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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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(Tununiq)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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(South Baffin)

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(Uqqummiut)

Hon. George Kuksuk

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Steve Mapsalak

(Aivilik)

Hon. Johnny Mike

(Pangnirtung)

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(Netsilik)

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(Aggu)

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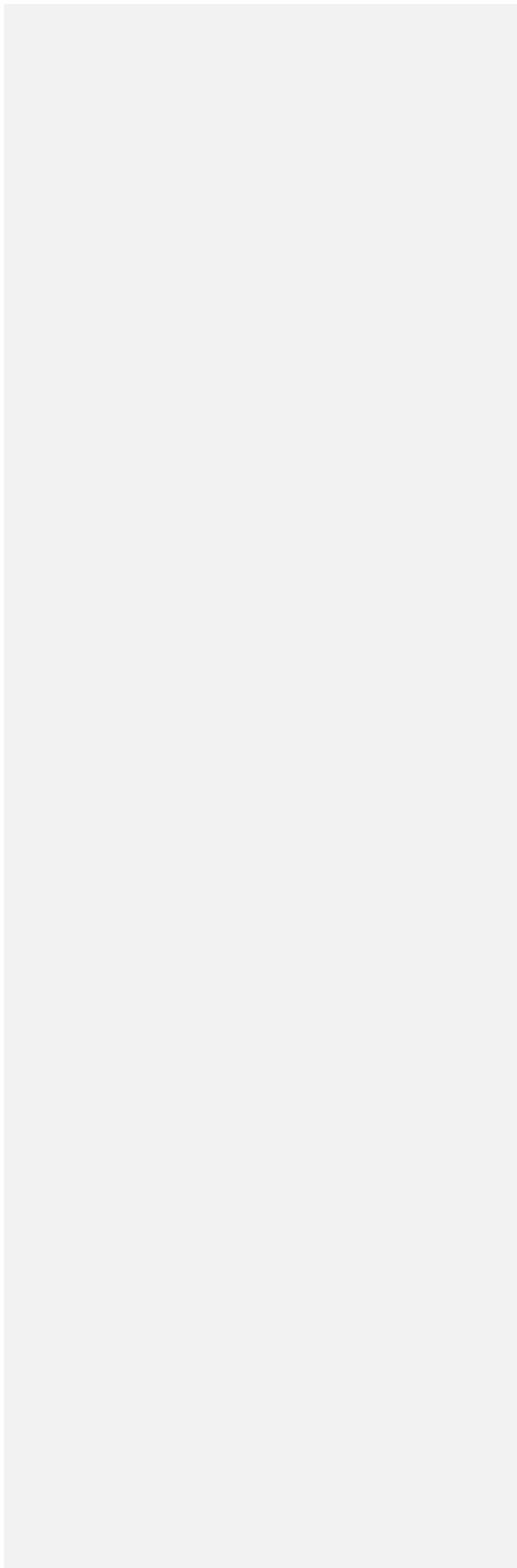
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 13, 2017**

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasic, 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. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 9:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 281 – 4(3):
Nunavut Seniors Strategic
Framework and Handbook
Launch**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning,

my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, elders are Nunavut's strongest tie to our history and our resilient traditions, and to bridging our culture and language in the modern world. The Government of Nunavut is committed to supporting one of our most vulnerable and influential groups.

Mr. Speaker, today I'm going to be tabling two documents - Strategic Framework: Addressing the needs of Nunavut Seniors and the Nunavut Seniors' Information Handbook.

Mr. Speaker, the strategic framework focuses on the challenges of Nunavut's seniors, the current status of programs and services, and the next steps. It acts as a starting point for the future development of a comprehensive Government of Nunavut seniors' strategy to eliminate barriers and to enhance available community supports at the local level. This is a living document and will be updated and reviewed regularly as issues are raised and developments occur.

Mr. Speaker, the handbook was prepared as part of our work to plan ahead to make sure Nunavut's seniors have adequate resources and easier access to support services. The handbook lists what is available and where and who to contact for more information. In addition the handbook will soon be available in larger print. I hope that it provides the information our seniors need to help find services within their communities and across the territory.

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Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note that I have directed the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to provide Nunavumi Inutuqait Katujjiqatigiingit, the Nunavut Seniors Society, with \$100,000 for the 2016-17 fiscal year, as well as an annual contribution of \$150,000 moving forward. The Nunavut Seniors Society acts as a voice to empower seniors and to advocate and educate on issues that affect seniors and help make their voices heard.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that these are positive steps in our work to support Nunavut's seniors, and I look forward to providing more updates as they occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 282 – 4(3): The Kitikmeot Regional Health Centre Residential Long-term Care Unit is Now Operational

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we're on the topic of seniors, I would like to inform the House that the renovations to repurpose the Kitikmeot Regional Health Centre inpatient unit into the new long-term residential care unit have been completed.

This new unit supports seven residential long-term care beds plus one bed designated for respite and palliative care. The level of care provided at this facility is intended for Nunavummiut who

require professional nursing care up to level 4.

Mr. Speaker, all care on this unit is provided by new full-time positions. Seventeen new personal care workers, who are local residents, are currently receiving on-the-job training to fulfill the unit's staffing requirements.

Mr. Speaker, our first two residents have already been admitted as of last week. Health is committed to providing care for and support to Nunavummiut who need care while acknowledging the need for a made-in-Nunavut strategy. I look forward to celebrating the formal grand opening of the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 283 – 4(3): Elders and Youth Programs

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning, (interpretation) my fellow Nunavummiut, as well as the people of Whale Cove and Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the Department of Culture and Heritage is responsible for providing leadership in the development and implementation of policies, programs, and services aimed at youth and elders to strengthening the culture, language and heritage for Nunavut.

Elders have stressed the increasing importance of giving youth a connection to culture, traditional values, and skills. The Department of Culture and Heritage believes that elders play an important role in Inuit society. To tackle that issue, in January 2017 Culture and Heritage met with eight elders, two from each region, to revise the *Elders Programs Strategy*. Since then Culture and Heritage has been working on revising the strategy and implementing the recommendations of this strategy.

Culture and Heritage offered a tool-making workshop in Cambridge Bay in January 2017. Culture and Heritage will be offering a fox trapping program in March 2017 hosted by Igloolik and have Kivalliq participants. The on-the-land program will be held in Igloolik March 2017 to support the teaching and learning of cultural and traditional way of life on the land. The land program was offered in spring and summer for Pond Inlet and Nauyasat. Culture and Heritage plans to make this an ongoing initiative because the elders have expressed that this is the best way that would help youth to understand areas of concern, campgrounds, and specific animal hunting grounds.

Another important initiative is collecting oral history. Work related to the Oral History Collection program was undertaken in all 25 communities between 2003 and 2011. The Oral History Collection program is now focused on compiling information on fish and foxes that will be integrated with the programs that will be held for the year 2017.

In closing, our elders have shown us a path to follow for generations and they

continue to support and help us today. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the House join with me in thanking our elders for their advice and continued wisdom and support. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 284 – 4(3):
Capacity Building Sessions with
Elders from the Community**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to inform my fellow members of the progress in building capacity in early childhood education in support of *Sivumut Abluqta*, as undertaken by the Nunavut Arctic College Early Childhood Education Program in Iqaluit.

The Nunavut Arctic College Early Childhood Education Program recently hosted elders from the communities of Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, and Iqaluit in an interactive sharing session with ECE students on February 14, 2017. This session was designed as an avenue to enrich the knowledge base and learning of the ECE students through an exchange of ideas with elders. The cultural seminar focused on such topics as storytelling, songs, games, and child rearing practices.

The inclusion of elders in the Early Childhood Education Program ensures that our students are well informed of the principles of *Inuit*

Qaujimajatuqangit. The Nunavut Arctic College Early Childhood Education Program will be regularly working with the Inuit elders, who are specialists in the field of early childhood education, to more fully infuse Inuit-specific cultural practices and teachings into the approved and translated outcomes based early childhood education curriculum.

It is essential that these elders, who are the living libraries of cultural knowledge, have the opportunity to present these teachings for incorporation by our students in their pedagogy. Moving forward, the Early Childhood Education Program will continue to expand the Inuit-specific content in its program delivery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 528 – 4(3): The Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimanituqangit

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

Mr. Speaker, this morning I am overwhelmed by feelings of pride, as it started when I woke up feeling that way, and when my ministerial colleagues made their statements, my heart literally overflowed with pride.

Inuit Qaujimanituqangit is alive in this House. Mr. Speaker, the news we heard was music to my ears, as our work here on that subject will result in a much better future with that foundation. I am completely filled with pride based on what I have heard today as well as the work we completed over this session.

Especially so, departments now yield to the fact that *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit* has to form part of their operational foundation and they now acknowledge that. Due to this fact I am totally pleased in our progress, and I wish to share my feelings of pride with my colleagues and the audience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 529 – 4(3): Sudden Passing of Napatchie McRae

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to mention that on Friday one of our relatives passed away here in Iqaluit.

Napatchie McRae, who was my maternal cousin, was invaluable in providing support for the elders in Iqaluit as well as at the elders' centre. She worked with elders and took care of the elders. Her absence will leave a large void.

I want to extend my appreciation to those who visit my aged aunt, Enuapik, as she is presenting a strong front as usual. Her extended family members are keeping her company and I am very thankful to them.

To my fellow residents here in Iqaluit, I want to express my gratitude, as this Saturday I had to assist in some community work and I was unable to attend the meeting here, as I was helping out. Our fellow citizens really helped out as they provided assistance through volunteering and donating items without any giving thought to their own situation. I was extremely gratified to see that, and I extend my appreciation to all my relatives at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 530 – 4(3): Gift of Dolls from Sperry-Friesen Family

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today on your behalf in appreciation of the fine gift that was donated to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut by the family of the late Bishop Sperry.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1900s the Arctic Anglican Church's first bishop, Bishop Fleming, was known for his appreciation of Inuit art and he collected pieces which were then gifted to Canadian and American donors who provided financial support to the church. In those days much of the support for the Arctic Anglican Church came from England and the United States.

