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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Joe Enook, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Tununiq)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates Review
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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)
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Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
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Immigration; Minister responsible for the
Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasic
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Education; Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, October 24, 2018****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joëlie Kaernerck, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Premier, ministers, (interpretation) and members, good afternoon. Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly, especially today my spouse, Mary, I say “good day” to you and I hope you enjoy your day.

We will now go to the orders of the day. Ministers’ Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements**Minister’s Statement 072 – 5(2): Cabinet Reassignment**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that Minister Pat Angnakak is no longer

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and she is no longer the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. As of today, she is a minister without a portfolio.

As members may be aware, yesterday we saw a serious breach of cabinet confidentiality in the Legislative Assembly. As a cabinet, we cannot work together effectively if we cannot trust that our colleagues are able to maintain their oath.

Mr. Speaker, this decision is not taken lightly and is supported by all members of the Executive Council. We must act decisively when we feel our consensus-based structure is in jeopardy. Unfortunately this is the case here today.

I thank Minister Angnakak for her work in her various portfolios. Effective immediately, Minister Lorne Kusugak is reassigned the role of the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Minister Jeannie Ehaloak is reassigned the role of Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Languages, Minister Joanasie.

Minister’s Statement 073 – 5(2): IUT Inuit Language Reference Grammar

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to announce that the Inuit Uqausinginnik

Taiguusiliuqtiit has finalized and published the first edition of the *Inuktitut Reference Grammar* book.

Mr. Speaker, this much-awaited book will be available to Inuktitut language professionals such as interpreters/translators and teachers as well as anyone needing the resource to learn Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, my cabinet colleagues and I are committed to working with the Taiguusiliuqtiit as they work towards expanding the knowledge and expertise available with respect to the Inuit language.

Mr. Speaker, I have copies of this resource for my colleagues, and I encourage Nunavummiut to learn more about the important work of IUT and reach out to access their valuable Inuktitut resources to promote our language. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 074 – 5(2): BCC Segregation Strategies

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and to my constituents in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues of the legislature information regarding a very complex file, namely, the segregation of inmates.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important for the department to provide a comprehensive, unbiased view of this file in order to accurately and fairly represent the hard work of our correctional staff, caseworkers, elders, and those participating in the administration of our justice system.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear that the Department of Justice's use of segregation is well within international norms and best practice in Canada.

All segregation placements are reviewed by the facility classification team on a regular (minimum weekly) basis, and reintegration strategies/plans are initiated by facility staff to progressively work toward returning inmates to general population.

Mr. Speaker, there are substantial differences between types of segregation. Disciplinary segregation is when an inmate is placed in an isolated unit as a corrective response to internal charges under section 18 of the *Corrections Act*. Solitary confinement is a specific term used in the Mandela Rules with a definition as follows: confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact.

It is important to note that the Mandela Rules do not speak to segregation as it's practised at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Instead, the Mandela Rules outline rules with respect to solitary confinement, which is a different practice.

Finally, administrative segregation is when an inmate is placed in a special unit separate from the general population

for the safety and security of themselves or others. It can be utilized in response to behavioural issues or for protective custody when there are no reasonable alternatives. Some examples of administrative segregation are:

- Voluntary segregation – Inmate is requesting placement in segregation for their own safety,
- Medical observation/quarantine,
- The inmate is likely to endanger themselves or another person,
- The inmate is likely to jeopardize the management, operation, or security of the correctional centre if housed in a cell outside of the segregation unit, or
- It is necessary to preserve evidence for the disciplinary hearing.

Inmates at the Baffin Correctional Centre in administrative segregation have continuous meaningful contact with staff, caseworkers, elders, program staff, other inmates, and visitors.

Mr. Speaker, there are exceptional circumstances where long-term placements in administrative segregation are the only appropriate course of action.

In 2017-18, out of 187 placements in administrative segregation, 39 cases were in excess of 15 days. Of these cases:

- 18 out of 39 (nearly half) were voluntary placements,
- 4 out of 39 were protective custody placements,

- 4 were for medical observation, and
- 13 of them were due to an inmate jeopardizing the safety and security of the [institution], representing only 7 percent of administrative segregation placements.

Mr. Speaker, in every one of the 13 cases there was an extremely compelling reason why the inmate was segregated as long as they were. Segregation is not something we take lightly and it is not something we overuse. The data speaks for itself. In Nunavut long-term placements in segregation are used sparingly.

Corrections is a very demanding profession and our staff deal with the pressures of the job, which include assaults, abusive language, and critical and dangerous incidents, with grace and respect for inmates in their care. I commend these brave and hard-working individuals for their continued good work.

