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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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(Hudson Bay)

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Tom Sammurtok
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(Baker Lake)
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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

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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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Tuesday, November 8, 2016****Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): My fellow MLAs, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors, welcome to the House.

Before we start, I wish to make a statement.

Speaker's Statement

(interpretation ends) As this is our last day of the fall sitting, I wish to make an announcement.

As the Chairperson of the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, I am very pleased to take this opportunity to announce the names of this year's recipients of the Order of Nunavut.

The Order of Nunavut is the highest honour of Nunavut and takes precedence over all other orders, decorations, or medals conferred by the Government of Nunavut.

The Order of Nunavut Advisory Council recently met to consider this year's nominations.

This year's recipients are Mr. Louie Kamookak of Gjoa Haven, Ms. Ellen Hamilton of Iqaluit, and Mr. Red Pedersen of Kugluktuk.

A formal announcement containing biographical details of this year's recipients is being issued today by my office.

The investiture ceremony will be held during our upcoming winter sitting on a day to be announced. This ceremony will be televised live all across Nunavut.

I look forward to joining Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut for this important occasion and I look forward to inviting all members to join us. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 224 – 4(3): Being Prepared**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that winter is setting in, I would like to speak directly to those who

are watching or listening today to remind them that being prepared is the best way to deal with an emergency situation. I am asking people to really think about this and help spread this message to your friends and family because I want to make sure that Nunavummiut are prepared for emergencies.

Make sure you have a flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries on hand in case the power goes out. It is also important to have some cash put aside in a safe place; even a small amount can be very useful during an emergency. Please do your best to keep extra cans of food and containers of water to last for a period of 72 hours.

If you are travelling out on the land, make a plan before you go and let someone know what your plan is. Make sure you have enough equipment and supplies because if something goes wrong, it could take some time before help arrives. You should always have extra fuel, spark plugs, and a spare belt for your snowmobile. Please remember to bring extra clothing and enough food.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see people using SPOT devices when they travel, even on short trips. The Protection Services Division of CGS provides this equipment free of charge through the hamlets, HTOs, and RCMP because these devices can help save lives. I want to remind people that these devices are for everyone's use, so it is important to return them after use.

I wish to emphasize again that when we have to deal with an emergency, being prepared for the emergency is half the battle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Mr. George Hickes.

Minister's Statement 225 – 4(3): The Importance of Healing

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have visited communities, Nunavummiut share with me the importance of healing. With so much change and loss in our lives, our parents' lives, and our grandparents' lives, our individual and collective healing will include both kindness and tears.

November 21 is the International Survivor of Suicide Day. On this day, around the world, friends and family of those who have died by suicide can join together for healing and support.

Mr. Speaker, with the love and support of family, friends, elders, and the faith community we can get through hard times. We can heal.

For those times that we need additional support, there are several options and I would like to share a few with you today.

Every community health centre, regional health centre, and Iqaluit Mental Health has free, confidential mental health and addictions support. Psychologists and other mental health professionals are available through telehealth. When services are not available locally, referrals and medical travel are provided.

Mr. Speaker, for former residential school students and their families, the

IRS Resolution Health Support Program provides free, confidential mental health and emotional support services. In Nunavut cultural wellness and healing is provided by Iisaaqivik, Tukisigiavik, Pulaarvik Kublu, and the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre. Psychologists and other mental health professionals are also available. Transportation is provided when these services are not locally available.

Mr. Speaker, several employers offer employee and family assistance programs, including the Government of Nunavut. These programs offer free, confidential support, including mental health and addictions support, psychology, and online courses.

Mr. Speaker, while we all grieve and heal differently, there is help in many places. Common between us is the need to take care of ourselves, our families, and our communities physically and emotionally. There is help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 226 – 4(3): NDC
Working with Community
Fisheries**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Local community fisheries remain an important economic contributor in our communities. During

the summer months when many Inuit are spending time on the land, the ability to fish commercially for arctic char provides an important source of additional income for many Nunavummiut.

I am pleased to say that this past summer the Nunavut Development Corporation worked with organizations in many Nunavut communities to create seasonal income-earning opportunities for local fishermen and women.

Over the summer the Iqalupik Fish Plant in Chesterfield Inlet purchased over 10,000 lbs. of arctic char from local fishers, generating over \$30,000 in local employment and income-earning opportunities.

In Whale Cove, Papiruuq Fisheries bought *maktaa* from local harvesters and purchased over 2,000 lbs. of arctic char from local fishers.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to report the commercial fisheries in both Cambridge Bay and Pangnirtung were successful this year with combined landings of well over [100,000] lbs.

Fishing and harvesting remain an essential way of life for Inuit across Nunavut. Besides being a source of income, fishing and harvesting also yield a healthy food source for Nunavut's households.

I am pleased that the Nunavut Development Corporation is working to enable community fisheries across Nunavut, and I congratulate our residents who participate in these

activities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 227 – 4(3):
Uqalimaariqsarniq Inuktitut
Reading Program**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to update my colleagues on the work being done by my department around literacy. My department has introduced a balanced literacy initiative that addresses the need to improve literacy outcomes for students in all our official languages.

As part of this literacy initiative, my department created Uqalimaariqsarniq, a reading program that aligns with our Inuktitut language arts curriculum and is based on best practices for literacy instruction. The books in Uqalimaariqsarniq are based on a text gradient system that identifies progressive skills that students need to master as they move from beginning reader to highly proficient reader.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell my colleagues that since we developed this program in early 2015, over 200 levelled books have been created in Inuktitut. These books feature northern themes and imagery and are engaging and interesting for students. We have also published teacher resources to support instruction in this program.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we could not do this work alone. The support we have received through Culture and Heritage's Inuit Language Implementation Fund has allowed us to accelerate our production schedule. The Department of Health is creating levelled books on topics such as nutrition, addiction, physical activity, and emotional wellness. The Department of Family Services is creating levelled books that will help students learn about career options.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, with the support of our partners, we expect to have an additional 100 new Inuktitut book titles available to schools and libraries by the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, later this year we will begin to adapt Uqalimaariqsarniq to include books in Inuinnaqtun.

Having fully proficient, bilingual graduates depends on quality teaching and learning materials in every classroom, in every language. We are confident that these resources will support students and teachers as they work together to improve literacy outcomes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 407 – 4(3):
National Sealing Day**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):

Thank you and good afternoon, fellow residents of my community and Nunavummiut.

I rise today due to my passionate nature, especially when any discussions about animals occur, where animals will be affected, or if the land and hunting areas will be impacted. It touches me physically, mentally, as well as right in my soul.

In putting these issues together, many Inuit are very protective and passionate when it comes to sealing. This issue is the reason why I stand today here in this House because back when the first sealing ban took place, Inuit were the victims of that anti-sealing campaign.

When Inuit felt the repercussions, we were just practising our traditional sealing culture to support our own livelihoods from the by-products of animals we caught. Every part of the animal was used. This practice hasn't changed to date. This cultural practice is alive and well.

The real reason why I speak to this issue is that jurisdictions outside of Nunavut, within Canada, as well as outside of Canada are now realizing our position that sealing is not endangering the seals, and as Inuit we notice they now understand.

Due to that reason, I want to remember past seal hunters, many of whom have passed on, but they were the ones who

felt the repercussions. Men like my father-in-law was one of them, so was my late father, my brother-in-law, and my cousin were amongst those whose lives were devastated when the anti-sealing campaign decimated prices which had allowed Inuit to practise their traditional hunting culture, and they were the ones most impacted.

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? I don't hear any nays. Mr. Mike, please proceed.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Indeed, this issue is very dear to me and obviously many Inuit also feel the same both here in Nunavut and outside. I am very pleased to state that in Ottawa, for the first time as I read the gazette looking for sealing issues, I read a day to celebrate sealing is being contemplated.

The Parliament in Ottawa has begun the initiative, with the details listed in there. Perhaps this is the reason why Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette has resigned, as that initiative started with her and the MP for Newfoundland and Labrador, Liberal MP Scott Simms then reinitiated the designation of this day. I fully support that as it is part of sealing.

With the prospect of a designated day for sealing, I have expectations that it can be legislated to be a national day in Canada to show sealing is still relevant.

This is because many citizens in Canada still depend on sealing and it is their livelihood. They can clothe themselves and feed from the harvested seal and you can make all sorts of good meals. Seal meat is very filling and healthy.

I am ecstatic that it looks like May 20 may be designated as the day of sealing. I also wish to thank Yvonne Jones, who is the MP for Labrador and an Inuk. Just like us up here, she grew up in the same type of sealing environment.

I grew up observing my father, uncle, brother-in-law, mother, aunt and sisters, along with my father-in-law working on sealskins, either skinning or preparing the skin. As a culture, they were just practising their traditions, but in those days we were called primitive butchers by the animal rights activists. They even said we were murdering these animals.

Due to this reason, I tend to stand to voice my position publicly in this House. Today Inuit culture hasn't changed a bit, even from that day where the animal rights activists tried to destroy our livelihoods to this day and age. Inuit culture hasn't changed one iota, but the outside world is slowly starting to understand our case.

Due to that reason, even the nations across the ocean have a designated day for marine mammals on May 20, and past representatives for Nunavut have been very dedicated in protecting. An example from recent memory is when our MP was in Washington and he wore a sealskin tie, similar to what I am wearing today but slightly different.

This is a very important matter for many Inuit. I also wish to thank the person

who asked me to speak about this issue. Due to this reason, we still face opposition amongst our own national partisan groups in Ottawa. Some Liberal MPs, some NDP MPs, and Green Party leader Elizabeth May continue to oppose sealing. Their stance was soundly criticized via a Facebook page.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is personally dear to me, my body, my mind, and my soul as sealing is still in our blood, as my ancestors depended on seals to survive, and I will be encouraging my descendants to continue this traditional practice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 408 – 4(3): US Presidential Election

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with this tie embodying a female as today is very important down in the American homelands. The female candidate, from what I understand, will win today and I am anticipating her election, so I can stand with pride. I will anxiously watch the events tonight and I will want to cheer and clap when the election is over.

I am not just standing for this reason only, to show my appreciation but also for my children. I have wonderfully bright daughters and I am very proud of them as they will rise above my capacities as they already exhibit quick minds. Further, my granddaughter will be the most skilled, obvious to me as she has no fear and wants to do everything and shows natural skills.

We should always encourage our girls as they are very capable and wise. Even as males, we have to recognize that many traditional jobs are easy for this generation now, and we should always voice our pride whenever we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 409 – 4(3):
Success at 2016 Badminton
Territorial Tournament**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut and the people of Sanikiluaq, and my grandson Jayden.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sanikiluaq badminton players on another fine performance in their sport.

Mr. Speaker, the 2016 badminton territorials were held here in Iqaluit this past weekend. Players from a number of different communities participated and the level of competition was high. The Sanikiluaq players rose to the challenge.

In the boys' singles event for under 16s, Mike Kavik won gold and Davidee Kudluarok won silver.

In the girls' singles event for under 16s, Lucy Jo Appaqaq won silver.

In the boys' singles event for under 19s, the Sanikiluaq boys swept the podium with Daryle Iqaluk winning gold, Sappa Cookie the silver, and Jaani Audla the bronze.

In the doubles event, Mike Kavik and Jobie Arragutainaq took the gold for the under 16 boys while Daryle Iqaluk and Davidee Kudluarok got gold in the under 19s and Sappa Cookie and Jaani Audla got silver.

Mr. Speaker, with all these victories it should come as no surprise that the Sanikiluaq team took home the 2016 badminton territorials banner.

I would like to thank the chaperones Ippak Iqaluk and Taylor Cowan for supporting our youth.

Mr. Speaker, it is always very good to see opportunities for our youth to travel and compete against each other in these sporting events. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all the badminton players for their participation in the 2016 territorials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 410 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Former
Commissioner of Nunavut Peter
Irnig**

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased to rise today in order to congratulate former Commissioner of Nunavut Peter Irnig.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that former Commissioner Irnig was honoured this past weekend by the

University of Manitoba with a Honorary Degree of Doctor of Canon Law.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, Peter Irniq is a tireless advocate of the Inuit language and culture.

Following his retirement from public office, Peter Irniq has devoted himself to working as an elder advisor to Inuit offenders in southern correctional facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Peter on a well-earned honour.

Mr. Speaker, as today is the final day of our fall sitting, I would like to close by wishing you and all of my colleagues a very merry Christmas.