In the 1980s Bishop Sperry travelled to the United States to give a talk about the north. An elderly gentleman at one of those meetings offered Bishop Sperry

two pieces of Bishop Fleming's original Inuit art to take back with him. These were not intended as donations for the church but as a personal gift.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Sperry chose two dolls and was very pleased to have the opportunity to bring these pieces back home to the north. Unfortunately it is not known which community the dolls were made in or the exact period. Nonetheless, they are beautiful and unique.

Mr. Speaker, many years later Bishop Sperry gave these dolls to his daughter, Angela Friesen, because, as he told her, he could see that the Arctic was in her heart and he wanted her to have them. Bishop Sperry knew that his daughter would eventually make sure that these dolls found their permanent home in the Arctic.

Indeed, Angela and her family decided to gift the dolls to the Legislative Assembly so that over the years to come, Nunavummiut would be able to see part of their history.

Mr. Speaker, Angela and her husband, Doug, live in Rankin Inlet. When they came to Iqaluit and saw our wonderful Legislative Assembly, they knew that they had found the perfect arctic home for the dolls that were passed on from Bishop Sperry and Bishop Fleming.

Mr. Speaker, on your behalf, I would like to thank the Sperry-Friesen family for their generosity in ensuring that these lovely dolls have a place to showcase Nunavut's unique culture and history at the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 531 – 4(3):
Update on Activities since School
Fire**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow Kugaaruk residents as well as those in Taloyoak. I say "good morning" to my colleagues in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to make an announcement for your information after the school erupted in fire in our community.

On March 6 the younger students, especially the students in (interpretation ends) preschool and kindergarten, (interpretation) have resumed their classes. Further, class materials for the higher grades are being collected in Winnipeg. Our community has received tremendous support. The materials have started arriving and they will be used shortly.

With respect to the breakfast program for the students numbering over 60 up to 80 at times, this program has been a boon to many students. I got the information from the school principal, who passed that information along.

Course materials for the higher grades are also being collected at this time, as expectations were that no classes would resume until later in the spring. The school principal stated that as a result, the students will only lose about ten hours of instruction time and that the

students should be able to complete their studies by the end of the school year.

The students from grades 1 to 6 are currently taking their classes at our church, the students in grades 7 to 9 will be housed in the hamlet community centre, and the students from grades 10 to 12 will be placed in a different building.

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

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

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

The school principal announced that the community's collaborative efforts have resulted in a successful approach to housing the students and the places where the different grades use have been identified.

The hamlet SAO also made an announcement this past Sunday that the hardship faced by Kugaaruk just recently resulted in various challenges that required a lot of work.

The old school gymnasium is partially standing, but it is a hazard to our children, so it was demolished.

This summer we are expecting the five or six portable classrooms to arrive to Kugaaruk.

Local priority has shifted to fast-tracking the completion of the new hamlet offices so that the old hamlet offices can be used for our local school purposes.

These are the initiatives in place now. The new school that will be built will take about three or four years to complete.

The departments of Education and CGS have provided tremendous assistance to Kugaaruk, and I am ecstatic and very appreciative of their help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 532 – 4(3):
Recognition of Volunteers in
Naujaat**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Naujaat, Coral Harbour, and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and express my pride in the people of Naujaat who have banded together as a society. The name of the society is Avvuqtiit Society. The members of this society fundraise locally to assist residents who wish to travel to attend to relatives who may be very ill or when family members pass away in a different community.

Mr. Speaker, I can't recall the number of years they have been providing this assistance, but their support has been irreplaceable, especially for those people

who have no access to disposable income. They provide this support that allows a fellow resident to travel out to see their relatives or when they lose a relative or to see a gravely ill relative.

Further, I wish to state that this society has been diligent in providing assistance and they have continued to operate smoothly. The numbers of families that have been assisted are increasing, both in Naujaat as well as relatives from outside of Naujaat.

They are all volunteers who work out of their sense of duty and they are very committed, so I would like to state their names, as they have continued to be a source of pride as a representative.

The chairperson is Mary Tuktudjuk, the vice-chairperson is Goretti Tinashlu, the secretary is Belinda Mapsalak, and the board members are Rhoda Tegumiar, Richard Jr. Angotialuk, Joanne Nanordluk, Elizabeth Kidlapik, and Paula Pipili Tegumiar.

Mr. Speaker, these are elders and youth that work together and they work very well together. For their willingness to work hard to do fundraising, I want my colleagues to join me in appreciating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 533 – 4(3):
Traditional Activities at Qaqqalik
School**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the residents of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, as well as to my colleagues.

I rise today to express my happiness as well as to applaud the celebrations that took place over the week in Kimmirut, where they held different events and activities recently. There are two main events I want to talk about.

Mr. Speaker, the first event began in the first week of the month where Qaqqalik School students, staff, and local elders of Kimmirut, of which there were 13, collaborated on celebrating the Inuit language and culture.

Lessons were provided on subjects such as igloo-making using the right type of snow and to showcase Inuit skills. It included the joyous dancing styles that Inuit adapted. These dances usually bring the community together.

Last but not least, examples of Inuit clothing were showcased, in particular warm winter wear, including caribou and sealskin clothing. I particularly want to thank Jawlie and Naomi Akavak for modelling the Inuit winter wear clothing.

The second thing I want to speak to relates to hockey, in particular for youth in Kimmirut who are participating. Last year I announced that a coach visited the community from New Brunswick's Penobsquis Baptist Church. They arrived from the province and offered the benefits of training and hockey skills training.

It is the second year that this event has taken place. It provides tangible benefits in both playing the sport and practising the various drills to become more adept at playing hockey.

This included sermons at the local church. I want to thank the people from that church, as well as the people who partook in the Qaqqalik School showcasing of Inuit skills. Let us share in their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 534 – 4(3):
Arctic Waters**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I have been a strong proponent of environmentally responsible mining development in Nunavut and near my community of Pond Inlet.

My constituents recognize the critical importance of ensuring that large-scale development is undertaken in a responsible and sustainable manner.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, although I am no fan of the federal government's tendency to announce measures that impact the north without consulting the region's leaders and people, I strongly do believe that a cautious approach to oil and gas development in our waters is warranted.

Mr. Speaker, the recent announcement by the Nunavut Impact Review Board

concerning its role in the strategic environmental assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait indicated that the final report from this process will “inform the 5-year review of the Government of Canada decision to designate Arctic waters as off limits to future oil and gas licences.”

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the federal decision was announced shortly before Christmas of last year.

Mr. Speaker, on May 9, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board will be holding a public engagement session in Pond Inlet. As my colleague from Uqummiut has noted, other communities will also be visited during the spring.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I encourage my constituents in Pond Inlet and other impacted communities to make their voices heard during this important process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 689 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing

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

Before I get to my question, I want to take this opportunity to briefly note that I was pleased to see that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has recently issued a request for tenders to undertake renovations at the Iqaluit women’s shelter. I look forward to seeing the completion of that work. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today concern the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. Action 22 in the blueprint indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will work with the Department of Finance to, and I quote, “analyze the current staff housing rents and subsidies to determine appropriate subsidy levels that encourage staff housing tenants to transition out of government-subsidized housing and into private rental or homeownership.”

Can the minister indicate at what stage this work is presently at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question in regard to staff housing. In the (interpretation ends) *Blueprint for Action on Housing* (interpretation) it’s true that we need to encourage staff housing tenants to transition out of government-subsidized housing into private rental or homeownership. This is now being reviewed, including the subsidy and rent levels. To date I haven’t been given an update as to what stage this work is presently at.

They will also be reviewing and analyzing the government staff housing tenants because it's included in the blueprint for action. At this time I can't exactly tell the member what stage this work is at. Government staff housing and public housing g are also part of the blueprint for action. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that one of things about the blueprint for action is that it doesn't really have any concrete timelines, so we need to ask questions like this and it's unfortunate we couldn't get an answer this morning. I hope to hear back from the minister as soon as possible on what's happening in that area.

In April of 2015 the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation appeared before a committee of the Senate of Canada. The president's testimony indicated that, and I quote, "the cost of owning and operating a house in Nunavut ranges from \$158,500 to \$186,000 per year. This is the minimum income you would need to be able to afford home ownership in various communities."

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that these numbers are based on community core need income thresholds that are provided by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Can the minister indicate how often these numbers are updated to reflect the high cost of living in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. ~~In regard to her question~~ about the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, ~~that the income thresholds are provided,~~ I believe I understand the member's question relating to the housing corporation ~~and the fact that~~ ~~T~~ thresholds differ from community to community.

In response to part of her question as to how often numbers are updated, I can tell the member that information has not been provided to me ~~as to how often the numbers are updated,~~ but my officials are watching. I will ask them to look into this as soon as possible and provide that information to the member and to my colleagues. I'm sure I won't be able to do it this session, but I'll probably be able to provide that information during this coming spring session. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Homeownership is a significant responsibility and people need to know what they are getting into before they make the commitment to buy their own home.

I was pleased to note that Action 19 of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that the corporation will, and I

quote, “engage with financial institutions to gauge interest on the provision of mandatory first-time homeownership training as an eligibility requirement for the NHC homeownership subsidies...” I agree with that action. I think that’s a great direction that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is going. Can the minister indicate at what stage this work is presently at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): I again thank my colleague. Mr. Speaker, I can’t respond for the same reason that I have not been briefed, ~~but I would like to thank the member at this time.~~ I have not been briefed as to where they’re at right now, ~~at which stage they’re at right now,~~ so therefore I cannot tell the member what stage they’re at and how far they are. I am sure my officials are watching. I can tell the member that I can provide that information to the member, perhaps not today, because I don’t have that information in my office as yet. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 690 – 4(3): The Need for a Wellness and Addictions Counsellor

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this sitting, many of my colleagues and I expressed concerns over the impact of alcohol on the well-being of communities, families, and individuals. Often people need help and support to address their problems with substance abuse or addiction.

The community of Arctic Bay has not had a wellness and addictions counsellor for three years and the need for mental health counselling is increasing. Can the minister clearly explain what steps are being taken to fill the wellness and addictions counsellor position for Arctic Bay and explain why it is taking so long? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member raising this issue. When we are looking at wellness coordinators in the communities, it can sometimes be a challenging position. It brings up a lot of emotions. When we put out job advertisements, we want to make sure that we get people that are going to be engaged at the community level to work with the hamlet, to work with other organizations, to come forward with a wellness plan for their community.