Finally, the Department of Justice takes our responsibility in administering corrections in Nunavut very seriously and will continue to offer innovative, culturally relevant programming for the guidance and supervision of Nunavummiut in conflict with the law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 075 – 5(2):
Youth Conference in Rankin Inlet**

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The

Department of Education, in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, organized a youth conference called “Power of the Positive” in Rankin Inlet on October 11 and 12, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, about 200 students attended this conference. The purpose was to engage and support student leadership and promote student wellness. Past youth conferences were held in Cambridge Bay in spring 2018 and in Iqaluit in fall 2016.

Mr. Speaker, workshop sessions focused on various topics emphasizing the message of hope and connection. These sessions include exploring how to support a friend contemplating suicide, learning how to lead activities that promote healthy relationships, how to intervene when bullying happens, dealing with substance use and addictions, advocating for yourself, and taking care of yourself and others in difficult times.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this youth conference created an opportunity for education staff and students to connect, learn, and share messages of hope with one another, showing them the importance of building strong relationships when dealing with difficult situations.

Mr. Speaker, my hope is that the participants of this conference will take what they have learned back to their home communities, continuing to spread the power of positivity, and foster those relationships that will make any difficult challenge manageable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Members’ Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 125 – 5(2): Jordin Tootoo Announces Retirement from NHL

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North.

I would like to recognize and express my pride in a person who was the very first Inuk to be in the NHL. Jordan Tootoo has retired after 15 years as being a hockey player that we could watch on television. We were very proud of him. Thank you very much, Jordin Tootoo. You represented young Inuit very well.

>>Applause

Also, I would like to recognize his father, Barney Tootoo, and mother, Rose Tootoo. We have seen them living in Rankin Inlet. They really support their son. They have a big family. They have uncles with the last name of Hickes and their fathers’ relatives have the last name of Tootoo. We say “thank you” to all of them.

Before he retired, in Rankin Inlet there were very young children and youth who could not even play hockey who had a hockey camp for a whole week. I expect that we will have more real hockey players coming out of Nunavut.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk.

**Member's Statement 126 – 5(2):
Appreciation of Constituents**

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Amittuq and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a person from Amittuq. I would like to congratulate this individual. When I went to visit Igloolik, he told me that he has seen young people who have dropped out of school even though they're of school age. He takes these students out on the land and advises them, "In order to have a good future, please go back to school."

Joasai Alaralak from Igloolik is trying to help young people in the community. He even brings kids who have dropped out back to school. I'm very proud of him. I rise today because I'm very proud of him.

Also, a fellow Amittuq resident from Hall Beach, Abraham Oolalak, is an elder and I will continue to acknowledge him. He regularly helps youth and takes them out on the land and counsels them. I would also like to thank him and state how proud I am. This is why I wanted to rise today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 127 – 5(2):
Long-term Service Awards in
Pangnirtung**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you and the residents of my community.

I would like to acknowledge individuals who have worked for the government for quite some time. I would like to acknowledge these people and I would like to urge public servants to work longer.

There was one individual who received a long-term service award for 20 years of service and her name is Jeannie Metuq.

For 15 years of service with the government, the following recipients are: Rosemary Akulujuk, Oleepeeka Arnaqaq, Mona Lisa Dialla, Vera Evic, Mona Michael, Jack Maniapik, Rita Mike, Rhoda Evic, Kayrene Kilabuk, Meeka Mearns, and Donna Kilabuk. They received awards for 15 years of service.

Tommy Angnakak and Jeanie Kalai Alivaktuk both received 10-year service awards.

Five years of service awards were presented to Eena Alivaktuk, Lynda Uvilluk, Deanna Ishulutak, Janice Alivaktuk, Lisea Atagoyuk, Jacqueline Babchishin, Naomie Qumuatuq, Lorna Atagoyuk, Marlene Kuniliusie, Joseph Nketiah, Michel Petit, Rita David, Peah Sowdluapik, and Sheila Dialla.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate all of these individuals for their many years of public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Member's Statement 128 – 5(2):
Breastfeeding Challenges**

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to challenge our government to live up to its own promise to support breastfeeding mothers, not just for one-shot publicity stunts but for everyday life, helping breastfeeding mothers provide their infant children with the best nutrition possible while also raising their families to the best of their ability.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month it was World Breastfeeding Week. The Government of Nunavut's Department of Health called on all Nunavut mothers to come together at one time in one place to participate in its breastfeeding challenge. There were promises of refreshments, games, prizes, and information about 'Breastfeeding is best.'

Earlier in July the government issued its "Accommodating Breastfeeding" policy, which commits to providing GN employees accommodations and space in the workplace for breastfeeding or expressing breast milk.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, fully support breastfeeding as the most healthy option for a developing infant as well for its role in forging a strong bond between a mother and a child. This is why I find it

very disturbing that our government, while indicating that it supports breastfeeding, then does not permit breastfeeding mothers to act as medical escorts to their other children who also need their mother's comfort and love at a difficult and frightening time.