>>*Laughter*

As we prepare to return to our constituencies, I look forward to spending time with residents in both Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet in the weeks ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Member's Statement 411 – 4(3): In Appreciation of Meadowbank

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the employment opportunities that Agnico Eagle has provided to residents of Baker Lake and Nunavummiut through its Meadowbank mine.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard great things from a number of residents in Baker Lake, who tell me that the mining company makes an effort to provide employees with the opportunity to progress in its workforce.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that administrators who work at the Meadowbank mine site in Baker Lake encourage all employees to try out new and exciting careers in the mining sector. For example, many employees have had the opportunity to test the heavy equipment simulator, and some of these employees have taken the initiative to explore career opportunities in heavy equipment operation.

Mr. Speaker, from what I have heard, this company provides new and exciting training opportunities for the residents of Nunavut. Residents also have the opportunity to participate in a company that facilitates upward mobility, to expand their careers and explore new experiences.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals whose hard work and commitment to the community has made this company a successful part of Baker Lake and Nunavut. They have inspired strength and success in our residents and our community, and I look forward to hearing more about the achievements of Qamani'tuarmit who choose to work with the Meadowbank mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 412 – 4(3):
Proper Whale Hunting in Arctic Bay**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings and my colleagues.

I rise today due to my feelings of pride. With this being the last day I am taking this opportunity to express my gratification of my fellow residents. Mr. Speaker, what I am proud to speak of today about my fellow residents relates to narwhal hunters.

We hunted narwhal without quotas before 1970 and after 1970 a quota system was introduced and we then hunted limited numbers of narwhals in our community. When we first hunted under the quota system, confusion reigned as hunters tried to harvest narwhal first and unsafe practices were used as a result.

We tend to revere our elders as they are very capable due to having overcome dangerous or unsafe events in their lives. I concur with that. Mr. Speaker, as a result in the last five years and a bit longer, due to the continuous advice from the elders to the younger generations, they noted the practicality of the advice.

I have always followed the hunters. In the last few years they were hunting in a manner that was not panicky and I am

very proud of the narwhal hunters today. Everyone is calm and composed, as they harvest the narwhal with the proper methods and without competition. We should encourage our youth to always practise safe hunting methods or in any activity.

Today young people can afford big-ticket items, such as skidoos. My adopted son purchased a vehicle just from the proceeds of the tusks he harvested. The tusks are very important to our community and it would benefit the smaller communities if the prices remain high. I take pride in young people who can purchase big items by selling the tusks, although they don't have jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Member's Statement 413 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Ellen Hamilton**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Iqaluit-Manirajak, Iqalumiut, and Nunavummiut.

Today I rise to extend congratulations to a constituent who was just identified as being one of the recipients of the Order of Nunavut. I want to congratulate Ms. Ellen Hamilton, who lives in my constituency.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm really looking forward to the winter sitting and I am looking forward to the

investiture of the order that Ms. Ellen Hamilton of Iqaluit will be getting. She is an artist, a director, a producer, and founder of the Qaggiavut Society.

The society's work on the Qaqqiq project, "Nurturing the Arctic Performing Arts," was recently recognized as one of 2015 laureates of the Arctic Inspiration Prize, which I was proud to have attended last year.

Ms. Hamilton is also a recipient of the Canadian Child Care Federation's Award of Excellence.

I really congratulate Ellen Hamilton on the Order of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish everyone a safe trip home.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) No? (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

**Member's Statement 414 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Louie
Kamookak**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise today to be proud of one of my constituents that were named to the Order of Nunavut, Mr. Louie Kamookak.

Like our colleague elder, he's always pushing for *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. This is how Louie got them to find the ships: oral history. Without that I don't

think they would be able to find the ships today.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Louie Kamookak for being named one of the members of the Order of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 415 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Red Pedersen**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon, my colleagues, people of Nunavut and Kugluktuk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Red Pedersen of Kugluktuk, who has been a resident there for half a century plus.

Mr. Pedersen is an entrepreneur. He served in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories from 1983 to 1991. During his tenure Mr. Pedersen held a number of positions, including Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and a member of the Executive Council.

Mr. Pedersen also served as the Mayor of Kugluktuk. He is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee [Medal]. I congratulate him and thank you to Kuglukturmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 416 – 4(3):
Kenojuak Ashevak Centre**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon wishes to my colleagues, residents of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, as well as the listening audience.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my pride in the Cape Dorset Kenojuak Art Centre proposal that will house local artists. The reason for my statement is that construction of the building has started. Cape Dorset is renowned for its artistic capabilities in print and stone works. Cape Dorset arts are well-known throughout the world.

The building currently under construction will serve as a gallery, art exhibition space, and print shop, including an area for tourists. This project is a source of pride for the people of Cape Dorset and Nunavummiut. I expect that this facility will be completed in the next few years. If any members visit Cape Dorset, you will be able to go to the building.

Further, I wanted to say that with this being our last day of the fall sitting, I hope my colleagues will enjoy their time at home and have a safe trip home. Enjoy the holidays in December and we will see each other at our upcoming winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 417 – 4(3):
Qikiqtarjuaq Participants at the
2016 Badminton Territorial
Tournament**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate athletes from my constituency who participated in a tournament last weekend. They didn't win any medals, but I would like to appreciate the young people who participated from my community. They are:

Seemee Pitseolak,
Alana Keyootak,
Adam Jonah Nookiguak,
Elias Alookie,
Tom Kooneeliusie, and
Adrian Nutaralak.

I would like to appreciate them and I want my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 418 – 4(3): 2016
High School Graduates of Rankin
Inlet**

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer on August 28, Rankin Inlet celebrated their students.

There were 31 students who graduated from grade 12. I would like to thank the (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Paul Quassa. (interpretation) He came from Whale Cove. He was a bit late in attending, but I wanted to thank him for his attendance.

I wish my fellow residents a merry Christmas. I also wish my colleagues a safe trip home and a merry Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no names on my list. We will proceed. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions*

Return to Oral Question 361 – 4(3): Nunavut Tourism Training Course

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the Return to Oral Question 361 – 4(3) that was taken as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Pat Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituent, Emily Illnik, for her attendance. Welcome.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are people that I would like to recognize. They're not sitting in here but behind the window there. They're Inuinnaqtun translators. They're there to help out the community in Inuinnaqtun. The last week I was told that a person from Cambridge Bay said, "I could see my cousin standing up and talking," talking about me, and then he said, "But I could hear my brother talking instead sitting behind the window there."

>>Laughter

I would like to recognize Gwen Angulalik, James Panioyak, and Allen Makhagak for all their help and services in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual in the House. If you look at him, you will probably recognize him. He has participated in arctic sports many times representing Nunavut. He's a young person originally from my community, but he now lives in Cambridge Bay. I would like to welcome Ipellie Ootoova. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 361 – 4(3).

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome Ipellie Ootoova. He's a constituent of mine in Cambridge Bay; he made the decision to go west. Welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although they don't reside within my constituency, they are fellow residents of Iqaluit and furthermore, one of them is my paternal cousin who was just recognized, Emily Illnik. Welcome to the House, along with Julia Demcheson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It feels like a nice week today. Like this past week I have a relative in attendance. My niece is here and I have to acknowledge her, so I would like her welcomed heartily, although she was just recognized, Julia Demcheson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 559 – 4(3): Services for Children in Care outside Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have raised concerns regarding Nunavut residents who are placed in care in outside jurisdictions. The most recently tabled annual report of the director of child and family services stated that 57 children and youth were receiving care out of territory. With the closing of the children's group home here in Iqaluit, that number is certainly much higher now.

Can the minister provide an update on how the Department of Family Services monitors and oversees the services and care being provided to Nunavut children and youth who are receiving care outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to children requiring care outside of Nunavut, it would depend on the different care needed. Now, when

specialized care isn't available in Nunavut, either the level or specialized care isn't available here, it goes through social services. Clients with physical or mental limitations or who require unique mental health care generally have to be sent outside of Nunavut to receive care.

Further, this government has a plan for the future where clients would be repatriated when a facility or specialized care is available for them. This is included in the future plans of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe my question was answered.

An Hon. Member: Try it again.

Ms. Angnakak: *Kiujaunngittiarama*, as Joe Enook would say.

Can the minister provide an update on how the Department of Family Services monitors and oversees the services and care being provided to Nunavut children and youth who are receiving care outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I finally understand the question. Yes, I will have to get back to the member on her question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Have you taken this as notice? (interpretation) Thank you. Oral Questions. Member Simeon Mikkungwak.

**Question 560 – 4(3):
Telecommunications**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) During our fall sitting we have been focusing our attention on the government's capital estimates and the need for modern infrastructure in our communities, such as airport terminal buildings, marine facilities, and schools.

My questions today concern the importance of modern telecommunications in the north.

As the minister will be aware, his department appeared before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission in April of this year on the occasion of CRTC's public hearings into basic telecommunications services in Canada.

In its formal submission to CRTC, the Government of Nunavut called on the federal regulator to, and I quote, "establish a new fund to support infrastructure in isolated, satellite-dependent areas."

Can the minister indicate when CRTC is anticipated to issue its findings and decisions concerning these hearings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. CRTC is an independent organization and they have not rendered their decisions on the presentation that CGS staff put. The presentation that was put was for basic service objectives where there could be put in place a minimum amount of Internet service that would have to be provided just like how the phone service is regulated within Nunavut. Our presentation was to see if Internet could be part of a regulated service too. As I stated, no decision has been made by CRTC yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few weeks ago another satellite outage hit the north and disrupted telecommunications services.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion in recent years about fibre optic.

Can the minister indicate what work has been undertaken by the government to determine the feasibility and affordability of fibre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is working with different organizations on the feasibility

of running fibre from different entry points into Nunavut. For the eastern side here we are working with the Nunavut government and the Newfoundland and Labrador government. The feasibility is actually being done right now. The results are not in yet, but we're doing a joint venture with them to do a feasibility study to see what it would cost and how it would be done to run fibre-optic cable into the eastern Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As all know, NorthwTel is the main provider of telecommunications services in the north. As of this morning, not a single member of NorthwTel's board of directors is from Nunavut. Does the minister share my position that NorthwTel should move without delay to appoint at least one board member who lives in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is fully aware, we can't dictate to private organizations who they put on their board of directors. That's all I can say to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 561 – 4(3): Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, now that we are here on our last day of the current fall sitting, I have some questions about a statement that the minister made on our first day.

A few weeks ago on October 18 the minister rose to provide information on his department's wildlife damage prevention and compensation programs. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that these programs will provide invaluable support to many Nunavummiut who support their families by hunting and who may experience challenges related to property and equipment that is damaged by wildlife.

My question relates to hunters who are injured during the course of their work. For example, in the public service our employers have committed to providing compensation to workers who are injured during the course of their work. Unfortunately those Nunavummiut who hunt for a living have a more difficult time if they are injured during the course of their work.

Can the minister describe the supports that are available, if any, to hunters who have injured themselves during the course of their work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have an MOU and work with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. We have an MOU with them which hunters that are out hunting, harvesting, collecting, or trapping are covered if they fit the criteria. As with many programs, there are certain criteria that have to be met in order to qualify. The short answer is yes, we have a program to help hunters if they are injured out on the land hunting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. I wonder if the minister can describe the specific steps that must be taken in order for a hunter to access these supports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can outline the process. First and foremost we would like the person that is injured to go to the nursing station or hospital because the first concern is to make sure that human life is saved and injury is held to a minimum.

Once the person has gone to the nursing station and has been treated, the hunter can go to a wildlife office and report that he has injured himself while out hunting on the land. There are two forms to fill out. One form belongs to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. The wildlife officer will give that to the person and help them fill it out, but the

form itself mainly has to be filled out by the physician or nurse that has seen and treated the individual.

There's another form that is from my department about proof of income because they have to get 25 percent of their income off the land and there's also a statutory declaration that has to be signed. The wildlife officer in the communities will help the person who needs compensation to fill out all these forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that Nunavummiut who want to learn more about these programs can contact local conservation officers for further details in applying for funding.

As someone who reads and reviews numerous documents every day, I personally benefit from being able to look at a written policy when I want to learn more about a specific program, and I note that the government makes a number of policies available on its website, which provide detailed information on the manner in which it administers its programs and funding.