With the specifics to Arctic Bay, I was unaware that it has taken that long to fill the position. I can assure the member that I will look into that issue immediately and I will respond to the member directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his concise response to my question.

Mr. Speaker, becoming addicted to alcohol or drugs is often linked to other

social issues, family problems, and poor mental health. However, if a person receives support and assistance in recognizing and addressing their problems at an early stage, there is a much better chance of them being able to get control of their addiction and deal with their issues without needing to leave home.

Can the minister provide an update on what consideration has been given to establishing a youth outreach position in the community of Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the member's first question, it leads to the second part. When there is a wellness coordinator in the community, they speak to different members of the community, such as the member himself and other leadership within the community, to identify areas of focus.

One of the things that we're specifically working on is the Alcohol Harm Reduction Action Plan, which does take an education and harm reduction... It's a four-pillar approach: prevention, education, harm reduction, treatment, and enforcement. A youth representative would bring a lot of benefit through the programming.

I do appreciate the member's suggestion and I'll look forward to see how we can develop that, but I think the priority right now is to make sure that the community of Arctic Bay has a wellness coordinator that can correspond and have dialogue

with community members on what focuses and what avenues that they want to address community wellness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. He answered part of the question.

Mr. Speaker, the health staff in Arctic Bay are very dedicated to their work. However, they are very busy because they are doing their own jobs and also trying to help people with addictions and substance abuse issues. This can be very time-consuming, especially if a person needs more specialized help, such as being considered for treatment at a rehabilitation centre.

Can the minister indicate whether his department is committed to filling the wellness and addiction counsellor position for the High Arctic? We assumed that the department was aware of the three years where the position has been vacant. With no successor in sight, I wonder if the minister will first have to work through the selection process and inform me whether it will be filled this year or some time after 2017. Will he work on speeding up the hiring process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly appreciate the member advocating on behalf of his community.

As we're all aware, staffing positions is a challenge. I know there is one mental health worker working in Arctic Bay right now. If there's another position that needs to be filled, I know that working with the Department of Finance and human resources, we work very diligently to make sure we're filling positions, especially in this high need. I have stated before that there's a lot more recognition in mental health and addictions and it is, as the member mentioned, putting a burden on existing staff. We want to make sure, where approved positions are located, that we fill them as quickly as possible.

We also work with other organizations to provide different programs. Specifically in Arctic Bay we work very closely with the hamlet. There are sewing programs for women with the community health and wellness committee. We also work with Nunavut Arctic College on other programs with kamik-making. There's a cadet program there. Again, we work with the hamlet with youth and elders' programs.

I do acknowledge that maybe we need to get more aggressive in our recruiting methods and it's something I know I'm continuously talking with my officials at Health that where we have positions, we need to fill them. I know we're working very hard and very closely with the Department of Finance to do that. I can't promise that it's going to be filled this year, but I can promise we're going to work very hard to make sure it is filled as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 691 – 4(3):
Telecommunications in the North**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, I asked questions during our recent fall sitting concerning the issue of telecommunications in the north.

In April of 2016 the Government of Nunavut appeared before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission on the occasion of its public hearings into basic telecommunications services in Canada.

On December 21, 2016 the CRTC issued a new Telecom Regulatory Policy which establishes a new universal service objective regarding broadband Internet access in rural and remote areas of Nunavut.

Can the minister confirm what the Government of Nunavut's position is regarding the CRTC's new Telecom Regulatory Policy and universal service objective? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember when the member did ask me that question. The government's position on the CRT's position is that we're all for it. We're in favour of it, but currently with today's technology in Nunavut it is not attainable. We feel that in the future it

will be attainable, but currently with technologies that we have here, with only satellite coverage, the rates that they want are not attainable at this time. We will be working with any stakeholders to try to get to that goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On December 15, 2016 the federal government announced its new "Connect to Innovate Program." The federal announcement indicated that this program will invest \$500 million by the year 2021 to bring high-speed Internet to rural and remote communities in Canada.

The federal announcement also indicated that this program will, and I quote, "support new 'backbone' infrastructure to connect institutions like schools and hospitals with a portion of funding for upgrades and 'last-mile' infrastructure to households and businesses."

Can the minister confirm what role the Government of Nunavut will play in accessing portions of this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working with other proponents, such as Nunavik, Newfoundland and Labrador, and other Internet providers to try to access these funds. It's \$500 million, but for the first year it will be at \$100 million. I believe that's the figure.

We're looking at newer technologies, such as fibre optic lines or low Earth orbit. When these come into force, the Internet availability to both the GN and Nunavummiut would be better. For example, if we get a fibre-optic line to certain communities, it will free up more bandwidth from the satellite for other communities so that they can have access to quicker Internet.

We are working with proponents. We have nothing solid right now, but we are working with proponents to access some of this federal government funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our recent fall sitting, I asked questions to the minister concerning the issue of fibre optic connections. In his responses to me, the minister indicated that the Government of Nunavut had been undertaking a feasibility study on this issue. Will he commit to tabling the results of this feasibility study during our upcoming spring sitting, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The feasibility study that the member is referring to is being done by KRT and it is not complete yet. No, I cannot table that feasibility study currently because first, it's not done and

second, it's not our feasibility; we're just partners in it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 692 – 4(3): Departmental Funding Programs

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the community of Gjoa Haven and my family and colleagues.

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

I was very pleased that the minister currently tabled her department's 2016-17 annual report on the administration of the Community Transportation Initiatives Program and I was very pleased to note the support that the Municipality of Gjoa Haven received under this program.

Mr. Speaker, now that her department's 2017-18 main estimates have been approved, can the minister confirm when she will be signing and sending this year's call letter to municipalities inviting applications under the Community Transportation Initiatives Program? 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 thank the member for that question. I don't personally sign those letters; they're done with the department. They are being translated this week and

they will be sent out next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During Saturday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly the minister announced that her department's 2015-16 annual report on the Country Food Distribution Program had just been made publicly available on her department's website. I was very pleased to be able to spend my Sunday, I did come here on Sunday, reviewing the important annual report with care, and I was very pleased to note that the Municipality of Gjoa Haven received \$29,970 in funding during the 2015-16 fiscal year for payments to hunters to provide country food for the community.

Mr. Speaker, now that her department's 2017-18 main estimates have been approved, can the minister confirm when she will be signing and sending this year's call letter to municipalities and hunters and trappers organizations inviting applications under the Country Food Distribution Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Maybe I'm misunderstanding, but I thought I said that the letter is going out next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you for your response. Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for the response. As the minister is well aware, the recent discovery of the lost ships of the Franklin expedition has attracted international attention to Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, I recently attended a meeting of the municipal council where the impact of this discovery was discussed in detail, including the potential for tourism development.

Mr. Speaker, now that her department's 2017-18 main estimates have been approved, can the minister confirm when she will be signing and sending this year's call letter to municipalities inviting applications under the Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program? That's three different sections. 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 thank the member for that question. I believe you might be talking about the Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program. The program is designed to encourage diverse and sustainable economic growth through responsible development of the tourism sector and cultural industries. A dozen projects were approved last year. I am expecting that a letter out to appropriate organizations will also be going out by the end of this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 693 – 4(3): Homeownership Programs

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I do recall that this question has been asked previously related to private homeowners and the various assistance programs they can apply for, either for repairs or renovations.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency a private homeowner sent me photos that showed areas of mould. From my perspective, it looked untenable to inhabit that area. They submitted an application, but the application was denied.

Can the minister provide details on the reasons why an application can be denied from a private homeowner by the housing corporation when they submit an application to make reparations on their homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, on this question on what barriers there are, if I understood him correctly, he is asking why they are not

able to access funding for renovation or for assistance and what kind of barriers would be there for a private homeowner. Is he asking about money or is it impossible for anybody to come in to fix the problem? I would like him to clarify his question. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually it was for funding, as funding is required to assist them to order materials for reparations. What constitutes a reason for denying the application for funding assistance for home renovations? The request for funds is high, as materials are quite expensive to order, especially when mould remediation costs can be prohibitive. That is what I am trying to ask about. 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. I also thank the member for clarifying that for me. Mr. Speaker, there are many different programs that are available for private homeowners. A private homeowner can apply for funding as long as they own their own home within Nunavut. There are different programs and I think my colleague is aware of them. They are able to be provided assistance using those programs if they are applying for funding. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, they have applied for funding in my constituency. They sent me the pictures. It's in terrible shape and it looks horrendous. The homeowner applied for funding for assistance that was not approved. That's what he was told. That's why I asked why they can't get approved. He responded by saying that anybody can be given assistance. In that case the same type of assistance can be provided to private homeowners that ask for funding for renovations. 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. Now I previously stated that we have different (interpretation ends) homeownership assistance programs, (interpretation) such as the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program or the Home Renovation Program, and on the side are the programs specific to our elderly homeowners or people with disabilities. There are many programs that are offered, which is why I previously mentioned that as long as the person is a private homeowner from one of our communities in Nunavut, they can all apply equally to these programs.

However, I would ask my colleague to provide more background on the denial of that homeowner's application, as I am really interested in hearing about that case and what problems they face. It doesn't have to be in this House, but I would like to discuss the matter with my

colleague where he can identify the building and community location so that one of our employees can be directed to assess the building that the member has expressed his concern about. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 694 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet’s Hamlet Office

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to asking my question, I want to first offer a correction, but if this is inappropriate, please inform me accordingly.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in last week’s Committee of the Whole session I asked a question regarding a moratorium on gas and oil exploration in the Arctic. The Premier was kind enough to respond to that question.

I heard this morning on CBC’s news clip regarding that news item. I just wanted to let CBC know that after almost four years sitting in this House, I want to reveal my true identity. I am Tom Sammurtok, MLA Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the Municipality of Rankin Inlet has outgrown its hamlet office. The current hamlet office building in Rankin

Inlet was built in 1969 and later expanded in 1994.

Not only is this building too small to meet the needs of the growing municipal government and its employees; the facility is also showing significant signs of deterioration and disrepair. In fact a recent inspection of the building identified four areas that showed high mould readings, which has further limited the operations of the municipality.

