can donate it to food banks or daycares or schools or whatever the case may be. That's a separate piece of legislation than what we're dealing with today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and the officials. My colleague was asking a number of questions, but at a different angle here. When we're looking at communicable diseases to better address, can you identify for the viewing audience what you're looking at in that particular explanation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, when you're dealing with communicable diseases, we want to be able to make sure that we have the authority to do a complete investigation. Whereas right now, even just the descriptions under the current legislation are so outdated that they haven't kept up with the times. When

you're dealing with different influenzas or potential pandemics or sexually transmitted diseases, there are different investigative powers that we can have so that we can find a source of it and increase mitigation measures and awareness campaigns. I'm not sure how much more detail the member is looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at that particular paragraph on your page 3 of 4 on the first paragraph, the last sentence there, when you're looking at health hazards as indicated and written in your opening document, are you looking specific infrastructure buildings within a community, for example, maybe more commonly to public infrastructure buildings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It goes in further than just the actual infrastructure. When you're talking about health hazards, it takes anything that threatens or reasonably to be expected to threaten public health, so it goes a lot further than just an actual health facility. Within the health hazard, there could be something in the community that has been determined by the community as a health hazard where we would have some authority to go in and provide orders to remedy that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at these orders that the chief public health officer would warrant, would the order have a specified number of hours or days or weeks that it would be reflective of in considering a health hazard, for example, an arena or the school or some public infrastructure building where there are a lot of public people going in and out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a very broad concept. It would strictly depend upon what that health hazard is that would determine how fast it would be determined to be fixed or remedied. Again, when we're talking the legislation, it gives us quite broad authority that we can narrow down and put more detail to as the regulations get created.

Once we get this legislation through and from what I understood from the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation's opening comments, the support is there to move this motion forward. We can get started on the regulations as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're talking about this chief public health officer who will have authority to monitor health detriments and when we look at Nunavut, we have 25 or 26 communities within our territory, is that going to be a shared responsibility or is that one chief public health officer going to have other staff assisting with the responsibility to

oversee the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the chief medical officer has the ultimate authority, its reporting goes to that position and there's also an assistant chief medical officer as well. Environmental health officers, members of the public, health staff, teachers, basically anyone has the authority to bring forward an issue or a concern that the chief medical officer can then determine whether an investigation needs to proceed to deal with that issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at this authority obtained by the chief public health officer and when we look at this Bill 14 being getting caught up to date to this day and age, is your department satisfied with what is in the bill to try to ensure safety in the health aspect as a department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short answer is yes. That being said, I would like to acknowledge the communication with the committee on legislation and the amount of work that the committee put into putting forward motions, all of which myself and the department have agreed and concurred with.

I think, in the true sense of the consensus model of government that we practise

under, I think this bill is a shining example of how a standing committee and a government department can work together to create legislation that encompasses all the needs of the territory. I just had to say that to the long answer of my yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at this Bill 14 and if you were to come across communicable diseases, for example, in a school environment and a communicable disease started to surface, would this bill override the *Education Act* considering that it would impact so many students and staff within the school environment? Would the chief public health officer have the final authority when you're dealing with two Acts and a vast majority of people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's an interesting question that the member raises. There are two differing pieces of legislation and one wouldn't supersede the other to the degree that health and safety is paramount in both pieces of legislation to the students.

It may put more pressure on the school calendar for the department to make sure that they're meeting the educational requirements of the students if the school had to be closed for a period of time. The chief medical officer of health has the authority to close a facility due to health and safety reasons. There have been some days, even this year, with the

whooping cough that school starts were delayed or cases dealt with.

I would just like to take this opportunity to keep my Minister of Health hat on for all members, when you go back to your community, to make sure that people are participating in the vaccination clinics that are available at the health offices. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. Maybe this will be my one final question here. When we're looking at health hazards and when we look at our drinking water, does the chief public health officer or, as indicated earlier to responses that you provided to my colleague, from time to time... ? I know it's a vast territory. Do the environmental health officers, from time to time, do inspections to the community pump houses to ensure that we have safe drinking water that does not have communicable diseases spreading at a fast pace? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're talking about especially potable water and consumable water that we deal with, water is tested at the source before treatment and it is tested again after treatment to make sure that there are no contaminants or anything of issue.

If anything, this new legislation gives us even more mandatory testing and standards. When we start getting into the regulations, we can strengthen that, but it also gives the chief medical officer the...

. Currently when we do water advisories, boil water advisories, or in Sanikiluaq recently due to elevated sodium levels, with cooperation from other government departments, we have actually put filters into people's homes to make sure that the potable water is safe for all residents.

That being said, there is very close monitoring on water safety, so I'm not sure how much more I can say that. It's very serious. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I move a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

We will continue with the review of Bill 14 with Minister Hickes and his officials on Monday.

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

I will now rise to report progress.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 23 and Bill 14 and would like to report that Bill 23 is immediately ready

for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Shooyook.

>> *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 of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

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

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 23 is ready for assent.

(interpretation) Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder of meetings for the Standing Committee on Legislation, first of all, the committee meets at half past one this afternoon and tomorrow, Saturday, time to be confirmed pending the results of this afternoon's meeting, and the third meeting is on Monday at nine o'clock. All meetings are in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Also for this afternoon for the MSB to stand by for a meeting that will take place in the Tuktu Room, time to be either three o'clock or four o'clock, so please stand by.

Orders of the Day for November 7:

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

- Motion 37 – 4(3)
- Motion 38 – 4(3)

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 29
- Bill 30
- Bill 31

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 14
- Bill 16

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 Monday, November 7, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:57*