I also note that the department has yet to post policies on its wildlife damage prevention and compensation programs on the government's website. Can the minister tell us if we can expect to see such policies made available on the website in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, this is a program that we administer for and with Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. If you go onto their website, they actually have the forms that can be downloaded and they talk about what you need to do to qualify. The form that is filled out on behalf of my department, that department is not online and it's an internal document and there's confidential information that is put in there. The blank form is not available online, but anyone who wants to see it can go to a wildlife officer and see it. I'll see if there is any impediment into putting it online. That's as much as I can say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 562 – 4(3): Status of Old Power Plant in Taloyoak

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The current corporate plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that it has been constructing a new power plant in Taloyoak. It is my understanding that although the construction has been completed, the community's old power plant is still generating power.

Can the minister update me today on the status of decommissioning Taloyoak's

old power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the new plant can generate electricity now, based on the information I have received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister has taken this as notice.

An Hon. Member: No.

Speaker: No?

An Hon. Member: He just didn't answer it, that's all.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. Your first supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He didn't answer my question. I will raise it again as a question and it is unfortunate that cost me a supplementary and I only have one left.

Can the minister update me today on the status of decommissioning Taloyoak's old power plant? I hope that is understandable now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I do understand what he's

saying. The commissioning is under work right now. What I said earlier was that the power plant has gone through some tests and it can operate on a normal basis. That commissioning is under work right now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Residents of Taloyoak have asked me whether the cost of building a new power plant will be passed on to customers in the community through higher power rates.

I recognize that the independent Utility Rates Review Council looks at requests that are submitted by the Qulliq Energy Corporation to increase or decrease power rates.

For the record, can the minister confirm what the impact will be on Taloyoak's electricity rates as a result of the community's new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Right now we are looking at more energy-efficient buildings or new power plants. I don't know whether that's going to increase or decrease the electricity rates. I will look into it and respond to the member at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 563 – 4(3): Bedbugs in Public Housing Units

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I have heard through my constituency office about bedbugs and I hear that they're very resilient and hard to get rid of. They have to be exterminated by professionals. How are you dealing with bedbugs when there are infestations in the public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut. I also thank my colleague. Mr. Speaker, I think we call them different terms in Inuktitut, but I'll just use bedbugs.

Mr. Speaker, if there's an infestation in a housing corporation or local housing organization building and if we're informed that there's an infestation, we deal with it and we usually work very closely with the local housing organizations. Immediate action is taken once we are informed of bedbug infestations. We will make sure that we vacate the premises and then we clean it up. We work closely with the local housing organizations. If necessary, we work with the local housing organizations to make sure that we terminate the bedbugs in the house.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard that bedbugs are very resilient and you have to fly in professional exterminators from the south. How do you deal with bedbug infestations in the smaller communities? We had to fly in professional exterminators to Iqaluit to get rid of the bedbugs. How are bedbug infestations in the smaller communities dealt with? 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. The member was correct in stating that we use professional exterminators. When it's necessary to do some extermination, you need the proper equipment to deal with the problem. As the housing corporation, we contact a company called Orkin Canada and they come up here to do the extermination work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 564 – 4(3): Number of Inuit Social Workers

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Family Services.

During the winter session I asked questions about social workers. I would

like to ask if the minister is ready to tell us how many of his staff are Inuit and work as social workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Right now as of August 31, 2016, 92 out of 158 positions are filled by land claims beneficiaries. That is 58 percent Inuit employment in the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. I support the Member for Quttiktuq when he states that there are Inuit ways of counselling available out there with the elders in the communities. I would like to ask the minister: for example, in a year, how many times have you utilized an elder to work as a counsellor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, various components are included within social services related to the level of care required, the information requirements, as well as informing the people who need to be included. In order for social services to succeed in the communities, we need to include elders in the social

aspects of social work related to culture or wellness programs, cultural educational levels, or these kinds of various services provided by social services within both the specific youth and adult targeted programs. As to the actual number, I can't say as this includes all programs currently under our department and they don't identify elders specifically. I would have to dig through the data in order to get that specific level of details, however, only which programs include elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This may become understandable some time in the future.

As my final supplementary I wish to ask the minister about the Inuit counselling methods that are based on the Inuit belief system. For example, we use our memories and experiences or to pass along orally what Inuit recall from their past life experiences and to provide advice.

However, I have seen publications by the Department of Culture and Heritage about traditional Inuit counselling methods, with the storyline revolving around elders passing on their wisdom. Perhaps the Department of Family Services can start using this approach to introduce this concept on traditional counselling.

However, I wish to ask the minister about the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and whether he could use them as an avenue to prepare culturally-based materials, and I wonder if the

department can use that approach when discussing traditional counselling methods.

As an example, we have many communities and the material should apply to the majority of the situations. As well, my colleague beside me is an ardent supporter and I want to assist him. I wonder: can the department take traditional counselling into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Discussing any employment-related issues and operational issues members feel need incorporation of the traditional Inuit methodology, these are two different matters within the same question, although they should be completely separate. Due to that reason, I want to state that the Department of Family Services is just one department dealing with the issues requiring changes, either to legislation or policies under development. The Inuit values and societal values considered important are included in this area.

With regard to Inuit employment, our stated position which we agreed to last winter was specific to the smaller, non-decentralized communities. As an example, within the social services context, any work required would be done by seven positions that will be available to assist in retrieving the missing gaps that are felt to be barriers. When we can hurdle past those barriers, the communities with existing social

workers can concentrate on only serving their clients.

What I am talking about is related to families and family relationships, and these positions that have been approved will assist in family counselling and we have agreed to that. With respect to the Inuit associations or other bodies within the community, it would be focused on collaborative approaches and that is another avenue.

The question the member raised pertained to ways to involve more elders, especially when dealing with social services. Yes, we can consider that at any time and I will look into it further while our government continues with its mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 565 – 4(3): Providing Support for Disabilities

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

Mr. Speaker, the federal government provides tax credits and deductions for persons living with disabilities, their supporting family members and their caregivers. However, in order to take advantage of those benefits, an individual with an eligible disability must apply and have the application signed off by a doctor.

Can the minister clarify how nursing staff and visiting physicians at our community health centres can assist

individuals with disabilities in applying for the disability tax credit or other federal programs? 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. All our health care staff across the territory are more than happy to assist patients or clients when they come into the health centres. Sometimes there's technical information on some of those insurance forms that is medical or professional and some of the terminology would be... . It would be of great assistance to have a health practitioner assist people with those forms.

That being said, for our health care practitioners, it would probably be best to make an appointment during a period of time when the health centre isn't busy so that the staff there would be able to assist them in a time frame that wouldn't take them away from actual patient care. When somebody is diagnosed with a disability and wants assistance, I'm sure our health care staff would be more than happy to help them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that our hard-working nurses take the time and assist people with disabilities to fill out the necessary paperwork to request the federal disability tax credit. However, there may be individuals who are not aware that

they may be eligible and can ask the nurse for assistance in filling out the request.

Can the minister provide an update on what initiatives are underway to promote awareness of the services and benefits that may be available to individuals with disabilities, their families and their caregivers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some federal programs that we work on, that we operate or fulfill the function of, like NIHB across the territory, which is a federal program. Outside federal programs, we're not directly involved in the communications campaign. There are societies such as the Nunavut Disabilities Society that does put out literature and does work to engage people across the territory to make sure that they are informed of what services and what programs are available to them. I can maybe follow up with the Nunavut Disabilities Society to see if there's some way we can look at getting that information out to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that Nunavut's Department of Health does not control federal programs. However, it is important that our frontline workers are able to provide advice and guidance to individuals with disabilities to access whatever supports they can, whether

those supports are ultimately provided by the federal or territorial governments.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that individuals with disabilities across Nunavut are made aware and assisted in applying for whatever support and benefits they may be eligible for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can have some of my officials at the Department of Health contact their federal counterparts to make sure that there are information packages that are available to promote federal programs such as disabilities insurance so that we can have that information available in our health centres across the territory. I'll speak to my officials about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 566 – 4(3): Implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* under the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked the minister on several occasions about this issue I am passionate: the loss of Inuit autonomy and the fact that Inuit are largely wards of the state. Whenever I raise any questions on this matter to any cabinet members, the rote answer seems to be, "I fully support the idea."

Nonetheless, more systemic barriers seem to be erected, Mr. Speaker. This issue is very essential to Inuit.

Mr. Minister, I assume that you have reviewed this matter along with your officials. Based on the results of your review, what aspects will move forward in our future or will it again be a fallback to the legislation that mandates your department inherited from the Northwest Territories? Will this always be the government's way of blocking advances by continuously referring to antiquated legislation which Inuit want amended? Will this legislation ever be amended in our future? Can you clarify that for my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. Mr. Speaker, every time we talk about traditional knowledge of Inuit, we refer to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and this entity is recognized, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to traditional knowledge, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit makes recommendations or advises the various departments. They have the authority to advise the government and make recommendations on how to incorporate Inuit traditional knowledge within the government.

We work closely with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. When they make their recommendations, no matter to which department it refers, we make sure those recommendations are

known to the appropriate department. We try to utilize the recommendations and advice of the Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* Katimajiit. Our working relationship with them is proceeding smoothly to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also gratified to have a better grasp of this process. This again is an issue I am fervent about. Now I understand this committee which we saw before, as I also was the mover behind a motion to restart this committee.

Is this related to the wishes of this committee to see progress? Referring to what I have stated in the past, are they fully committed to this idea of incorporating traditional Inuit counselling methods into the legislation so that elders can become a part of this process? Is this part of their long-term plans to incorporate this issue I continually advocate for or are they running into stumbling blocks?

I want to ask the minister what need this committee fills and if it is helpful to the minister based on my promotion of this idea. Is the department fully supporting the committee, as well as what you responded to earlier? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier statement, the committee was established back in 2003. Their mandate was to work on the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* database and how to incorporate the values into the government operations and departments.

This lies with how we can incorporate Inuit traditional knowledge into the system. This committee is our overseer and if they note anything that should be included, they have the power to recommend to any of the departments on the corrections needed to fully incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into the government operations, if it can be applied. Any department can be asked to incorporate the recommendations as part of their mandate. My department works closely with that committee and the government as a body.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell my colleague that our collaboration with other departments, including the need to gather more information, doesn't place a blockage in the process. What I can say is that some departments do face delays in incorporating the knowledge. However, with respect to our department dealing with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, our work as a government in working on this issue is proceeding smoothly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As he clarified that to my satisfaction, it leads me to expectations about progress based on his response.

To return to your comments, when we met with members of that committee, I understood based on their responses that complete incorporation of their recommendations continues to be a barrier. This is exacerbating the need that Inuit want changes to the current system today.

I am telling the minister and his cabinet colleagues that Inuit customs and values are currently subjected to constant planning and redrafting of plans, which I don't want to take up months. I am pushing for Inuit with demonstrable skills to be consulted on traditional counselling methods by utilizing the knowledge of the Inuit as part of the government past the year 2017.

I further urge the departments such as Family Services and Culture and Heritage to properly draft plans similar to the Department of Education, which has a very good plan. We need to collaborate on this issue in the short term by ensuring it is done after 2018.

I now ask the minister if there are any plans for the future and whether his officials have started working on an actual plan that can fully utilize *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangat*, as it is still alive and there is no need to search for this knowledge as part of a plan nor to have it taught, as elders who hold this knowledge are still with us today. We need to get this government moving to incorporate this immediately prior to Inuit completely losing control over their lives.

Will you be in support of this idea I suggested to incorporate Inuit traditional knowledge past the two years I mentioned? Will you and your officials

actually develop the plans now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague. Mr. Speaker, I totally understand my colleague's position in relation to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangat* and his passion. Ever since the member was elected and sat in his seat, he has been consistent in fighting for this issue and I believe in that aspiration.

Mr. Speaker, furthermore, not all of the barriers the member is alluding to about collaborative work required exists since I meet with departmental officials regularly and we also meet with other departmental staff to discuss ways to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangat* into government. It is obvious that there has been progress made on several fronts.

However, I can't say today that what the member is asking about for commitment in those years would succeed as we need to carefully review our future requirements, such as amending legislation. There are many issues related to this challenge that will impact many areas, not just our department, as we would need to work with other departments on a government-wide approach, which I want him to understand.