Can the minister explain what his department is currently doing to help the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet to repair and remediate its current office building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. CGS did hire a firm that specializes in mould and it is confirmed that there is mould there. It is on the hamlet’s short-term priority to find more office space and we are helping them to find alternative office space right now. Currently it’s not on the five-year plan to build a new hamlet office, but we are looking for alternative space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the minister anticipated my next two questions and he answered both of them.

>> *Laughter*

Well, that killed my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 695 – 4(3): Municipal Training Organization

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq, and my condolences to the Meeko family.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the Municipal Training Organization provides important training to municipal employees and volunteer search and rescue organizations across Nunavut.

Under its *Municipal Training Policy*, the Department of Community and Government Services provides grants and contribution funding to the Municipal Training Organization to conduct its various training initiatives.

Can the minister tell us, as of today, how much funding has the government allocated to the Municipal Training Organization for the 2016-17 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't tell the member exactly how much we're contributing for 2017-18, but we normally provide a grant to them for about \$170,000 a year for their general operations as well as for space and help them out whenever we can because MTO is a very good organization and very cost-effective training is done through that organization for the municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked for 2016-17 information, not 2017-18.

According to the department's *Municipal Training Policy*, recipients who receive funding under this program must provide a report detailing the outcome of the course, an audited financial statement of related revenues and expenses, and key operating statistics.

Can the minister clarify if his department receives a report on each training initiative that is conducted by the Municipal Training Organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't tell the member if we received every report on every course, but it is a requirement. Where government funds are involved, we are accountable. We have to make sure that these funds are spent on what they were

supposed to be spent on and that they are spent properly. It is a requirement.

I would imagine that if a municipality puts in a request for a course, a course is put on, and there are no financial statements done on that course, the next time they applied for funding, the funding would be withheld until the financial statement is done on that course. It's an accounting procedure to make sure that we as the GN are accountable and transparent for the public funds we give out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier during this sitting the minister tabled his department's most recent annual report on Nunavut Emergency Management. In that report the department stated that in 2014-15 the Nunavut Emergency Management Division "committed \$250,000 to the Municipal Training Organization (MTO) for basic, advanced and coordinator search and rescue training. The communities and numbers of participants that were trained are detailed in the MTO annual report."

Can the minister clarify if his department receives a copy of this annual report and, if so, will he commit to tabling the Municipal Training Organization's most recent annual report in the Legislative Assembly during the spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the member's first question, the amount that was funded for MTO in 2015-16 is the same. It's still \$170,000. It was the same in that year as it is... . Sorry. It's 2016-17 and 2017-18 will be the same year.

As for the member's current question about tabling the report, I'm not sure if the report is done yet, but we would receive it and I can look into tabling it. I'm not sure if it's a requirement, but it depends on what information is on there and I will look into the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 696 – 4(3): Property Taxes

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance and they concern the issue of property taxes.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the Department of Finance indicates that there are approximately 10,000 taxable properties in Nunavut.

The Minister of Finance is responsible for setting property tax rates in communities other than Iqaluit, and he is responsible for collecting property taxes owing in communities other than Iqaluit.

In 2016 the new mill rates were published in the May edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*.

My question to the minister is: can he tell us today whether or not property tax rates in the general taxation area in

Nunavut will be increasing, decreasing, or remaining unchanged for the 2017 calendar year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Enook is testing my knowledge or memory. I believe they're staying the same. We got approved for the mill rate establishment order for 2017. The mill rates themselves are not changing, but property taxes may go up depending on the value of the actual properties, increases, and if there are additions to properties across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stated in this House and I have received concerns from my constituents in Pond Inlet that there need to be more payment options available when it comes time to pay their property taxes.

During last year's spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly I asked the minister to consider designating municipalities as payment agents. At that time the minister told me that he would "explore" the idea.

My question to the minister is: can he tell me today whether or not he will act on my suggestion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a variety of ways that people can pay their property taxes: online banking, payroll deductions for the Government of Nunavut employees, and then there are instalment plans. With respect to hamlets, that's very difficult for us because not all hamlets are at the same administrative level. It creates an administrative burden on them and they have to transfer the money to the Government of Nunavut. There may be an administrative component that they may charge us for that service. We're not considering that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clearly indicating that. That's sad to see, especially for the elders and our family members who don't even know how to use computers more so than we do, which is not pleasing. Perhaps I can suggest to the minister to make some other options because their arrears start to build up because they don't have access to services that we can access.

In June of 2015 the Department of Finance began releasing an annual list of property tax arrears owing outside of Iqaluit. At that time the total was approximately \$3.2 million. Mr. Speaker, this is funding that the government needs to deliver programs and services.

Can the minister tell us today whether this amount has decreased, increased, or remained unchanged? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to compliment Mr. Enook and his community. He is raising awareness. I was just reading my briefing note and noted that Pond Inlet is one of the communities with the biggest drop in the number of notices received. He must be raising awareness and people are... That's always a good thing.

The \$3.2 million last year, that's after we factor out the large amount that Shear Minerals owes us, which would bring it up to a much larger amount. This year, factoring out Shear Minerals, I believe the arrears is down to \$2.5 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 697 – 4(3): Status of New Cape Dorset Power Plant

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this morning are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's request for proposals to design and build Cape Dorset's new power plant closed on January 31, 2017.

Can the minister indicate when the Qulliq Energy Corporation anticipates concluding its evaluation process and awarding the contract for the new Cape

Dorset power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. Yes, the request for proposals for Cape Dorset's new power plant is now closed and the bids are still being evaluated. I believe we will have a decision by this month whether the QEC board will select the bidder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I last raised the issue during our fall sitting, the minister could not confirm the status of the land lease for where the plant will be built. Can he confirm today if the outstanding issues related to the land for the new power plant have been resolved? 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. I don't have that report from the QEC, but I expect to see that completed some time this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an approximate figure for the cost of Cape Dorset's new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking about that. Yes, progress has been made and the project is proceeding after the land-related issues were resolved and completed.

If I understood my colleague's question, the QEC has requested a long-term lease of a lot, but the lot selected was zoned to the new power plant. If that is his question, then yes, this has successfully moved forward.

The reason for the complications was related to other issues. The actual lot was easier to complete, but I will be getting a report about the update, although I anticipate the report being submitted some time this month. Due to that reason, land issues in Cape Dorset specific for power plant zoning was kind of complicated, but we have successfully past that hurdle.

Nonetheless, I want the member to know that within municipal lands, the hamlet council selected that parcel for the power plant location and this process moved ahead. However, with respect to the actual QEC request to lease lands, I know that the QEC has submitted a request. I just don't have specific information on the status. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 698 – 4(3): Minimum Wage

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for recognizing me for the second time.

My questions are for the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the *Labour Standards Act*.

Can the minister remind the House and our viewing audience today what the current minimum wage is in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You caught me off guard there.

Mr. Speaker, the current minimum wage is \$13 per hour. It was effective April 1, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all need a reminder sometimes.

Mr. Speaker, the *Labour Standards Act* was amended during the First Legislative Assembly to require the government to produce and table an annual report on the minimum wage. The 2014 report was tabled on March 16, 2016. Will an updated report be ready for tabling before the end of our

current winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to check on that before I can give a definitive answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to that information.

In 2015 the Legislative Assembly approved a bill that allows the government to change the minimum wage rate by regulation. Can the minister indicate whether or not minimum wage-earners in Nunavut will be getting a raise any time this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. That's correct. It simplifies the process. Previously we would have to go to cabinet to get approval. Under regulation the department can do that. I can't say with any certainty that people making minimum wage in Nunavut will get an increase this year.

The current information I have is that Nunavut has the highest minimum wage in Canada at present. There may be other provinces or territories that are in the

process of raising their minimum wage, but I can't say for sure that we won't remain the highest minimum wage jurisdiction in Canada this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Mr. Tom Sammurток.

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

Committee Report 026 – 4(3): Bill 36, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Mr. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 36 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 36 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 36 is now before the Committee of the Whole.

Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 284 – 4(3):
Nunatsiaq News Article:
Nunavut’s New Senator Fills Out
His To-do List**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a 2009 *Nunatsiaq News* article on the Senate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 285 – 4(3): Strategic
Framework: Addressing the needs
of Nunavut Seniors**

**Tabled Document 286 – 4(3): Nunavut
Seniors’ Information Handbook**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two tabling items.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today the *Strategic Framework: Addressing the needs of Nunavut Seniors*.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the *Nunavut Seniors’ Information Handbook*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 287 – 4(3): The Makimaniq Plan 2, A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction 2017-2022

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am pleased to table the *Makimaniq Plan 2, A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction 2017-2022*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 288 – 4(3): Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction 2014-2016

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today the *Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction 2014-16*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 289 – 4(3): FPT Ministerial Report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment, October 3, 2016

Tabled Document 290 – 4(3): FPT Report on the Ministers Responsible for Infrastructure,

September 6 to 7, 2016 (Savikataaq)

Tabled Document 291 – 4(3): Contract Activity Report 2015-2016 (Savikataaq)

Tabled Document 290 – 4(3): FPT Report on the Ministers Responsible for Infrastructure, September 6 to 7, 2016 (Savikataaq)

Tabled Document 291 – 4(3): Contract Activity Report 2015-2016 (Savikataaq)

Tabled Document 292 – 4(3): Procurement Activity Report 2015-2016 (Savikataaq)

Tabled Document 293 – 4(3): Leasing Activity Report 2015-2016 (Savikataaq)

Tabled Document 294 – 4(3): Community Based Search and Rescue Policy (Savikataaq Tabled Document 292 – 4(3): Procurement Activity Report 2015-2016 (Savikataaq)

Tabled Document 293 – 4(3): Leasing Activity Report 2015-2016 (Savikataaq)

Tabled Document 294 – 4(3): Community Based Search and Rescue Policy (Savikataaq)

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have six tabling documents.

Mr. Speaker, I am tabling an FPT Ministerial Report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment, October 3, 2016.

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Second one, I am pleased to table today the FPT Report on the Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Infrastructure, September 6 to 7, 2016 in Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the following reports:

- *Contract Activity Report 2015-16,*
- *Procurement Activity Report 2015-16, and*
- *Leasing Activity Report.*

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the member from Sanikiluaq will like this one. Today I am tabling the Department of Community and Government Services' *Community Based Search and Rescue Contribution Policy*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 39 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2017 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, that Bill 39, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 19, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42, and 43 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 41 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before proceeding to the Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch and report back at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:41 and Committee resumed at 13:29*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome to your committee.