Nonetheless, my departmental officials at Culture and Heritage are watching and listening at this time as we are debating this issue. That is how I can respond to

the member at this time. We are listening and we understand the urgency, but we can't unilaterally incorporate the knowledge into government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 567 – 4(3): Status of Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store

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

Last week the minister tabled the government's most recent annual report on grants and contributions. This report indicated that the government provided \$22,565 in financial support during the 2015-16 fiscal year for the Nunavut Brewing Company, which is a small business based here in Iqaluit that has been working to open a microbrewery.

Mr. Speaker, to me, the government's decision to support this venture is a vote of confidence in its value to the community, and I'm very glad to see the government investing in local enterprises.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is this: given the support shown for this company, can the minister tell us when the government will be respecting the results of the 2015 plebiscite that was held in Iqaluit and open a beer and wine store? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has always respected the people. We live in a democratic country. We did a non-binding plebiscite on April 20, 2015. The people spoke and 78 percent of the people who showed up that day voted to open a beer and wine store. In fact I recently received petitions from two other communities to open a beer and wine store, so that tells you where the people are headed.

I believe it was unofficially announced back in March. I just read a report from CBC that we were opening it in 2017, although we haven't formally announced it. However, I can assure Ms. Angnakak and the listening public in Iqaluit that the government is making significant progress and moving forward to opening a beer and wine store in 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister, in his deliberations, can indicate today what specific factors are causing the delay and what is the cabinet considering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been some concern from some quarters that we don't have a treatment centre anywhere in Nunavut and that's true. There was a treatment centre years ago in Iqaluit that closed for other reasons that I wasn't privy to; I wasn't here. The fact of the matter is we

can't afford to open a treatment centre in Nunavut.

However, our cabinet is cognizant of the concerns of people in Iqaluit and possibly elsewhere. They directed my department and other departments to work together to develop an action plan on how we could work together as a government to help people who have problems with handling alcohol responsibly. Later today in fact, perfect timing, I will be tabling an action plan that will outline how we intend to help people in Nunavut who have drinking problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 568 – 4(3): Future Plans for Elder Care

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last week I rose in this House to address the need to support and care for our elders. It is important that our government make elder care a priority. It is frustrating to hear that we are too short of funds to address this issue when it needs immediate attention. If no effort is made to access funding, then of course nothing will be done.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps are being taken to help our elders stay in Nunavut to receive the care they need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this issue again. Caring for seniors in-territory is absolutely our first priority. When we're dealing with senior issues, we want to make sure that they are receiving the level of care that they're assessed as a need. Unfortunately a lot of the services and the assessment needs exceed the capabilities of what we can provide in the territory.

Specifically we are taking steps to address the shortage of beds available and access to care in the Kitikmeot where in Cambridge Bay we're in the process of opening more beds available there. I responded to a question from the member from Gjoa Haven the other day that we're looking at a pre-feasibility study to expand the facilities that we currently do have under our authority.

We're looking at making improvements to our home and continuing care component. I have spoken to the federal minister as recently as a few weeks ago at a federal-provincial-territorial meeting. It is a recognized priority of the federal government and a lot of the jurisdictions across the country that we need to improve our home care and continuing care so that we can provide services in residents' homes as long as we can.

This government is taking a very serious approach to how we can increase the level of services. As the member stated, there are a number of competing fiscal interests of running a territory where we do have other financial obligations to all

demographics across this territory. I would like to assure the member that senior care is a very important file that I'm responsible for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He partially answered my supplementary question, so I'll go on to my second supplementary.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is important that this issue be addressed as a priority. Will the minister commit to working towards accessing funds and building a new elders' care facility in Nunavut in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the focus on this file because I think it's very important for people and organizations that are out there to be able to say the message again that I'm very open to exploring partnerships and working arrangements with other entities such as what we currently do have. We do have facilities that we do a fee for service. One of the member's colleagues is working very hard to try to promote the construction of a seniors' facility here in Iqaluit.

There are also other communities out there that have approached me fairly numerous times. We have been able to discuss what level of care their community desires and what type of construction models would be needed to provide the level of care. Again, when

we look at assessing the level of care, it can be quite extreme when we're seeing more and more dementia-related patients who require 24-hour constant care that we're unable to provide. We do have to work with outside organizations that provide very good care.

Again, some questions were raised on the cultural component and we're working to address those concerns. I think it's very important for all people listening and all groups out there that I am very open to discussing any potential partnerships or potential arrangements that we can work together to provide better levels of care for our seniors in the territory. It's one of the things that I campaigned on.

I would very much like to see the level of care increased in-territory so that we can make sure that we keep people at home, where they belong, with their support networks, their family, friends, and their language and culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Okalik.

Motion 040 – 3(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move a motion to extend question period, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor to extend question period. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The

motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 569 – 4(3): Foster Parenting Policies

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually it was yesterday where I was reading the online version of *Nunatsiaq News* and I saw an article about an accused foster parent here in Iqaluit who had two accusers, one youth and one child who were being fostered.

The accusation was that it was sexual interference and it also stated that the man stated he had an alcohol problem. How does the Department of Family Services allow such an individual to assume the role of a foster parent? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is indeed a challenge in identifying foster parents. Perhaps if I say it to apply to all cases, yes, we search for safe environments where no concerns jump out. It is the first criterion used by the Department of Family Services. Due to that reason, the department does attempt to find safe environments as a rule.

Now, with that being the situation, the Department of Family Services takes this very seriously as protection of children is the priority. The onus is on the foster parents to take good care of

their foster children and that is why we treat it very seriously, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the minister again now with respect to foster parents. If the investigations are that comprehensive, how did a foster parent with an admitted alcohol addiction, as it states in the story, even get considered for fostering these children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. Yes, they attempt to follow all the rules related to foster parents, as the investigation into prospective foster parents is comprehensive. It can include a criminal records check and if any untoward behaviour was noted or if they have addictions.

Any indication of possible danger to the child is looked at as foster homes are also investigated. The officials do try to ensure all the checkmarks are completed under the Department of Family Services to ensure children under their care are safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The story relates that the judge actually made a statement that he suspected that the person may have committed sexual assault who was

acting as the foster parent for the Department of Family Services. However, due to the lack of evidence and the criminal law process being very stringent, the judge could not convict him.

With that story being published with references to the judge's suspicion, will the Department of Family Services learn from this case? Will this lead to more comprehensive investigations of all prospective foster parents? The foster parents have to protect these children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed all of these details are considered when prospective foster parents apply. That is why I stated earlier that a criminal records check is undertaken and they also inspect the house or they look into the foster parent applicants to see if concerns are triggered. They are investigated on several fronts and it includes an agreement that has to be read and signed about the confidentiality of their work. Further, they check all areas when the home is inspected, which includes an annual inspection.

As per the member's question and statement, what I am speaking of will not change, but based on information coming to light and as we learn of more cases, I can tell my colleague now that I have directed my officials to look into this case to ensure it does not happen again. I will work with my officials on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 570 – 4(3): Qualifying Criteria for Damage Compensation

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the environment.

Earlier today my colleague, Mr. Rumbolt, asked you about WSCC for injured hunters and also last week he asked you about compensation for lost equipment. In both of the answers you stated that 25 percent has to come from the land or out of hunting. Can you clarify to the viewing public what does that mean, 25 percent has to come from the land? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for a chance to clarify that. In general it means that if you have full-time employment and a full-time job, then you probably will not qualify. 25 percent of your income from the land could be from trapping, selling fish, selling fur, or selling country food and there is a value set on the amount of country food that you take in yourself to eat. If you have full-time employment and you're paid well for your job, then the odds of a person qualifying under those programs would be very slim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of us do hunt and we have a good income, but we do lose equipment or we do get injured. It's not the fault of the hunter that gets hurt or loses equipment, but I'm hearing that we do not apply and it won't apply to anybody that has a good job or trying to provide food for the family. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member is correct. This program is aimed at helping people who have a harder time replacing equipment or that spend a majority of their time out on the land trying to provide for their family through getting money off the land.

As for people who have good employment, they have other options. For their equipment, they can insure it through insurance agencies. There's only so much money available for these hunter support programs. Therefore we try to target it to the ones that are the most needy of these programs should they be unfortunate in having to use these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 571 – 4(3): Meetings of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Agriculture

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

Transportation since we haven't asked her a question today.

In July of this year the minister attended the annual meeting of federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of agriculture. One of the topics that were addressed at this meeting was the issue of aquaculture, which involves such activities as fish farms.

Mr. Speaker, one of our most important natural resources is our sustainable fishery and our reputation for wild-caught seafood.

Can the minister indicate what our government's position is regarding the development of aquaculture in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

Question 572 – 4(3): Seal Tannery in Nunavut

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

In our past prior to Nunavut becoming a territory, a sealskin tannery was established in Qikiqtarjuaq and the skins produced were in high demand. Today, if we want skins tanned to be sewn by

our artisans, even when the skins come from Nunavut, we have to send them out to get tanned.

I wonder if the Department of Economic Development can review this issue with the idea to revive a tannery to assist smaller communities to benefit from a regional tannery for our skins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tannery in Qikiqtarjuaq has been closed for approximately 10 years. The Department of Economic Development is open to hearing of anyone who is interested in setting up a tannery. You can ask our department if you would like further information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 573 – 4(3): Inuktitut Language Issues

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

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's 2016-19 business plan for the Department of Culture and Heritage mentions the 2012-16 *Uqausivut Plan*. I would first like to ask the minister what programs in GN departments and agencies worked best in promoting the

Inuit language in the workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I can't tell the member which program worked best, as I don't have the information in front of me. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Languages, I would assume that he would know which programs were operating well. Using Inuktitut in the workplace is something that we have been looking forward to, so I urge the minister to look at the information and do an assessment.

With the previous governments, this was an issue that was brought up quite often and the previous governments indicated that they would like to see Inuktitut as the language in the workplace by 2020. Is that still the goal of your department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue that I haven't thought about, but the department is watching and listening. We have given funds to each department to promote the usage of the Inuit language in the workplace.

Each department has a language coordinator, but I can't respond to where we are at with the usage of Inuktitut in the workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to urge the minister to find out where they are at on this issue. My last question is on the 2016-19 business plan. One of the priorities for 2016-17 is to "Update the *Uqausivut Plan...*" My question to the minister is: can he give us an update prior to the new year whether they're going to revise the *Uqausivut Plan*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member that four or five sections have not been enacted. We are working with the other departments like the Department of Education. Once the plan is completed, I can give you an update in 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié. Member for Tununig, Mr. Joe Enook.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 016 – 4(3): Small Craft Harbour Capital Contributions

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the subject of small craft harbour capital contributions.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. With respect to the "Installation of Mooring Bollards" project in Pond Inlet that has been approved for funding during the 2016-17 fiscal year under the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Small Craft Harbours Capital Contributions Program (Schedule 'B' of the *Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy*),
 - a. What is the total budget for the project?
 - b. What percentage of the total budget for the project has been approved for funding by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?
 - c. What percentage of the total budget for the project is being funded by entities other than the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?
 - d. What entities other than the Department of Economic Development and Transportation are funding the project?

- e. Within the meaning of Schedule B of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's *Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy*, on what date did the department receive the formal proposal for the "Installation of Mooring Bollards" project in Pond Inlet?
- f. What entity formally submitted the proposal?
- g. Who formally signed the proposal on behalf of the submitting entity?
- h. On what date was the proposal formally approved by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?
- i. Who formally approved the proposal on behalf of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?
- j. On what date did the Department of Economic Development and Transportation formally communicate its approval decision to the submitting entity regarding the proposal?
- k. By what means was the decision communicated?
- l. On what date was the contribution agreement for the "Installation of Mooring Bollards" project in Pond Inlet signed?
- m. Who signed the contribution agreement on behalf of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?
- n. Who signed the contribution agreement on behalf of the Municipality of Pond Inlet?
- o. As of November 8, 2016, how many instalment payments have been made under the contribution agreement?
- p. As of November 8, 2016, broken down by specific expenditure, how much has been expended on the "Installation of Mooring Bollards" project in Pond Inlet?
- q. What entity or entities have been awarded contracts to perform work in relation to the "Installation of Mooring Bollards" project in Pond Inlet?
- r. What is the value of each contract awarded to date?
- s. Within the meaning of the *Government Contracting Regulations* made under the *Financial Administration Act*, what contracting process was used to award each contract?
- t. Who formally approved the awarding of each contract on behalf of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?
- u. Who formally signed each contract on behalf of the Department of Economic

- Development and Transportation?
- v. As of November 8, 2016, how many residents of the Municipality of Pond Inlet have been employed and/or contracted to perform work in relation to contracts awarded for the “Installation of Mooring Bollards” project in Pond Inlet?
- w. How many of these residents are beneficiaries of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*?
- x. What is the scheduled completion date for the “Installation of Mooring Bollards” project in Pond Inlet?
- y. On what date is the final financial statement concerning the “Installation of Mooring Bollards” project in Pond Inlet scheduled to be submitted to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?
- z. What is the process by which a resident of the Municipality of Pond Inlet may obtain copies of all proposals, design concepts, contribution agreements, budgets, financial statements, audit reports, and evaluation reports produced in relation to the “Installation of Mooring Bollards” project in Pond Inlet?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written question be

entered into the records as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Written Question 017 – 4(3):
Ministerial Travel**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again my written questions are directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and they concern the subject of ministerial travel.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

- 1) How many trips on official ministerial business were undertaken between March 4, 2016 and November 7, 2016 by:
 - a. The Hon. Peter Taptuna, MLA;
 - b. The Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, MLA;
 - c. The Hon. George Hickes, MLA;
 - d. The Hon. George Kuksuk, MLA;
 - e. The Hon. Johnny Mike, MLA;
 - f. The Hon. Keith Peterson, MLA;
 - g. The Hon. Paul Quassa, MLA; and
 - h. The Hon. Joe Savikataaq, MLA?
- 2) What was the purpose, itinerary, and duration of each trip?
- 3) Who participated in each trip?
- 4) What was the total cost of each trip broken down by:

- a. Airfare and/or aircraft charter expenses;
- b. Accommodation expenses; and
- c. Other expenses?
- 5) Within the meaning of the “Home Travel” provisions of the Government of Nunavut’s *Ministerial Benefits Policy*, how many trips were undertaken between March 4, 2016 and November 7, 2016 by:
- a. The Hon. Peter Taptuna, MLA;
- b. The Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, MLA;
- c. The Hon. George Hickes, MLA;
- d. The Hon. George Kuksuk, MLA;
- e. The Hon. Johnny Mike, MLA;
- f. The Hon. Keith Peterson, MLA;
- g. The Hon. Paul Quassa, MLA; and
- h. The Hon. Joe Savikataaq, MLA?
- 6) What was the itinerary and duration of each trip?
- 7) What was the total cost of each trip broken down by:
- a. Airfare and/or aircraft charter expenses;
- b. Accommodation expenses; and
- c. Other expenses?
- 8) What was the itinerary and duration of each trip?
- 9) With respect to the periods of time between March 4, 2016 and November 7, 2016, during which members of the Executive Council were not on official ministerial duty travel status, home travel status within the meaning of the

Government of Nunavut’s *Ministerial Benefits Policy*, or attending sittings of the Legislative Assembly and/or meetings of its committees and caucuses, what mechanisms were used to track ministerial attendance in the workplace?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written question be entered into the records as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Written Question 018 – 4(3): Public Service

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. Once again my written questions today are for the Minister of Finance and they concern the subject of the public service.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions once again are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

- 1) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many indeterminate employees of the Nunavut public service had been on approved sick leave for 11 to 20 consecutive working days?
- 2) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial

- corporation, and Crown agency, how many indeterminate employees of the Nunavut public service had been on approved sick leave for 21 to 50 consecutive working days?
- 3) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many indeterminate employees of the Nunavut public service had been on approved sick leave for 51 or more consecutive working days?
- 4) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many indeterminate employees of the Nunavut public service were receiving disability benefits within the meaning of Section 1605 (“Disability Insurance”) of the Government of Nunavut’s *Human Resources Manual*?
- 5) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many term employees of the Nunavut public service had been on approved sick leave for 11 to 20 consecutive working days?
- 6) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many term employees of the Nunavut public service had been on approved sick leave for 21 to 50 consecutive working days?
- 7) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many term employees of the Nunavut public service had been on approved sick leave for 51 or more consecutive working days?
- 8) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many term employees of the Nunavut public service were receiving disability benefits within the meaning of Section 1605 (“Disability Insurance”) of the Government of Nunavut’s *Human Resources Manual*?
- 9) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many investigations were underway within the meaning of Section 1010 (“Harassment-Free Workplace”) of the Government of Nunavut’s *Human Resources Manual*?
- 10) As of November 8, 2016, broken down by department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many investigations into allegations of wrongdoing were underway within the meaning of section 41 of the *Public Service Act*?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. The Hon. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Written Question 019 – 4(3): Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the subject of marine infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. With respect to the “business case” for the “Qikiqtarjuaq [marine] facility” that is referenced on page 201 of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation’s 2016-19 business plan,
 - a. On what date was the business case completed?
 - b. On what date was the business case submitted by the Government of Nunavut to Infrastructure Canada for consideration under the New Building Canada Fund’s Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component-National and Regional Projects program?
 - c. On what date did Infrastructure Canada formally communicate its decision respecting the submission?
 - d. What specific rationale did Infrastructure Canada provide for its formal decision to approve or reject the submission?
2. With respect to the “business case” for the “Iqaluit [marine] facility” that is referenced on page 202 of the Department of Economic

Development and Transportation’s 2016-19 business plan,

- a. On what date was the business case completed?
 - b. On what date was the business case submitted by the Government of Nunavut to Infrastructure Canada for consideration under the New Building Canada Fund’s Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component-National and Regional Projects program?
 - c. On what date did Infrastructure Canada formally communicate its decision respecting the submission?
 - d. What specific rationale did Infrastructure Canada provide for its formal decision to approve or reject the submission?
3. With respect to the “business case” for the “Pond Inlet [marine] facility” that is referenced on page 202 of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation’s 2016-19 business plan,
 - a. On what date was the business case completed?
 - b. On what date was the business case submitted by the Government of Nunavut to Infrastructure Canada for consideration under the New Building Canada Fund’s Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component-National and Regional Projects program?
 - c. On what date did Infrastructure Canada formally communicate

- its decision respecting the submission?
- d. What specific rationale did Infrastructure Canada provide for its formal decision to approve or reject the submission?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member has asked that the written questions be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. The Hon. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

Written Question 020 – 4(3): Inuit Employment Initiatives

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, my documents were not ready.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions today are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and they concern the subject of Inuit employment initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered in the record as read.

1. As of November 8, 2016, broken down by Government of Nunavut department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many individuals have completed internship programs that have been organized by the Sivumuaqatigiit Branch of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

2. As of November 8, 2016, broken down by Government of Nunavut department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many positions have been filled with indeterminate and/or term employees as a result of restricted job competitions that were open only to beneficiaries of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* within the meaning of Section 518 of the Government of Nunavut's *Human Resources Manual*?

3. As of November 8, 2016, broken down by Government of Nunavut department, territorial corporation, and Crown agency, how many positions which are currently filled on an indeterminate and/or term basis by non-beneficiary employees have had formal succession plans developed that are designed to promote the filling of the positions by beneficiaries of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member has asked that the written questions be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5 if it's possible. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa is asking to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. Mr. Okalik, please proceed.

Mr. Okalik: I already recognized.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. George Hickes, please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Okalik, I was ready to raise my hand to request the same motion.

Mr. Speaker, last night some members from Iqaluit were able to meet with the mayor and council last night until fairly long into the evening. We had some good discussions.

I would just like to take this opportunity to formally recognize our Mayor of Iqaluit, Her Worship Madeline Redfern. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Going back to the orders of the day. Item 11. (interpretation ends) Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 229 – 4(3): Legal Services Board Annual Report 2015-2016

Tabled Document 230 – 4(3): Government of Nunavut and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Shared Directional Statement 2016-2018

Tabled Document 231 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Annual Report for the Division of Corrections

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents I would like to table.

Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the 2015-16 *Annual Report of the Legal Services Board of Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the Government of Nunavut's Royal Canadian Mounted Police Directional Statement 2016-18. Mr. Speaker, this is the first shared directional statement since the 2014 statement expired.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the 2015-16 *Annual Report for the Division of Corrections*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 232 – 4(3): Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-related Harm in Nunavut Action Plan

Tabled Document 233 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Public Service Annual Report

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents I would like to table today.

Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-related Harm in Nunavut Action Plan*. Mr. Speaker, this is an important step in the path to opening a beer and wine store in Iqaluit.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the 2015-16 *Public Service Annual Report*. Mr. Speaker, this is the first time ever it has been tabled in the first sitting after the fiscal year-end. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 234 – 4(3): 2015-2016 NBCC Annual Report

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

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

Tabled Document 235 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Nunavut Housing Corporation Annual Report – Correction

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 25, 2016 I tabled the 2015-16 *Annual Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation* and there were some errors in the Inuktitut report. The corrections are now outlined on the page attached to the report and I am re-tabling this report today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have one. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) I have two documents to table today.

Tabled Document 236 – 4(3): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Tabled Document 237 – 4(3): Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut's Report on the Privacy Audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital

The first item is the list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements and the second item is the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report on the privacy audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act – Second Reading

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of Bill 29. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 29 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

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

Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Human Rights Act* to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination and to provide specific protection for transgendered individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 31 is referred

to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

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

Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act – Second Reading

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Cambridge Bay, that Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Fire Prevention Act* by renaming it the *Fire Safety Act*, providing for additional power for the fire marshal, providing for the making of fire protection plans in every municipality, and harmonizing its appeal and review mechanism with the *Building Code Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 30 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like consent to return to No. 7 on the agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut would like to return to Written Questions. Are there

any nays? I don't hear any nays. Ms. Angnakak.

Revert to Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 021 – 4(3): Western Canada Lottery Act

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

Mr. Speaker, my written questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the *Western Canada Lottery Act*.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

Preamble:

Section 4 of the *Western Canada Lottery Act* provides that “The profits accruing to the Government of Nunavut from the Western Canada Lottery shall be used for the purpose of promoting sport and recreational opportunities for Nunavummiut.”

1. Within the meaning of section 4 of the *Western Canada Lottery Act*, what were the profits accruing to the Government of Nunavut for the following fiscal years:
 - a. 2015-16;
 - b. 2014-15;
 - c. 2013-14;
 - d. 2012-13; and
 - e. 2011-12?
2. Within the meaning of section 4 of the *Western Canada Lottery Act*, how were the profits accruing to the Government of Nunavut specifically

used for the purpose of promoting sport and recreational opportunities for Nunavummiut for the following fiscal years:

- a. 2015-16;
- b. 2014-15;
- c. 2013-14;
- d. 2012-13; and
- e. 2011-12?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked that the written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed.

(interpretation) Going back to the orders of the day. Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 21 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:52 and Committee resumed at 16:22*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon. Welcome. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 21?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 21 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-
2016 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. 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, Minister Peterson. Welcome to your officials. We will commence with the review of Bill 21. Yesterday we completed the opening comments. I will now open the floor for members' questions. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are going to be around the Petroleum Products Division. I know that every year we have this issue with variances between one year and the other. There's never consistency.

For example, last year petroleum products had a variance of only \$1,480 in Pangnirtung and this year it is \$108,000. There are many examples of this throughout the document.

I'm just wondering, for the record, if the minister can explain the reasons why there are such variances in the counts every year each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to bring in a witness who is an expert in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the official in?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is Deputy Minister Lori Kimball with the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to Ms. Kimball. Do you want the member to repeat his question? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't need the question to be repeated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okay. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of factors that play into the annual inventories that are done. Some of the things that we're looking into are to better understand some of the causes of these swings.

Every litre of fuel that comes off the resupply ship is tracked, every litre of fuel that comes out of the storage tanks is tracked, and every litre that's spilled is tracked. We're currently undertaking a review of reconciling that and changing some of our processes to be more in-depth to make sure that we can account for that.