Before we proceed with our committee meeting, (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna (interpretation) and all members, I would like you join me in recognizing and welcoming some Iqaluit elders and the president of the seniors society. As members, let us recognize Okpik Pitseolak, who is here, Simon Nattaq, Martha Tikivik, Lazarus Arreak, who is the current chair of the seniors

society, Cameron McGregor, who is a board member, and Jerry Ell, who is also a board member. Welcome to the House.

>>Applause

Thank you. Good afternoon, my colleagues. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 19, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42, and 43. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members. Good afternoon to the elders here today.

Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the clause-by-clause review of the following bills with the Minister of Finance in this order: Bill 32, Bill 33, Bill 35, Bill 36, and Bill 42; then with the Minister of Justice: Bill 19 and Bill 31; next, if time permits, we will proceed to Bills 26, 28, 30, 38, 41, and 43. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 32?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 32 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
5, 2015-2016 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will first deal with Bill 32. Minister Peterson will be at the witness table. I would first like to ask if you would like to have officials with you at the witness table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have two witnesses that I would like to bring in to the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the minister's officials?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Jeff Chown from the Department of Finance and to my right is Greg Babstock from the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House. Minister Peterson, if you have opening comments on the bill, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before today to present Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-16*.

Through this bill, the government is seeking an additional \$3,869,000 in 2015-16 to properly account for the Iqaluit Energy Services Contract, which the Department of Community and Government Services manages.

The funding is to account for the building modifications and upgrades made to Government of Nunavut buildings over the term of the contract.

Once these modifications and upgrades were in place, they became our property. We must include these additions on our balance sheet as "owned assets," as if the government had gone out and bought them directly.

The government did not record these additions previously. We must now record the adjustment of \$3,869,000, which includes about \$5 million for the cost of the additions minus about \$1.1 million for amortization costs.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. My colleagues, please refer to Bill 32, supplementary

appropriation. As I don't have the Inuktitut copy and I don't want to make a mistake, I'll just follow the English copy.

On page 4 it reads, (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) 2015-16, No. 5. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Community Services. \$3,869,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 2. It reads, (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) 2015-16, No. 5. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$3,869,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, in your legislation binder, let's refer to Bill 32. I think you have it in front of you. I don't have an Inuktitut copy, so I'll just follow the English. It reads, (interpretation ends) Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): We will go to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation. It reads, (interpretation ends) Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$3,869,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Let's go back to the bill. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Members, do you agree to Bill 32 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 32 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I now give you the opportunity to make your closing remarks, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank yourself and the committee for their excellent scrutiny of this bill in the standing committee and here today. I appreciate your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now deal with Bill 33. Minister Peterson, if you have any opening comments for this bill, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Peterson.

Bill 33 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to present Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*.

Through this bill, the government is seeking \$37,964,000 in additional operations and maintenance funding for 2016-17. This amount includes:

- \$2,064,000 for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to increase funding to local housing organizations, consistent with our practice of funding local housing organizations in line with the Government of Nunavut’s own collective agreement increases;
- \$6.9 million for the Department of Justice to address the following projected budget shortfalls:

- \$1.1 million for the Law Enforcement Branch;
- \$1.3 million for the Registries and Court Services Branch; and
- \$4.5 million for the Corrections Branch.
- \$29 million for the Department of Health to address the following projected budget shortfalls within its [Health Care Service Delivery Health Care Services Delivery](#) Branch:

- \$9.2 million for medical travel;

- \$8.7 million for contract nurse services;

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~~\$8.7 million for contract nurse services;~~

- o \$8.8 million for mental health and treatment contracts; and
- o \$2.3 million for physician services contracts.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will be dealing with Bill 33. We will start on page 4. As I have the [English copy](#), e-I'll read [it](#) in English. (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) 2016-17, No. 3. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Law Enforcement. \$1,100,000. Total Registries and Courts Services. \$1,300,000. Total Corrections. \$4,500,000. Total Department. \$6,900,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. ~~Open-Turn the page. to Page-Page 5.~~ (interpretation ends) Ms. Angnakak, for page 5. [\(interpretation\) Go ahead.](#) Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 5, ~~reviewing-we're dealing with a the~~ \$29 million budget shortfall for Health, I would like to just ask the Department of Finance: how are they helping the Department of Health deal with this reoccurring situation that we have every single year where the

Department of Health is coming for appropriations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. The department works on a monthly basis with the Department of Health through various reporting. We help them analyze their numbers, ~~to~~ present us with ~~a~~-more accurate, detailed numbers. ~~Through-Also, through~~ our Financial Management Board, ~~when~~ the Department of Finance, and all cabinet, ~~when-we~~ approve the supp requests, we also put conditions in that they must return to ~~the~~ FMB with recommended solutions.

Mr. Chairman, a lot of these costs are very difficult to control, ~~f.~~ For example, when people get sick, there are medical evacuations, ~~and p.~~ Pharmaceutical costs are constantly rising. It's more sophisticated when you send people out for out-of-territory hospitals. Those costs are sometimes hard to forecast because you don't know how long people will have to stay in a hospital and you don't know what kind of specialized tests would be required.

We work with the Department of Health to assist and understand that. The finance department, of course, is in the business of numbers whereas the health department is primarily concerned with providing a very good health system for our citizens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one further comment about this issue, I think it has happened, perhaps, since this government was formed. Basically there are appropriations every single year. Why don't you look at the history and get a better sense of what you're going to need in the upcoming fiscal year? Every year you come back for appropriations. Obviously this is a very important department and like you say, the shortfall is a very complicated issue.

There are no easy answers, I understand that, but when a department comes to you with their draft budget, are they cut down by Finance or do you guys usually accept what the department is coming to you with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Angnakak is absolutely correct. It's a recurring annual exercise with the Department of Health going back at least to my day as an MLA. We had similar discussions in the Legislative Assembly.

Again, all departments must approach the Financial Management Board with their business cases. The Financial Management Board, of course, will set parameters for all departments what are priorities and what are not priorities. Of course we have to keep in mind our annual fiscal constraints. We're limited by funding we get annually from our territorial financing formula. We're also limited by our own source revenues,

which are primarily taxes. We're constrained and we have to prioritize across all government departments and public agencies with the funding.

When the Department of Health comes, we don't approve all of their requests. We do have to ask them to prioritize what they're requesting. In some cases you might get anywhere between 8 and 15 requests and you can't fund them all, otherwise there wouldn't be funding for all of them.

We do know that Health has been working very hard over the years to find more efficiencies or effectiveness in their system. I recall in the past where they didn't have a CT scan at the hospital. Through the patient wait times funding we got from the federal government, they were able to get that. There's also the radiology. There is new specialized equipment where people are trained on and that means you wouldn't necessarily have to send people to the south anymore. If we get more investments in our facilities and more training for the people that work for us, then perhaps some of those costs can go down.

Again, we're living in a very remote part of Canada, the north, and it's very costly to transport people on medical travel, escort travel, and medevacs. There are a lot of times you just can't predict those costs. Of course, again, we're sending people to the southern provinces and of course the Northwest Territories have their costs that they charge us through reciprocal agreements for bed nights depending on what kind of room. It could be a very expensive room depending on the seriousness of the illness. The hospital charges for

sophisticated tests. These are things we can't forecast, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to provide two further comments on this area. One, really, like the minister said, you can't fund everything that the Department of Health wants, but at the end of the day when it comes to treatment, it's very hard to say no to that and we end up paying for it anyways through appropriations.

My second comment would be I would like to remind the minister and his cabinet once again, perhaps, to think about the merits of having the board of management for the hospital because that board could actually raise funds to address things like these kinds of appropriations. That's all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that was just a comment. Minister, if you would like to comment on that, I give you the opportunity. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Ms. Angnakak for her comments and concerns. We will take those under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the review. We're on page 5 of Bill 33. I have the English copy. (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) 2016-17,

No. 3. Health. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Health Care Service Delivery. \$29 million. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$29 million. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn [the page, e page-Page](#) 6. It reads, (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) 2016-17, No. 3. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like further information. There are local housing authorities and local housing organizations under the Nunavut Housing Corporation. My question is if this is for both the LHOs and LHAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. The funding is for the LHOs, local housing organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the ones that are under the Baker Lake Housing Authority under [the](#) NHC, will they also be receiving the compensation and benefits under this particular line? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. I'm not familiar with every community's structure, but I believe the intent is for every community, whether it's an LHO or, say, an LHA, they get funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) 2016-17, No. 3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$2,064,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,064,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 2. [It reads, \(interpretation ends\) Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation \(Operations and Maintenance\) 2016-17, No. 3. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \\$37,964,000. \(interpretation\) Do you agree?](#)

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to your legislation binders and refer to Bill 33. We will be dealing with that bill.

I believe you all have the [Bill-bill](#) in front of you. I only have the English

version, so I'll be reading it in English. (interpretation ends) Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Let's refer to page 2. It reads, (interpretation ends) Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2017. Vote 1- Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$37,964,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): [Going back to the bill. ~~clause~~ Clause 4.](#) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Members, do you agree to the bill as a ~~whole~~whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): [Thank you](#). Committee members, [pursuant to Rule 62\(2\)](#), do you agree that Bill 33 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, we have concluded this bill. If you have any closing comments, the floor is yours. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank you and your committee again for your questions and comments in support of this bill to help the Government of Nunavut to continue to deliver our valuable programs and services across our territory and all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, ~~Mr. M~~minister. We will now go ahead with Bill 35. [It's with the same minister](#). Minister Peterson, [if you have any opening comments on Bill 35, I now give you the opportunity to make them](#). [we will start with your opening eomments for Bill 35](#). Minister Peterson.

**Bill 35 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.**

1, 2017-2018 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before you today to present Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018*.

Through this bill, the government is seeking an additional \$71,807,000 in 2017-18. This supplementary capital appropriation will provide the Department of Community and Government Services with \$71,807,000 to recognize the accounting treatment relating to acquiring through a lease-to-own arrangement several buildings the Government of Nunavut currently leases.