The difference year over year, we take a dip. It's adjusted for the temperature to evaluate how much fuel is in the tanks and based on the math of what should be in the fuel, this is the difference. We're working through better understanding that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask for the process that occurs from the time that it's shipped from the shipping company to the point it gets to the consumers. I know it goes through a metering system all the way. She just mentioned that they do dips in the tank. Can you explain how they do the dips in the tanks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Kimball answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that they have a measuring device that goes in. It reads how many metres of fuel there is. There is a whole mathematical formula that goes into the diameter of the tank that calculates how many litres of fuel. There's an adjustment factor given the temperature. If the temperature changes, the amount of fuel can expand and contract. That's all factored in when you do the calculation of how much fuel is in the tank. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this device that you're talking about for dipping tanks, do you know exactly what it is? Is it like a fixed item like a piece of pipe or is it like a piece of rope with measurements on it? What type of equipment is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's along the lines of questioning, so I will go to Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact information, but I can definitely get it for the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to say the same thing. We don't have that technical information here with us. We can commit to providing that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm asking that is I think part of our problem for getting consistent counts is the way the tanks are dipped. I think it is nothing more than a piece of rope, probably the way did it for decades. I think we need look at new technologies in order to do more accurate dips in the tanks and that's why I was asking that question.

When this shrinkage occurs, how do you determine how much is the responsibility of the contractor and how much is the responsibility of evaporation and the government takes care of that

part? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kimball will answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, we have contractors that are delivery agents and for each product that they resell for us, there's actually a maximum amount of shrinkage factor. If any volume of fuel is missing beyond that, it's actually the contractor that incurs that cost. That protects the GN from products going missing and kind of creates an incentive for the contractor to make sure that product is being properly accounted for. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A different question on a different line item, under QEC's write-off there's a line item that says, "Sanikiluaq, Generator, Stamford, \$129,000; Depreciation, \$70,000; Net Book Value, [\$59,000]; Obsolete, non-functioning."

I know the Minister of QEC is here and you may have to defer that question to him, but I'm wondering: what is the disposal policy? These engines are like basically as big as a van, and I'm just wondering what QEC's disposal policy is once they take a generator out of service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring in another witness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let a witness in?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your official.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is Bruno Pereira. He is the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I thought it would be an opportunity for him to appear today to introduce himself and answer some questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to the meeting. Minister Peterson, does the member need to repeat the question? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't need the question repeated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of disposing of items, when we have an asset that's being decommissioned, we have an internal process that's detailed where the asset is quantified, meaning we look at what the potential value of that asset is, and we look for means to recovering that asset.

For example, we will look at selling that asset to parties that may be interested in scrap metal in the case of where there's metal that may be useful or we may be looking at other parties that have an interest in that product.

We have different assets. Depending on what the asset is, if it's metal, if it's old transformers, we will look to recover that cost as best as we can. In those instances where we cannot do that for whatever reason, we look writing off the value of that asset. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the minister having to play musical chairs up there. Maybe we need a witness box to fit more people up there.

You were very general about your disposal policy, but I was talking about in particular what is being written off at the moment for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. It's one generator. Like I stated before, these generators are quite large. What procedure do you use to get rid of your generators? I know you mentioned about internal process and potential value. Let's say it has no value and there's no other use for it. What is the disposal policy for that generator? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pereira will answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Mr. Chairman, if the assets do not have value, in the past... . My apologies. If I talk specifically about this particular item, I will have to get back to the member in terms of the specific item. I apologize for not having the information readily available. I can commit to providing that information on this item.

In terms of the general items where there is a new value associated, in terms of physically what we do with that asset, in the past the process wasn't as defined as we're going through now. The asset may end up in the local dump. What we do in implementing it on a go-forward basis is we're incorporating the whole lifecycle of those assets into the project management.

Going forward, as part of our projects, we would look at those assets that we would need as part of some projects and managing that. Depending on the asset, we will take the asset from that community and able to be recycled or disposed at some other location. We're looking at that, as I said, incorporating it into the whole lifecycle management and as part of specific projects, to change out old projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are only a few line items in here for QEC and it's too bad they don't come prepared to answer the questions that we have on these particular items, especially when it comes to written-off items. Again, you talk very generally about the disposal methods.

My whole reason for this questioning is, because when that generator was taken out of service in Sanikiluaq, it was taken to the local dump. That's why I was asking what the process was and he's explaining a detailed process they have and to me that's a very simple process. It's taken to the dump. Why is QEC doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. As minister I understand where he's coming from. Most communities have dumpsites or receptacles for a lot of metal waste, vehicles, generators, and other such things. It's no different in Cambridge Bay. I have seen that. It happened for 50 years before we reclaimed the dump, but still there have to be mechanisms to deal with the metal waste that goes into our dumps.

I know Mr. Pereira just started, as I said, in July. He's pretty busy getting up to speed on a number of issues that have afflicted the territory and our municipal dumps. It's no different in Sanikiluaq. Unfortunately, I apologize he didn't have the specific details about Sanikiluaq today, but I do know that talking to him over the last couple of months on the opportunities I've had, he is working very hard with the board of directors and officials to come up with proper disposal processes and policies to address those concerns that Mr. Rumbolt has raised.

I'll let Mr. Pereira say a few words, if he wants to add to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can expand on my answer for Sanikiluaq. I didn't quite fully understand the question. The specific generator that we're talking about, the large generator, I have followed up on that and that generator is being removed from that dump. I spoke with some of my staff today because the issue was brought up to me previously. I assumed that how we treat it financially was the question and my apologies for that misunderstanding.

Our staff will actually be moving that generator from the site in Sanikiluaq and we're going to be moving it to one of our local contractors, specifically speaking, Wajax, looking at what we can do with that specific generator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister. We can ask questions on your opening comments. I would like clarification on the write-off procedures for Qulliq equipment.

It states here as well that after the Pagnirtung power plant fire, damages totalled over \$1.2 million as a result. It made me think perhaps an old generator was in that area to generate electricity. What happened to those generators? If they are deemed unusable, are they dumped outside, adding to the unsightliness of the site? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I believe, similar to what Mr. Pereira said earlier to Mr. Rumbolt, the assets that were destroyed in the fire will be properly disposed of. In other words, they're not going to be taken to the dump and left there. They will be removed out of the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the same paragraph, I want to ask about this reference. This Bill 21 that we are currently reviewing, I believe it is Bill 21. You are requesting approval to write off funds or equipment that can be written off.

It includes a reference to this matter which I want Nunavummiut to understand, whether they are watching or listening, about the fact that Qulliq is looking to write off over \$10 million previously expended. That is a large sum of money, at least from my perception. Let me ask about this matter prior to approving your request.

Qulliq has expended large sums on some projects. This particular project named is the hydroelectric dam feasibility study located near Iqaluit. It states that the study, which cost over \$10 million, led to the corporation determining that the project would be placed on permanent hold. (interpretation) That is what I read in Inuktitut, which the corresponding English states it is on (interpretation ends) permanent hold. (interpretation) I am unsure whether my understanding of English is the cause of this, but I take it to mean that this project will be on permanent hold but could be restarted.

What does this term mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for his question. This entire project had its beginnings back in 2005. Yes, it was mentioned in four annual reports over four fiscal years, maybe five fiscal years' annual reports.

There was a decision at the time by the decision-makers at QEC and I guess in the government to move forward with this project. There was an idea or feeling that this was an initiative that would reduce the cost of power to Iqaluit and the demand on diesel in Iqaluit. They had to do a lot of consultations, engineering work, and studies. That cost money. They invested in that.

It became apparent over time that it was going to be a very costly project in the range of \$300 million to \$500 million. Of course the Government of Nunavut doesn't have that type of money neither does the Qulliq Energy Corporation. There was a determination at some point in 2013-14 that the project should be put on hold. We already incurred, let's say, \$10 million.

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada, who audits the Government of Nunavut and audits the Qulliq Energy Corporation, talked to us at Finance and also the Qulliq Energy Corporation. There were two things they mentioned. It was a work in progress, so it was capitalized, but then they looked closer and they said, "Maybe some of these expenses should not be capitalized; they should have been in an expense

account." This is an accounting treatment. We're moving this work in progress from the capital to expenses to reflect that there is no progress being made on it.

It's not to say that the project initiative could not commence again in the future. There would have to be a decision made by the Qulliq Energy Corporation and then coming from the cabinet or the Government of Nunavut to proceed. Permanent hold basically means no more work on that until a political decision is made at a future time. When that occurs, we're hopeful the economics look better and there could be private sector or federal investors to support the initiative in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me try to comprehend it further. If that is the definition used here, the studies are on permanent hold, what would trigger the project to restart? What has to happen that would result in restarting this project? What would cause this project to be restarted that the corporation wants to complete? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, but again it would be a policy decision there. Some of the work that has been done over the years, the studies, the engineering work, and other research that has gone into this the \$10 million and change has paid for, may be usable in the future towards that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Minister, can you refresh my memory and tell me, when you say it's a policy decision, who makes that policy decision? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just correct myself. I think I meant political decision. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is an entity of the Government of Nunavut, one of our territorial corporations, so they have their board of directors and the president, and they have a minister who is a member of the cabinet.

It may be that in the future the political direction would come from cabinet to look at hydro energy in Nunavut or in Iqaluit. It may direct the Qulliq Energy Corporation to look at solar energy, tidal energy, wind energy, all matters of energy. That's why I meant there would probably be a political part of a mandate that would govern how to proceed in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me turn to you Mr. Chairman and ask the question. The response was it would have to be a political decision of the government. Let me ask you, Mr. Chairman, since the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation is present in the House, to go through your role to get my question answered by the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy

Corporation, if you will allow it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson, it would be up to you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I have no concerns if Minister Mike wants to respond on behalf of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I know he's quite well versed in this area and has actually sat on the board of directors over the years and so he probably knows more about this than I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike, are you prepared to answer the question? Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, I am. I would just like clarification on his question to determine what exactly he is asking about. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook, please repeat your question.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My earlier question was pertaining to this English version, that this project is on (interpretation ends) permanent hold, (interpretation) that it will stay in limbo in perpetuity.

My question relates to the fact that there is nothing written down that this project is permanently on the shelf, only that it is on permanent hold. How can that be? It states it is on permanent hold and the context seems to be that it is on hold in perpetuity. What I was trying to ask about is: what would need to happen that

would cause this project to be reopened?
What criterion triggers the restart?

It isn't written that this project is cancelled or that it will never be restarted. It only states that it is on (interpretation ends) permanent hold. (interpretation) It leads me to ask: what has to happen that would trigger a restart of this project? Would something have to happen to Qulliq that would trigger that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize. With respect to the funds, I have personal knowledge of the expenditure of the funds as I was part of the QEC board, although I now sit in a different chair. I don't recall the decision to place the project on (interpretation ends) permanent hold, (interpretation) and I can only reiterate some of the details of the earlier responses.

This project involved over \$10 million in environmental studies of the area from about 2005 up to 2013 towards Iqaluit. The funds were expended on the studies adjacent to the river determined to have the best hydro potential where enough water could be dammed to generate electricity.

With that being the case, the studies on the different aspects of the environment were not completed. There would be more studies required on the adjacent environmental area, including marine bed studies that may be impacted. Also, it includes the work for the environmental review read by the (interpretation ends) regulatory agencies

(interpretation) that also include interveners.

Prior to the completion of these environmental baseline studies, the project was put on hold as the work required to address concerns would have added another \$6 million or closer to \$7 million for fiscal year 2014 just for the baseline studies. In adding the funds, it would have required over \$16 million if it was to be continued, but it was not approved.

If this particular subject was needed and, as per my statement earlier, when details were provided, I can only repeat those details and if QEC had to fund this solely on their own, as the finance minister stated earlier, it would cost well over \$300 million, even approaching \$500 million.

QEC would have to recoup this cost through the existing electrical rates charged to their clients. Based on the current rates, QEC would not be able to pay for this project even if it was approved. However, if we looked at outside sources of capital funds that are new, then the project would become more feasible and obviously the Qulliq Energy Corporation could move ahead or identify a new site.

Due to the lack of funding for the baseline studies, this project was unable to proceed any further. If capital funds are provided for alternative energy sources such as hydroelectric projects, it would seem obvious to me that this project could be moved ahead, but again only if there are sufficient funds available to complete the entire project. That is what has placed the project on

permanent hold. I have identified these two reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I now understand that the project is on permanent hold because of the lack of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. If I may change that word from permanent, it's on indefinite hold and it is because of money.

Again, the Office of the Auditor General has met with the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Very little work has occurred over the years. I recall when I was the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation or even before I became the minister, they were telling me where they had some concerns. Then I became the minister. They said that there has been no work. We're going to have to move this from a work in progress to expenses. It's simply an accounting treatment to clean up the books for the public accounts and the Qulliq Energy Corporation financial statements.