This appropriation is somewhat unique in that the government is not asking to spend this amount in cash this year. Instead we are seeking spending authority to enter a long-term lease-to-own deal that will cost the government this much over the length of the arrangement.

This appropriation represents ~~a~~[the](#) net present value of the future stream of capital lease payments.

We consider all the lease payments the government will make as part of this arrangement over the next ~~ten~~[10](#) years and calculated what those payments are worth to the government in today's terms.

The government is seeking to enter into lease-to-own contracts for:

- [the Legislative Assembly building at a cost of \\$15,973,000](#); and

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- nine office buildings located in decentralized communities at a cost of \$55,834,000.

This supplementary appropriation also includes:

- a \$200,000 reduction to the Department of Family Services' capital budget related to the transfer of the elders facilities to the Department of Health; and
- a \$200,000 increase to the Department of Health's capital budget related to the transfer of the elders facilities from the Department of Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, the government is also seeking \$10 million to allow the Department of Education to move forward with plans following the fire that destroyed Kugaaruk's only school on March 1.

Our priority is to support the students and others impacted by this event. Government of Nunavut officials are working closely with the community to find temporary space so that students can get back to class and complete the school year.

Looking ahead, we plan to purchase and install modular classrooms this summer to provide students with dedicated class space in September. We expect this will cost an additional \$6 million.

We must also begin planning a new school and are seeking \$4 million to initiate the design and build of the

project, which we estimate could cost \$40 million in total.

Mr. Chairman, it is still quite early in the planning process. We will return with further details at the spring sitting. However, having approved supplementary appropriations starting April 1 will allow us to move forward in time to meet crucial sealift deadlines.

Mr. Chairman, because the fire occurred after I first tabled this bill in this Assembly, I intend to make a motion at the appropriate time to seek the committee's support to amend this bill to include \$10 million to the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. I believe you have Bill 35 in front of you. We will start on page 4. We're on page 4. (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) 2017-18, No. 1. Family Services. Capital. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like clarification for the \$200,000. Once it's transferred to Health, how would that money be used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. We didn't bring those details with us, but the transfer being that they're capital monies, they would be in accordance with our capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on (interpretation ends) Family Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Corporate Management. -\$200,000. Total Department. -\$200,000.

[Agreed\(interpretation\) Do you agree?](#)

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. [Next Turn the page. \(interpretation ends\)](#) Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Directorate. \$200,000. Total Department. \$200,000. [\(interpretation\) Do you agree?](#)

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. [Go to Turn the page. page Page 7 in English. \(interpretation ends\)](#) Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Community Services. \$71,807,000. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question about this. [W](#)-when you're entering into new lease agreements or at the end of ten years when you actually take over the [building or the](#) buildings, what kind of due diligence is done to ensure that [... ?like f](#) For example, for the Legislative Assembly, [with](#) the ground that it sits on is actually sinking a bit because of the sandy foundation. What kind of [I guess](#) thorough investigations do you do before you enter into big amounts, negotiated lease amounts that are of this size [-?](#)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Before [your response the](#) minister [responds, let me remind everyone although](#) I know we all wish to speak, but let us remember [our that we have](#) interpreters [we have and we need](#) to make sure [that they keep up so we can](#) [keso that we can all have the same understanding](#) [ep up](#). Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me, I would like to bring a new witness into the witness table. Thank you, [Mr. Chairman](#).

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree to allow the witness [into](#) the witness table? [Do you agree?](#)

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's current witnesses out and [escort the new other](#) witness in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, please introduce your witness [for the record](#). Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is Eiryn Devereaux from the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Devereaux, welcome to the House.

Ms. Angnakak, please ask your question again so that Mr. Devereaux can hear [your question](#) properly. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to speak a little slower as well.

>> *Laughter*

My question is, [when](#) we're approving these [kinds amounts](#) of money of over \$71 million that pertain to future capital lease payments and that pertains to eventually owning this Legislative Assembly and other government buildings that are currently occupied by other government departments.

What kind of due diligence, [I guess](#), are you doing to ensure that we're actually getting buildings that are worth that amount of money? [For example, w](#)

[We](#) have heard, I don't know if it's rumours or if it's true or if even CGS has done any work on making sure, for example, if the leg. is secure on its foundation. There's talk of some parts of the foundation shifting and sinking because of the type of material it's built on, for example. So if I can get clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I'll ask Mr. Devereaux to explain the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Initially during the last few years as we started negotiating with this particular landlord, we undertook some site investigations. Relative to this particular agreement coming into full force, there is a due diligence period. That due diligence period right now is proposed to be the end of this calendar year, in which case, if we do go ahead and sign the agreement, we will spend the next six months to do more detailed engineering studies before the agreement would be finalized. We will have an exit point if we're not satisfied with those investigations by December of 2017. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you or your department is not satisfied with the investigations or you find new information even that really hinders the signing off of the agreement, what happens then? What is the next step? What happens to these monies that we would approve? What happens to that and what are the next steps if it should get to that point? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Chairman, if we didn't move forward on this initiative, then the appropriations would lapse and we would have to look at other options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question was: what happens if we don't go forward with this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, we would have to look at other options. The current leases are expiring in 2019-2020. One of the options we did consider was purchasing the buildings and the landlord was unwilling to sell them to us. That's why we came back and this is why we have this option, but again, if we don't move forward, then we will just have to look at other options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on page 7. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. ~~The lease to own,~~ ~~When you look at all of the buildings for the lease-to-own deal,~~ we would have leased them for 20 years now. How much have we paid in total for the Legislative Assembly and the other nine office buildings? It has been 20 years. How much money have we spent on the Legislative Assembly and the other buildings on leases and if we're going to buy them? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Roughly the annual payments since the Government of Nunavut

entered the leases for this building and the other nine buildings, roughly... .

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. We've got all kinds of numbers here. Mr. Chairman, the annual amount for the Legislative Assembly would have been \$3.2 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr Okalik, do you have another question? Go ahead, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): My apologies, Mr. Chairman. We have paid \$60 million in total in the past 20 years and on top of that, there is another \$16 million, so we have paid \$76 million if we're going to purchase the Legislative Assembly? What about the nine other buildings in the communities? How much have we spent in the last 20 years in the other communities on those buildings? That's my next question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, the annual ~~mode~~ amount for the year for the other nine buildings is \$9.4 million a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. ~~To~~ When you combine them all, ~~it looks like~~ there seems to be enough money to build a new ~~one~~ building for ourselves, if it was investigated properly by the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This agreement was a federal agreement entered into in 1999 and this is the... I don't have the details of the lease, but the leases are expiring in 2019-2020. Community and Government Services looked at a number of options and this option we're considering is lease to own, so a. It the end of this, if we proceed with this one, at the end of the term, the buildings would be our buildings. If we went with the other options that Community and Government Services looked at, if we you purchase or build your own, they are a lot more expensive than this option. G-given our tight fiscal parameters, it would be very difficult to finance them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the numbers, I like the fact that it can be investigated properly to look at the two options. We have two more years to mull over that. I don't mind if we can start planning for it now. I like his report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that is just a general comment. I want to proceed. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask a question from what my colleague, Mr. Okalik, was asking. If the department has ever thought of the option of actually building a new Legislative Assembly? I understand in years past, there is a lot

that has been, and I guess, still today, is in place to build a new Legislative Assembly. I have no idea what that would cost, or. I know that there are a lot of other pressing issues that we have in our territory, but I wonder if you can could comment on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was an option that was explored during the Third Assembly, and it was an option that was being considered under P3 Canada. We looked at that, a heritage centre, and a new airport. It was prioritized and it was decided that a new airport was more important to the City of Iqaluit and the Baffin than the Legislative Assembly building for MLAs with fancy offices and stuff.

Given the political climate of the day, building a fancy new, brand-new Legislative Assembly with all the bells and whistles versus building houses for people when we have a terrible housing crisis, this wasn't one of those options that went very, very far. That was the political stuff of the day and the financial calculations on top of all that.

I'm familiar with the lot that was set aside, but I think, when CGS did this evaluation of all the options, they estimate that a new building would probably cost in the neighbourhood of \$60 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized.

Total Community Services.
\$71,807,000. Total Department. Not
Previously Authorized. \$71,807,000.
(interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Let's go to page 2. It reads,
(interpretation ends) Government of
Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation
(Capital) 2017-18, No. 1. Schedule 1.
Capital. Capital Appropriation.

(interpretation) We're on page 2.
(interpretation ends) Schedule 1. Capital.
Capital Appropriation. \$81,807,000.
(interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I want to assure you that I
know what I'm doing, okay?

>>Laughter

We just don't have it all together at the
moment, but let me assure you we know
what we're doing.

(interpretation) In your legislation
binder, we will be dealing with Bill 35. I
believe you all have it in front of you. I
only have the English version, so I'll be
reading in English. (interpretation ends)
Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation
(Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018*.
(interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do
you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3.
Minister Peterson.

**Committee Motion 013 – 4(3): Bill 35,
Supplementary Appropriation
(Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018
Additional \$10 Million**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I hope I have my stuff all
together down here. We're a good team
here.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a
motion that the Schedule to the bill be
amended by

- (a) adding the following after Item
No. 3:
- 4. Education 10,000,000
- (b) striking out "\$71,807,000" after
"TOTAL CAPITAL" and
replacing it with "\$81,807,000";
and
- (c) striking out "\$71,807,000" after
"TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY

APPROPRIATION” and
replacing it with “\$81,807,000.”

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We also have a great team up here.

(interpretation) Thank you, minister.
(interpretation ends) The motion is in order. (interpretation) Members, the motion is in your motions binder. To the motion. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Clause 3, as amended. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Members, do you agree to Bill 35 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62 (2), do members agree that Bill 35, as amended, can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): [Thank you.](#) Minister Peterson, if you have [any](#) closing remarks ~~to this on the~~ bill, the floor is yours. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Minister Savikataaq and his officials. Mr. Devereaux here today did a lot of excellent work on researching and purchasing the 10 buildings across Nunavut, giving us this option to consider today. ~~It's~~ a very difficult process, but I'm very glad that they did that.