As I said, it was a recognition that this project was going to become very expensive. It reached a point where the Qulliq Energy Corporation couldn't proceed without an infusion of money. As I have said as the Minister of Finance many times, the Government of Nunavut doesn't have the money to invest in a huge megaproject of this nature. We remain hopeful at some point in the future that other investors may be out there, whether it's the private sector or

the federal government, but by ourselves as the Government of Nunavut and the Qulliq Energy Corporation, we simply could not afford to continue to sink money into this project.

If there was a decision to try to proceed, we would require... . As I said, these are class "X" type estimates in the \$250 million to \$500 million range. It was more or less a prudent financial decision by the Government of Nunavut, supported by the Office of the Auditor General. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions members have asked of Minister Mike, just for your information, since you weren't aware where the questions came from, it comes from the QEC report on the study or by the Nunavut government report, which is what we are basing our questions on. That is for everyone's information.

The answer I heard was that if funding can be found, this project may move forward. As I understand that possibility from Minister Peterson's response and Minister Mike's answer, members now understand that this project may restart if funding is ever found. Does this mean that you are searching for funds to complete the project? (interpretation ends) Are you actively looking for funding for this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I don't believe we are actively

looking for money or investors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want further information. The \$10 million is a huge amount to me. You indicated that it could have cost more if the study was to be continued. You want to write off \$10 million of expenditures and you said that it could cost an additional \$6.5 million if you were to continue this study. After spending \$6.5 million, would you come back to the House to get additional funds? How many times are we going to lose large amounts of money for this hydro project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I'm just trying to remember the history. I do believe they were seeking the \$6.5 million. I think I was one of the decision-makers. I just can't remember the dates. We said no. The Government of Nunavut and the Qulliq Energy Corporation have said over the years that we have to be very fiscally prudent. To just simply study the project for the sake of studying didn't make sense to us, especially if we were going down a path where it was appearing that it was going to cost hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars.

Before you even get to that point, there are all kinds of regulatory hurdles you have to go through. That itself could cost you millions more. If anyone has gone through a major project permitting process, whether it's for mines or other

projects, it just didn't make sense. It's not off the table. It does say "permanent," but I apologize for that. Probably a better used word would have been "indefinite." We know that green energy is important for Nunavut. We have talked about it in this House. Other ministers and MLAs have asked those questions over the course of our three years in the last government.

I have to say right now that we would not approve \$6.5 million. We're just that short of money to contemplate that, unless there is an investor or another government out there willing to help us out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure it's going to be very easy to respond to, but we know that you can play around with numbers, moving them from one line to another. We all know that we can scramble around the numbers.

There was an indication that the Office of the Auditor General made a recommendation about this subject. Now that you have received that recommendation, we have to approve this \$10 million write-off. What if we say no? What happens then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. It's a good question. Again, when we work with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, as policymakers and legislators, we have to respect the advice that the Office of the

Auditor General of Canada provides. They have determined that this was a work in progress. There is no work happening on it, so it should move from the capital side to the expense side. We considered the advice very carefully and had some good discussions with them, as we have always over the years, and we respect that advice.

If we were not to approve the write-off of this \$10,040,743.44 - I don't know how they get it right down to the penny but they did - we would probably receive a qualified opinion, which is not a good thing for any government to receive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Why would we be so upset with a qualified opinion? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, we have the public service accounting standards that are set for public governments. We would be in violation of those standards. That's why we should be concerned. It would reflect poorly on us as a government and it could signal to people that the Government of Nunavut through all of us are not good accountants of our money and it could signal to investment agencies that we're not good managers.

I don't know what would go through people's minds, but there are organizations out there like Moody's Investors and the Conference Board of Canada, who actually do read all

provincial, territorial, and federal financial statements and they comment on them all the time. They assign credit ratings and such things that investors and others read. I would caution us all to be very careful if we're deciding not to write this amount off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even if that's the case, we have expended \$10 million plus and we want to approve the write-off. If we write off \$10 million, how would that make us good financial managers?

I'm sure Minister Peterson will respond, but I also seem to understand that no matter what we do, there's not much we can do about it. We don't have much of an alternative. We will have to approve this write-off because it's recommended by the Office of the Auditor General and we have to follow the accounting standards, whether we like or dislike the write-off of this \$10 million. Is that how you also understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Again, we're accountants. We have to follow public sector accounting standards. This is just a process we're going through to make sure that our financial statements are as accurate as they can be at the time when the Auditor General audits. They recommended moving the work in progress to expenses.

There has been a lot of work done identifying sites, researching sites, some engineering type work, and helicopters have flown over the area. That work is still valid. It's not like a generator, for example, at a power plant that has been removed from a community and is non-functional. This is the information that's still there. It can be used again and updated. It's available. We have paid for it. It's still available.

If the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Government of Nunavut of the day, or a future government decides to proceed, then that information can be retrieved and used. Depending on what the determination is, it could be capitalized, then go forward with the project.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Premier wanted to add a few words. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to summarize a bit here, the project was initiated in 2005. Just like any other government, the governments are responsible for trying to investing in bringing the cost of living down for our territory. That's one of the key factors. In fact it is the main factor.

Mr. Chairman, although this was initiated in 2005, we went on for quite a few numbers of years. From what I can understand going back several years, some of these funds came from the federal government to initiate feasibility studies and environmental studies, including the feasibility of two different locations.

At the end of the day, if this particular infrastructure, which is going to cost in the hundreds of millions, is not going to bring the cost of living down for our residents of Nunavut, it's simply a factor where we do not build infrastructure where it increases the cost of our living in the territory.

As you know, there's one factor that's not in here was the cost of oil back then. In some cases the cost of oil was around \$140 a barrel and as members know, it went down below \$40 a barrel at one point.

Although that's one of the factors, we still want to make sure that with proper investing of the government, we find ways to invest in bringing the cost of living down for our people. If this is not going to do it, certainly that doesn't mean that's going to be shelved. There's always an opportunity to go back to it once it becomes more economical for the people of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know what you are talking about, Mr. Premier, and I agree with you completely. I think we all agree with you. We always have to look for more efficient ways of living. I'm not complaining about that.

What I was expressing are my concerns of having used a great amount of money. You used a great amount of money and you're asking us to write off that money. Now this project is not permanently stopped, so next time around you might then come to us and ask us for a write-off of that money again. That's the only

thing I'm concerned about. We will not be handling our money properly if that's what we're going to be doing.

My understanding from Minister Peterson is that no matter how much I complain about it, we have no choice but to do it because the Auditor General says that we have to do it. If we don't, we will just look bad. It's too bad we weren't told this right away. It would be better if you had told us, but there's nothing you can do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook. That was just a comment. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Peterson and your officials.

The former Peter Pitseolak School fire was said to have cost \$14,680,209. Does that total price include an upgrade done to the school and an addition made to the school, which I believe was completed in 2010? Does that total reflect the money that was spent on the upgrade and extension? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Yes, that total included the addition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the finance minister can tell us how much money the government spent when they were

renovating and making additions to the school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. The total cost to the addition to the school was \$17,335,054. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us why the two figures are very different? For the Peter Pitseolak School building, before the renovations that cost \$17 million for the upgrade and addition, we're writing off \$14 million. Can you explain that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The remaining amount, \$14,680,209, is the book value after the amortization of the addition between 2010 and 2015, when the school burned down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're all aware that the capital items usually have insurance. The fact that there was no insurance for the school, we're going to have to build a new school using the government's money. Can the minister give us an update to today if the entire infrastructure of the Nunavut government is insured? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the good question. Mr. Chairman, in that particular project, it was determined that it was underinsured. There have been three schools in the past that had burned down, I believe. The insurer decided that there would be a \$10 million deductible. In essence we were to become self-insurers.

What happened with that project is we found out that the \$17,335,054 had not been communicated to the insurance company. When the school burned down, we learned that it was underinsured, so we couldn't put a claim in for the remaining value of the school there, the book value.

I can assure Mr. Joanasie and other members that when the government learned what had happened, Community and Government Services and the Department of Finance quickly moved to remedy the issue and checked to make sure all our other buildings were properly on our books and the insurance company was aware of the value of those assets. I'm pretty sure we're okay there and all the buildings are adequately covered for insurance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I misspoke about saying that the school had no insurance. It just had inadequate insurance, as the minister explained.

When it comes to the government's major infrastructure, they usually are upgraded or added to. We approve the finances for them and when it's for a major building, we see the cost of the building. Do you insure them at a higher total of the asset's value? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask my Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Chown, to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On an initial acquisition of an asset, that asset would be insured at the value at the time of construction. It would be on the construction value. Over time if an asset were to be upgraded, the process would be to add that additional amount to the valuation of the asset at that time to ensure the asset is properly insured.

Obviously in this particular situation, there was a communication error and the asset was underinsured. Our Risk Management and Insurance Division has been working with the Department of Community and Government Services. We have done a full review of all the assets out there to revisit the valuation. We're continuing to work with them to ensure that we don't have communication errors of this nature in the future so that we're properly informed at the time of additions to capital assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I want to get away from the Peter Pitseolak School and move on to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's requested \$10 million write-off.

I think that's a large amount of money. I know it has been used in the past 10 years. The minister also said that the information collected with that money can be reused in the future.

Can the minister provide a breakdown of that \$10,040,000 and the money that was spent on those studies that can be used again? I hope I was clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I don't have all the details of all the studies.

I just want to comment. Sometimes you have to spend money to determine whether you should spend more money or not spend money. In this case the decision-makers of the day between the years 2005 and 2010 were actively studying this project. We figured out that 77 percent of the costs were incurred during that time. That's when it started becoming apparent that this is going to be a massive undertaking with huge financial costs. That's the sort of value of undertaking a study. If you don't undertake the studies, you will always be guessing like "What if?"

They were doing these studies and I think they looked at more than a dozen sites in the area and then they started

narrowing it down. I believe, after a while, through extensive consultations with individuals and organizations in this area, they narrowed it down to two locations and they were able to get some preliminary estimates. Again, it was \$250 million to \$500 million, which is a staggering amount of money for our territory. Globally or internationally it might not be that big of a project, but for us it was quite significant.

The value of the money that was spent and the studies that were completed helped us come to the realization that a project of this nature could not proceed without a further infusion of cash from investors or other levels of government. We couldn't do it on our own.

As I said, this is an accounting exercise. We're moving it from a work in progress because the Auditor General of Canada says that there is no work being done on it, so it can't be capitalized. They also determined a lot of the work that was done should have probably been expensed at the time and not work in progress.

Again, as I said to Mr. Enook, there is valuable work that has been done and it can be used in the future. If a decision is made to proceed, I'm sure the Qulliq Energy Corporation has all the reports, studies, and all that work in the office and online. I think there's a lot of work that actually is online that can be referred to.

It's not like \$10 million, like I said, to a generator that's never going to be used again. This is work that can be used again and probably referred to by future decision-makers and any engineering firms, accounting firms, and others who

could be retained by them to assist in making a determination should we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. We usually don't review the capital estimates for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and we don't approve them in the House as they are done independently. We know that this project was started back in 2005. We don't want to see this happen again. What are you going to do to make sure that this does not occur again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I know me, Minister Mike, former Minister of QEC Mr. Hickes, and former minister of QEC Ms. Ell-Kanayuk... . Are there any other former ministers? This is all in the last four or five years we have all grappled with this.

I believe the Qulliq Energy Corporation is strengthening their capital planning processes and capital carryovers processes. I know Mr. Pereira has told me about some of the work he's doing there so that there is more oversight of projects before they get to certain decision-making stages at the Qulliq Energy Corporation board of directors, to the minister and to the Financial Management Board.

If it came forward to the Financial Management Board, it would have to go through the Department of Finance. We would work with the Qulliq Energy

Corporation to make that determination to make sure that it is a project that fits within the mandate of the Government of Nunavut at that time in the future, and that there is a reasonable chance that we can secure investors and other levels of support. Again, a lot of this has to make economic sense as well. We look at all those types of considerations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it is quite challenging to just write off the asset. If we can imagine this scenario where an iceberg passes by and we place \$10 million on top of it, with the knowledge it will leave with the currents, we are told not to bother with it and just leave it be. It is impossible to just leave that amount aside and how to counter that is confusing.

Let me unequivocally state that I never want to see that occur again within this government or at least our government should ensure this never happens again. If we can perhaps make some amendments within the capital projects review mandate to ensure funding is available, but only if that could be agreed to.