I would ~~just~~ like to ~~just~~ thank [the](#) Minister of Education, [the](#) Minister of CGS and their officials along with my officials, Finance and [the](#) entire cabinet; for that matter, [and](#) Mr. Qirngnuq for being able to respond so quickly to the tragedy in Kugaaruk to get this replacement school planning and replacement process underway so that the community of Kugaaruk can get a new school starting this year. It's a tremendous response. The support of yourself and your [community committee](#) has made that possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, ~~Minister~~[minister](#). As we proceed, we ~~will~~ ~~ll~~ be dealing with Bill 36. ~~ll~~

~~English~~ I have ~~an the~~ English copy [and the title of the bill in English is - \(interpretation ends\) An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. \(interpretation\)](#) Minister Peterson, if you have [any](#) opening comments, the floor is yours. Minister Peterson.

Bill 36 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, can I bring in a new witness? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson is asking for permission to bring in a new witness [from Community and Government Services](#) to the witness table. ~~Agreed~~ [Do you agree?](#)

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): [Thank you.](#) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort an official out and ~~escort a different~~ [no other](#) official in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, please introduce the new witness for the record. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is Mr. Dan Carlson from the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Carlson, welcome to the House.

Members, go to Bill 36 in your [legislation](#) binders. We will be dealing with that [bill](#).

Minister Peterson, ~~if you I now give you the opportunity to make your have~~ opening comments, ~~the floor is yours~~.
Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before you today to present Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

This bill amends Nunavut's *Income Tax Act* so that the government can continue to offer education and textbook tax credits to Nunavut's post-secondary students in 2017. Through these credits, the government allows full-time post-secondary students to deduct from their taxable income \$465 per month when they are in school. Part-time students can deduct \$140 per month when they are in school. These deductions mean these students will pay less income tax at the end of the year and so is a way for our government to help defray some of the costs of higher education.

Currently our *Income Tax Act* points to federal legislation to define these credits. The Government of Canada announced last year that it would remove these credits starting in 2017. If our government wants to keep these credits for our students, we need to make sure our own Act contains the details. That is what this bill will do.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. ~~Do you have~~ Are there any ~~comments-questions~~ on the opening comments? If there are no questions ~~---, we will go to the clause-~~ by-clause review. My apologies. This has been reviewed by the committee. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, ~~Mr.~~ Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am kind of losing my voice a little bit here.

As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 36, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act.

As members will recall, Bill [36] received second reading on February 22, 2017 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

The standing committee supports the intent of the bill, which the minister's opening comments described in detail. In its dialogue with the minister, the standing committee requested clarification concerning the actual number of Nunavut tax filers who claimed these credits for the 2014 and 2015 tax years. The minister's response to the standing committee indicated that 1,100 tax filers claimed the credits in 2015 and 1,128 tax filers claimed the

credits in 2014. It is clear that these credits benefit a significant number of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill [36] to all members. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 36, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act.

As members will recall, Bill 38 received second reading on February 22, 2017 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for our consideration.

The standing committee supports the intent of the bill, which the minister's opening comments described in detail.

In its dialogue with the minister, the standing committee requested clarification what the actual number of Nunavut tax filers who claimed these credits for the 2014-15 tax years. The minister's response to the standing committee indicated that 1,100 tax filers claimed the credits in 2015 and 1,128 tax filers claimed the tax credits in 2014. It is clear that these credits benefit a significant number of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 38 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. I apologize again ~~that I~~ for almost missed-missing you.

Are there any general comments? If there are no general comments, let's deal with the bill. I believe you all have Bill 36 in front of you now. I only have the English copy, so I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Refer to page 3. (interpretation ends) Schedule. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Members, do you agree to Bill 36 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, pursuant to Rule 62(2), do you agree that Bill 36 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson, if you have any closing comments, I give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Again, Mr. Chairman, I thank yourself and the committee for your good questions, input, and follow-up with us. Passing this bill will allow us to notify the Canada Revenue Agency that can begin printing the forms that the many students in Nunavut can use when they're filing their taxes for 2017. It is a significant amount of money that they can be refunded on an annual basis. This will be tremendous news in support of our students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. We will proceed with Bill 42. Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*. (interpretation ends) Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*. (interpretation) Minister Peterson, if you have any opening comments on the bill, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Peterson.

Bill 42 – An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to present Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*.

Through this bill, the government will raise the territorial tax rates on tobacco products as follows:

- For cigarettes from 25 cents per cigarette to 30 cents per cigarette;
- For smoked tobacco products like loose-leaf tobacco for roll-your-own cigarettes from 20 cents per gram to 40 cents per gram; and
- For non-smoked tobacco like chewing tobacco from 20 cents per gram to 30 cents per gram.

Tobacco is a serious health issue in Nunavut, where Nunavummiut purchased over 56.6 million cigarettes in 2015-16 and purchased another 12.8 million grams of loose or chewing tobacco. This loose tobacco is equivalent to another 10 million cigarettes, bringing the total to over 66 million cigarettes smoked by Nunavut residents.

Increasing the tobacco tax rate discourages tobacco use. We saw this the last time the government raised the tobacco tax rates in February 2012 as part of our tobacco reduction strategy. After that increase, Nunavut retailers experienced the first decline in cigarette sales since 2007-08.

The government has not raised the tobacco rates in five years, and we are seeing sales of cigarettes and other tobacco products climbing again and by more and more each year.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the chair of the [standing](#) committee have any opening comments? Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*. As members will recall, Bill 42 received second reading on March 1, 2017 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

The standing committee notes that the territorial *Tobacco Tax Act* has not been amended to increase tax rates on tobacco products since 2012. At that time, the Minister of Finance's 2012 Budget Address indicated that the government would "use a portion of these new revenues for smoking prevention and cessation programs." The 2017 Budget Address did not make a similar announcement regarding specific allocations of anticipated new revenues from the proposed tax increases provided for by Bill 42.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 42, members engaged in a broad dialogue with the minister concerning such issues as the extent to which increases or decreases in rates of tobacco consumption can be directly and conclusively correlated to increases or decreases in tax rates on tobacco products. The standing committee notes the importance of government focusing its efforts on creating disincentives for youth to start smoking, who are generally presumed to be more price sensitive than long-term

tobacco consumers. The standing committee also notes the importance of being mindful of the need to ensure that tax rates are set at levels that do not inadvertently create black markets.

Mr. Chairman, the *Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act* was passed by the previous Legislative Assembly. In November of 2016, the government issued a *Request for Proposals for External Legal Services Relating to Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery*. The ~~Request-request~~ ~~for Proposals-proposals~~ indicates that the purpose of the legislation is to "allow the government to take legal action in the Nunavut Court of Justice against tobacco companies for tobacco-related wrong which has greatly affected the cost of health care in the territory." The standing committee encourages the government to provide periodic updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of any litigation that it undertakes under the authority of the *Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*.

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Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The [Standing standing Committee committee](#) recommends the passage of Bill 42 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. [I apologize for calling you the chair of the committee; you're the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation.](#)

Are there any general comments on the opening ~~remarks~~[comments](#)? If not, let us ~~look refer to into~~ Bill 42. [I have the English copy, so I'll read it in English.](#) (interpretation ends) Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act.* (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. ~~Does Members, do you the committee to agree to~~ Bill 42 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. ~~Pursuant Members, pursuant~~ to Rule 62(2), ~~does the committee do you~~ agree that Bill 42 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, [if you have any closing remarks, I now give you the opportunity to make them. the floor is open for your closing remarks.](#) Minister Peterson.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, please introduce ~~the your~~ officials for the record. ~~Mr=~~~~inister~~ Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Bill MacKay, from the Department of Justice, and to my left is Stephen ~~Chadwick-Shaddock~~ from the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. MacKay ~~and~~ Mr. ~~Chadwick-Shaddock~~, welcome to the House. We can ~~now~~ proceed ~~now~~ with ~~Bill~~~~the bill~~~~19~~. Minister Peterson, if you have ~~any~~ opening comments, ~~the floor is yours~~~~I now give you the opportunity to make them~~. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am appearing today to review Bill 19, the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.

This Act will allow the Government of Nunavut to seek a court order forfeiting property that is proven to be proceeds of unlawful activity or instruments of unlawful activity. The Act will also create a new Government of Nunavut ~~Forfeiture~~~~forfeiture~~ ~~Office~~~~office~~.

The purpose of the Act is to deter activities that are damaging to the health and safety of our communities, ~~by~~~~like~~ bootlegging and drug dealing, ~~by~~ taking the financial incentive out of committing these harmful acts.

The Act will also ~~offer~~ ~~allow for~~ the government to be able to use funds obtained under this new process to support victims and community wellness projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, ~~Minister~~~~minister~~. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any opening comments? Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (*interpretation*):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(*interpretation ends*) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 19, *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*. As members will recall, Bill 19 received second reading on June 8, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

Bill 19 proposes to establish a new legislative framework within which civil forfeiture proceedings may take place in Nunavut and to establish a new forfeiture office, which will be responsible for undertaking such proceedings.

Mr. Chairman, a number of jurisdictions in Canada have similar legislation in place to provide for the civil forfeiture of unlawful property. The standing committee notes that the introduction of civil forfeiture legislation in Nunavut has been a priority for the Government of Nunavut for a number of years.

In April of 2010 the Nunavut Liquor Task Force was convened to conduct a Nunavut-wide consultation on the territory's *Liquor Act*, with the purpose of making recommendations to the government concerning amendments to the legislation.

In its final report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 2, 2012, the Nunavut Liquor Task Force made a number of recommendations concerning changes that could be made to the government's legislation and

policies to help curb alcohol-related harm in Nunavut. One of the task force's specific recommendations was that the government, and I quote, "Strengthen search and seizure provisions under the [*Liquor Act*] and introduce strong civil forfeiture legislation to deter illegal sales of alcohol."

Mr. Chairman, under Bill 19, the proposed new *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, the director of the proposed new forfeiture office will have the power to make applications to the Nunavut Court of Justice to commence civil forfeiture proceedings against property that is believed to be the proceeds or an instrument of unlawful activity. If it is determined that the property is the proceeds or an instrument of unlawful activity during these civil proceedings, the Nunavut Court of Justice will have the power to make orders forfeiting the property to the director.