Qulliq's capital estimates are exempt from our review. This then becomes just a commentary. Hopefully in the future their corporate capital estimates and projects can move forward successfully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Just a comment. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know that Mr. Rumbolt was asking questions in regard to petroleum products, but I do want to ask for clarification in regard to evaporation and shrinkage of petroleum products. The minister and the official had stated that due to the warm and cold temperatures, petroleum products shrink and expand.

Before I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I learned how to monitor petroleum products through KIA. I'll be asking questions based on my experience through the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

My first question is in regard to petroleum products. Does the write-off include the spillage, yes or no? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, if I can bring my PPD expert back in to assist us with these answers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the official in?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Ms. Kimball, welcome back. Do you want me to go directly to Ms. Kimball?
Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a spillage occurs and we

can quantify the amount that has been spilled, I believe we would record that as a separate transaction. If it's not quantifiable, then it would result in a difference in inventory from year to the end when you're doing the dips. If we have a known amount and we're able to quantify that, we can do that separately as an entry in accounting. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If there was no spillage occurring, my next question is, in view of all the communities in Nunavut, aviation fuel has one container. Do the tanks have only one liner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We definitely would have separate storage tanks in each community for each type of fuel. As to the exact number of tanks in each community, I don't have that information with me. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase my question. Are holding tanks that are presently being pumped single-wall tanks or double-wall

tanks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That has nothing to do with the write-off. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recognize your statement, but at the same time a single-wall lined fuel holding tank does take into consideration heat and cold shrinkage, but a double-wall tank does make a difference on heat and cold shrinkage.

My next question here is, when we look at these petroleum products' evaporations, when we look at avgas in one community and then jet A-1 chargeable variance, my knowledge according to this is when they are transported to communities, the caps on these drums are double-sealed. How do you account for the heat and cold shrinkage with these chargeable variances on these two particular issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to apologize to Mr. Mikkungwak. We simply don't have that level of detailed information about caps on containers and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at these chargeable variances regarding the Petroleum Products Division in this day and age, seeing that some areas are so substantial, are there future considerations as to minimize the substantial amounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for his question. Mr. Chairman, my officials in Finance and I have actually had an opportunity as well to talk to Ms. Kimball about the PPD operations in CGS. She has been the deputy minister of that department for a little less than a year, so she learned quite a bit about the department. One of the areas that she's focusing on is PPD and how to get better recordkeeping and reporting the chargeable and non-chargeable losses.

I have to say that I have been around for a number of years here. I think the reporting for the write-offs of petroleum products is getting more accurate as the years go by and we're decreasing the shrinkage. Most of the shrinkage falls within the parameters for the shrinkage factor that's set by PPD.

The amount of fuel that the Government of Nunavut purchases every year... . We have six categories of fuel. For the amount of fuel that we do purchase, \$175,000 is a very small amount. I recognize that it is an amount that we have to write off because of shrinkage, due to theft, evaporation, and other possible factors.

Ms. Kimball has worked very hard to strengthen the whole PPD process and I can ask her to comment and provide some more information on that. I can assure you that as a government, we are working very hard on our entire PPD side. It's a very important division to our government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that chargeable variances are going down, but in some communities it's still crawling right up, with the documents that were provided to us.

When we look at this day and age, as indicated, transferring of fuel from a tanker to a holding tank, you have a meter reading going on. After a dipping has occurred, do the current and modern holding tanks that are installed within the communities now...? I know some probably don't have a modernized holding tank yet, but is the department looking at installing and having meters within the new holding tanks for the Petroleum Products Division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of our tanks do have like an odometer, a meter of everything

going in and everything coming out of the tank.

I think what you're getting at, though, is some newer technology in terms of monitoring the levels constantly. We are looking at new technology that's emerging, but we also want to balance cost. We also recognize that the cold and the conditions in the Arctic can be challenging to some electronics. We want to make sure we are appropriately researching and piloting options before we start making investments in those technologies. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is just a yes or no. Are the majority of the holding tanks within the territory single-wall holding tanks or double-wall tanks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my last question.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish I could answer that question, yes or no, but I simply don't know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a lot of talk about the hydro project, so most of the questions I was going to ask have already been asked, but I do have one concern.

I guess my concern is seeing that this project hasn't gone as was expected, I'm

concerned that you're not going to pursue other options for generating power. I'm wondering: what is the long term? You cut this. Is there anything on the horizon? Can something like this be a P3? Can it be privatized?

I talked about carbon pricing in the House a number of times last week with the Premier. Maybe that's something that can be looked at. I just want to get your comment from that, minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Unrelated to the write-off bill, but if the minister wants to answer it. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Just to clarify, we're not cutting this; we're writing it off. We're moving it from a work in progress to expenses on the recommendation of the Office of the Auditor General.

I can't state with any degree of certainty where this will go in the future. As I said to another response, it will have to be the Board of Directors of the Qulliq Energy Corporation working with the president and the minister, and then working with the cabinet, whether it is this cabinet or a future cabinet, to get some policy direction.

Again, it's going to require a massive amount of money to proceed. Based on what I know today and based on what studies have already indicated, it's going to be several hundreds of millions of dollars. Again, it's simply not a project that the Government of Nunavut could undertake on its own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that were done while this project was active was that Iqalummiut that had cabins and that along some of the impacted areas were consulted. Since this project is being put on hold, will the same people be consulted so that you could keep them up to date as to what's going on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people and organizations that were consulted at the time and over the years, there is a lengthy list of individuals. I believe the Qulliq Energy Corporation kept the list. Actually I know they did because it's on their website. You can see where they consulted.

If those individuals are following the media, whether it's CBC or one of the local print media, they will be able to understand that this project is not proceeding at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Hopefully people have an interest in what we're saying here today, especially those that will be impacted.

I want to move to the fuel shrinkage. When I look at some of the numbers here, I see for Iqaluit there is no number at all for shrinkage. Could you just explain why that is, minister, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract in Iqaluit for the distribution of fuel is a little bit different than the other jurisdictions in that the contractor actually buys all the fuel up front from us. Therefore there is no adjustment on our books if anything goes missing because it's in their custody and it's all their responsibility. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Could you please tell us why Iqaluit is different than other communities and what kind of impact that might have on the cost to the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The pricing we have for residents and businesses is actually all still set by CGS or by the government. It has no impact on the end user. It's just a difference in the contract for them to deliver fuel on our behalf. It's just part of the formula of how they get a commission.

In Iqaluit they buy all of the fuel up front and there is a math formula of how much they have to reimburse, how much they pay for that, and there is a calculation for their profit margin and how much they can keep. With the other communities, it's a lot more straightforward in that we just pay a flat commission rate per litre. It's very clean and easy math.

The idea was to support private sector development as something to evolve. I think Iqaluit basically serves as a pilot project of that compared to other delivery methods. That's something that we're looking at. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one last question and it's to do with the Nunavut Housing Corporation's assets to be written down. Once there are units that have fire damage, the value is a lot lower once they have a fire. Once they are renovated, do you change the value from the books? Obviously those houses' value goes up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Yes, that's what would happen. We're writing down the value of the house because of the damage, but once we incur the cost to renovate the house, then we add whatever those costs are back to the remaining book value to give it a new value for the financial statements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We will now go clause

by clause of Bill 21. Please go to Bill 21 in your legislative binders.

Are you ready? Thank you. Bill 21, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Part 1. Total. \$14,680,209. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 1. Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Part 2. Total. \$175,720.17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 1. Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Part 3. Total. \$408,240.08. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 1. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Part 4. Total. \$617,687.70. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 3. Part 5. Total. \$1,289,672.55. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 1. Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 3. Part 6. Total. \$10,040,743.44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded Bill 21?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 21 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank you and your committee for your excellent questions today. If the listening public are paying attention, they would notice a good discussion about PPD and in particular the Qulliq Energy Corporation hydro project. It's very important to Iqaluit. I would hope that they would have a good understanding of where we are with that project.

I would like to thank my colleagues for being here to support me in answering questions. In particular I would like to thank my officials, Mr. Chown, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Pereira, and Ms. Kimball, for being here.

I'm very thankful for Ms. Kimball being here for the PPD side. Fuel is very important to us. She has a very in-depth understanding of how it works. I'm sure Mr. Rumbolt will be working hard on that whole area. I know Mr. Mikkungwak had some questions here. It's very important.

I just want to assure yourself, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. T. Sammurtok that we are going to review your opening comments in great detail and pay particular attention to urging the government to table a comprehensive report.

I'm sure Minister Mike will be talking to his president and board of directors about the whole Qulliq Energy Corporation hydro dam project and hopefully be able to clarify some of that and maybe put something out for public awareness where the project is at.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll just simply say "thank you." I wish everybody very safe travels home and a merry Christmas, if we don't see you for a while. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson and your staff. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that our wish list has been completed as of today, I would like to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. 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. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker: 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 21 and would like to report that Bill 21 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.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickey.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**Bill 14 – Public Health Act – Third Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Public Health Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 14 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

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

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

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

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 21 is ready for assent.

Before we proceed further, Mr. Clerk, will you determine if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Nellie Kusugak (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- (interpretation ends) Bill 14, *Public Health Act*;
- Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act*;
- Bill 20, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016*;
- Bill 21, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*;
- Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*;
- Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017*; and
- Bill 24, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018*.

(interpretation) As Chancellor of the Order of Nunavut, I wish to congratulate this year's recipients of the order:

Ellen Hamilton of Iqaluit,
Louie Kamookak of Gjoa Haven, and
Red Pedersen of Kugluktuk.

I look forward to joining with you next year on the occasion of the investiture ceremony.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to formally congratulate Charlie Panigoniak for having recently been awarded my office's Performing Arts Award.

Although winter's cold and darkness is fast approaching, let us think of the warmth of the holiday season that lies ahead and reflect on the blessings that we enjoy.

I wish all members a safe return to your communities, constituents, and families. Thank you.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for February 21, 2017:

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

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

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, before we adjourn, I wish to take a moment to announce that our next Youth Parliament will be held later this month.

This year's event is the sixth Youth Parliament to have been held since our legislature was established.

The event brings together senior high school students from our 22 constituencies. The students travel to Iqaluit to learn about the work of the Legislative Assembly.

The sitting of this year's Youth Parliament will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, November 24, starting at 1:30 p.m. eastern time.

The proceedings of the Youth Parliament will be televised live across Nunavut, and I invite all members and Nunavummiut to tune in to what I am sure will be an exciting event.

I also wish to thank our pages, who have assisted all the members, and of course our TV and technical people and our translators.

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:09*

Appendix – November 8, 2016



Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Pat Angnakak, MLA Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu

Asked of: Hon. Paul Quassa

Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Number: 361-4(3)

Date: June 6, 2016

Question:

On March 1, 2016, the government tabled its response to the Report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Public Accounts regarding the 2012-17 Strategic Plan for Nunavut Tourism. This response indicated that Nunavut Tourism worked closely with the Nunavut Arctic College to develop a multi-course certificate program, but the funding then lapsed.

Can the minister provide an explanation of why the funds lapsed, and why the course was never delivered?

Answer:

Mr. Speaker, here is my return to oral question for a question that was asked to me by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College received funding through Nunavut Tourism to develop curriculum designed to provide a basic overview of tourism, an "Introduction to Tourism". Further curriculum development was funded through the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CANNOR), which produced "Festivals and Special Events", and "Guided Visitor Experience" modules in support of the Introduction to Tourism. As a part of the additional funding through CANNOR, the intent was to have the programs developed and delivered within the same fiscal year.

Responsibility for the Tourism file was transferred over to the Kitikmeot Campus, where Business Administration Programs are overseen by the Kitikmeot Dean.

Mr. Speaker, the availability of securing a coordinator locally was pursued, both at the Dean and President's level; however, given the timeframe for delivery, and shortened timeframe related to the availability of funding from CANNOR, no one

in Cambridge Bay was identified to coordinate the program. As such the funding lapsed in the year it was available and the funds related to delivery transferred back to the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, while training has yet to take place, I am pleased that there is curriculum available for future use. Indeed, Nunavut Arctic College and Nunavut Tourism have a long history of working together in efforts of helping to move training forward for the tourism industry, and future offerings of this program are currently being sought by Nunavut Tourism.

I hope this response is of assistance and look forward to the additional opportunities we will have to discuss training and our Government's commitment to strengthening post-secondary education.

Thank you Mr. Speaker