Mr. Chairman, during its exchanges with the minister, the standing committee was informed that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will play an important role in gathering evidence for the director and enforcing court-issued orders under Bill 19, the proposed new *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 19 also proposes to establish a new forfeiture fund and will require that all proceeds generated by the management, sale, or other disposition of forfeited property must be used for specific purposes, including funding the operations of the forfeiture office, compensating victims, and making payments to community wellness programs.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 19, a total of eight motions were moved to amend the bill. I am very pleased to note that the sponsoring minister formally concurred with each motion.

For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the major amendments to Bill 19.

Clause 8 has been amended to provide that interim orders respecting the restraint, seizure, or possession of property that may be issued by a judge or justice are subject to expiration, extension, and appeal.

Mr. Chairman, this will ensure that interim orders are not misused to evade forfeiture proceedings. The standing committee commends the minister for agreeing to an amendment that would place the burden on the government to extend an expired interim order.

Subclause 14(2)(b) has been amended to ensure that individuals who did not know and could not have reasonably known that their property was being used as an instrument of unlawful activity are not deprived of their property.

Mr. Chairman, communal use of property is a common practice in Nunavut communities, where families and friends often share snowmobiles, sheds, and other equipment. The standing committee encourages the government to inform the public about their responsibilities, rights, and

liabilities concerning shared property to ensure that individuals are not deprived of their property as a result of another person's unlawful activities.

Clauses 29 and 30 have been amended to require that all agreements concerning the exchange of information must be made in writing and must provide for the confidentiality of the information.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee emphasized the importance of strengthening safeguards to protect personal information that may be collected or disclosed through agreements that are made under Bill 19, the proposed new *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.

Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that a member of the standing committee will be bringing forward motions to amend sections 8 and 31 of Bill 19 to provide the director with greater flexibility to manage forfeited property.

Clause 36 has been amended to require that the director's report on the administration of the Act must be submitted to the minister within the first six months of each fiscal year and tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 19 to all members. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 19, *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.

As members will recall, Bill 19 received second reading on June 8, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

Bill 19 proposes to establish a new legislative framework within which civil forfeiture proceedings may take place in Nunavut, and to establish a new forfeiture office, which will be responsible for undertaking such proceedings.

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Mr. Chairman, under Bill 19, the proposed new *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, the director of the proposed new forfeiture office will have the power to make applications to the Nunavut Court of Justice to commence civil forfeiture proceedings against property that is believed to be the proceeds or an instrument of unlawful activity. If it is determined that the property is the proceeds or an instrument of unlawful activity during these civil proceedings, the Nunavut Court of Justice will have the power to make orders forfeiting the property to the Director.

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require that all proceeds generated by the management, sale or other disposition of forfeited property must be used for specific purposes, including funding the operations of the forfeiture office, compensating victims and making payments to community wellness programs.

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Clauses 29 and 30 have been amended to require that all agreements concerning the exchange of information must be made in writing and must provide for the confidentiality of the information.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee emphasised the importance of strengthening safeguards to protect personal information that may be collected or disclosed through agreements that are made under Bill 19, the proposed new *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.

Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that a member of the standing committee will be bringing forward motions to amend sections 8 and 31 of Bill 19 to provide the director with greater flexibility to manage forfeited property.

Clause 36 has been amended to require that the director's report on the administration of the Act must be submitted to the minister within the first six months of each fiscal year and tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing

~~committee recommends the passage of Bill 19 to all members.~~ Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Are there any general comments? There are none. We will now deal with Bill 19. I only have the English version, so I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) Bill 19, *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Mr. Okalik.

Committee Motion 014 – 4(3): Bill 19, Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act Clause 8

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move the following motion:

That clause 8 be amended by adding the following after subclause (2):

Parts of property
(2.1) Under subsection (2), a judge or justice may make different interim orders with respect to different parts of the property referred to in subsection (1).

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. Members, you have a copy of the motion in your motion binder. Are there any comments to the motion? All those in favour, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Clause 8, as amended. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 14.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 15.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 16.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 17.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 18.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 19. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 20. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 21. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 23. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 24. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 27. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 28. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 29. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): ~~Thank you.~~
Clause 30. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 31.
Mr. Okalik.

**Committee Motion 015 – 4(3): Bill 19,
Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act
Clause 31**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you
~~again~~, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation
ends) I move the following motion:

That clause 31 be amended

- (a) ~~___~~ in paragraph (2)(d) by striking out “donate or destroy” and substituting “donate, destroy or otherwise dispose of”;
- (b) ~~___~~ by adding the following after subclause (2):

Parts of property

(3) Where this section provides for a power with respect to property, that power may be exercised with respect to any part of the property, and different powers may be exercised with respect to different parts of the property.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. Committee members, the motion is in your motions binder. To the motion. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. ~~Any~~ All those opposed ~~2~~ 1. The motion is carried.

Clause 31, as amended. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Clause 32. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 33.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 34.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 35.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 36.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 37.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 38.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 39.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 40.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 41.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 42.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 43.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Members, do you agree to Bill 19, as amended, as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): [Thank you, Members, Pursuant](#) pursuant to Rule 62(2), do you agree that Bill 19, as amended, can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, we are ~~finished~~[done with that bill](#). If you have any closing remarks ~~on this, the floor is open~~[I now give you the opportunity to make them](#). [Minister Peterson](#).

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee and my colleagues.

I would just like to extend our appreciation to all Nunavummiut and organizations across our territory that have participated in the community consultations and helped us draft this bill.

I would like to thank my officials who did a tremendous job working on this bill; Mr. Stephen Shaddock, who is sitting here in the gallery, Mr. Steve

Mansell, and Mr. Thomas Ahlfors, who worked very hard on this bill.

I [would like to](#) thank the standing committee for your excellent scrutiny back and forth. There were some very long, detailed letters we received to clarify. I appreciate the amendments that make this bill a lot stronger than the one that we proposed. I think [thi](#)se bill will go a long way to help Nunavut to make our communities safer and healthy for all our residents, so I appropriate your support of the bill today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, ~~Minister~~[minister](#). We will proceed to Bill 31. I have the English copy, so I will read [it in the](#) English. (interpretation ends) Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*.

Minister Peterson, did you want to bring in different witnesses? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like a new witness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in a new witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out and bring in the new witness. Thank you.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, please introduce your witness. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is Mr. Stephen Mansell from the Department of Justice.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. ~~Welcome Mr. Mansell, welcome~~ to the House, ~~Mr. Mansell~~. Minister Peterson, [I now give you the opportunity to make your opening comments on the bill.](#) ~~the floor is yours to do your opening comments.~~ Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I start with Bill 31, I would like to recognize in the gallery Ms. Katherine Lightfoot and her son, Kieran Drachenberg, sitting behind the Premier.

>>Applause

Mr. Chairman, Kieran and his mom have been vocal supporters of this legislation and of Nunavummiut who are transgender. I would like to thank them for being here and sharing their personal stories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to review Bill 31, ~~an~~[An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act](#).

Section 7(1) of the *Human Rights Act* contains a list of specific grounds in which Nunavummiut cannot be discriminated. This [Bill-bill](#) proposes to

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include gender identify, and gender expression in our list of grounds.

Gender identity is a person's internal sense of being a woman, a man, both, or neither, or anywhere along the gender spectrum. ~~The~~ A person's gender identity may be the same or different than their ~~birth~~-~~birth~~-assigned sex. Gender is different than biological sex and separate from a person's sexual orientation.

Gender expression is how a person publicly presents their gender. ~~t~~. This can include behaviour ~~in~~ ~~and~~ outward appearance, such as hair, make-up, body language, and voice. ~~a~~. A person's chosen name and pronoun ~~—~~ (he, she, him, her) are also common ways of expressing gender.

Currently, nine provinces and one territory have included in their list of prohibited grounds of discrimination, gender identity, and/or gender identity and expression.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission has found that people who are transgender “routinely face discrimination, hatred, and violence, simply because of who they are and how they live their lives.”

To include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Nunavut *Human Rights Act*, is in keeping with the purpose of the Act, and will make clear that Nunavummiut, who are transgender have the same right to live a full and productive life as anyone else in the territory, free of discrimination.

This change will help preventative denouncing and prevent discrimination and prejudice against people who are transgender in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any opening comments? Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. [As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make a brief opening comment as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act.](#)

[Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes the objective of the proposed amendment and is in full support.](#)

[Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 31 to all members. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make a brief opening comment as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act.](#)

[Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes the objective of the proposed amendment and is in full support.](#)

[Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 31 to all members.](#) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Are there any general comments on the ~~matter~~~~bill~~? There are none. Let us look at Bill 31. I ~~have~~ ~~n~~ the English copy, ~~which I have~~, so I'll read ~~it in the~~ English ~~copy~~. (interpretation)

ends) Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act.* ([interpretation](#)) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 31 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. [Pursuant Members, pursuant](#) to Rule 62(2), [does the committee are you in agreement](#) that Bill 31 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Minister Peterson, ~~do if~~ you have [any closing remarks? The floor is yours, I now give you the opportunity to make them.](#) Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: [Thank you Again,](#) Mr. Chairman— I thank you and your committee for your excellent support and scrutiny of this bill. This is a tremendous day for people who are transgender in Nunavut.

I thank Kieran for his support of this bill and being vocal about it.

I would like to thank my officials, who worked on it very diligently and hard

over the last couple of years, Mr. Mansell and Mr. MacKay, [and all](#) our officials in the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the [witnesses-minister's officials](#) out.

Let us proceed. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, [please](#) raise your hand. All those opposed. Thank you. Now as we will proceed, let's take a five-minute break and I will report progress when we come back. Thank you.

[>>Committee recessed at 15:39 and House resumed at 15:48](#)

[>>Committee recessed at 15:39 and resumed at 15:48](#)

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 32, 33, 35, 36, 42, 19, and 31, and would like to report that Bills 32, 33, 35 as amended, 36, 42, 19 as amended, and 31 are immediately

ready for third reading, and that three committee motions were adopted. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour.

(interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Bill 33 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016- 2017 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 35 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2017-2018 – Third Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Bill 36 – An Act to Amend the Income
Tax Act – Third Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Bill 42 – An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Bill 19 – Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 19, *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act – Third 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 third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 14:

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
 - Bill 39
18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 26
- Bill 27
- Bill 28
- Bill 30
- Bill 38
- Bill 41
- Bill 43

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 14, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:56*