By not permitting a breastfeeding mother to accompany her child on medical travel, she is being forced to decide between which child she needs to care for, the one needing medical attention or the one who is breastfeeding. As a mother myself, I can only imagine the distress this situation must cause. Mr. Speaker, I will always choose my children over anything else.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my member's statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It does not seem right that our government states on the one hand that it supports breastfeeding mothers while on the other hand it sets up barriers by preventing mothers from accompanying and caring for their other children while breastfeeding their baby. I feel that accommodations must be made to support breastfeeding mothers in all aspects of family life, whether on medical travel, at home, in the workplace, or at an event to celebrate the fact that 'Breastfeeding is best.'

At the appropriate time I will have

questions for the minister on this issue.
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 129 – 5(2):
Importance of Boating Safety**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate and thank an individual.

Just last summer in the community of Qikiqtarjuaq there was a serious accident with hunters when they went out boating. They were travelling and working at the same time, but the boat caught on fire and it sank. I would like to congratulate the people who provided support when the boat was sinking.

The first individuals who approached the burning boat were Jaypootie Aliqatuqtuq and his family and Stevie Aulaciaq and his family. They were the first to approach the burning boat. The boat sank and there were families staying in the boat, but Jaypootie's family had saved the lives of the people in the boat.

For people who go boating, please travel safely and watch your gas tanks to make sure they're not punctured. The gas tank was punctured when they turned on the Coleman stove and the whole bottom of the boat was full of gas, so it just burst into flames right away and they were in the water.

The owner of the boat had a small child, his son, with him in that boat. They were just standing on top of the cabin of the

boat when the whole boat was burning. Jaypootie and the other boats were able to approach the burning boat and save the lives of these individuals.

For that reason, I urge the hunters who go boating to make sure that they check their fuel tanks for any leaks. It's very dangerous to have leaking tanks. I just wanted to state that, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the opportunity.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 130 – 5(2):
Arctic Fisheries Alliance**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate our High Arctic fishermen and the fisheries alliance with the hunters and trappers associations in the High Arctic and Qikiqtarjuaq. They do marine fisheries in the waters between Greenland and Baffin Island. They have successfully developed the fishery and pass on the benefits to the community right away.

This is the third year that their ship brought in dried meats and frozen foods to the communities at the same cost of what they are in the south. They have been working on that for three years in Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Arctic Bay, and Qikiqtarjuaq. However, this year, because there was a lot of ice, they were unable to make it to Grise Fiord, but they were able to bring the groceries up by air.

Now they're doing a test fishery on

shrimp in that area and I was able to try shrimp that was caught in Arctic Bay. There's a good future for that fishery. All the chairs of the HTAs are represented in the fisheries alliance. At the appropriate time, I will be formally recognizing the chair of the fisheries coalition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Moving on. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeegok.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual whom I'm very proud of; my older brother, who has prepared us to be members in politics. He has always been a leader in our family to take us out polar bear hunting. I would like to acknowledge Jaypetee Akeegok. He was able to spend some time here and he will be going back to Grise Fiord today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. We were young once.

>>Laughter

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize Nancy Nanegoak Kadlun from Kugluktuk, originally from Bay Chimo (Umingmaktok). It's not very often that we get people from the west over here. When they do come to Iqaluit, it's nice that they come to their House. Help me welcome Nancy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Always be welcome to your House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to proudly welcome one of my constituents, Nancy Kadlun, and my father-in-law, Jaypatee Akeegok, to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all the people in the gallery, especially the Arctic College students taking office administration. Please rise when I mention your name. First one is Mary Etuangat, Saata Koochiajuk, Peah Kukseak, Martha Nowdlak, and their instructor, Nicole Journal. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the visitors in the gallery. I would also like to recognize individuals who were already recognized, but from Pangnirtung we have students Martha Nowdlak, Mary Etuangat, and Peah Kukseak. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. I would like to welcome everyone who is in the gallery. Welcome to your House. Especially to the people of Iqaluit, we are very welcoming. Please feel free to come and visit your House. Let's proceed. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 172 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure Plans for Amittuq

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, when this Assembly last met at the beginning of the summer, I asked about the status of the department's marine infrastructure review. At that time the minister indicated that the department would be reviewing the needs of all Nunavut communities and prioritizing them.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of that review and indicate which communities have been prioritized to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. At this time we have yet to receive a clear indication from the federal government. I'm not sure what it's called in Inuktitut, but in English it's the (interpretation ends) Oceans Protection Plan. (interpretation) We had requested funds through that pot of money so that the department could review the needs of all Nunavut communities. To date we have not received a clear response from the federal government, but we are doing the best we can to secure funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad that you are doing that review.

As I have stated on more than one occasion, the shoreline in Hall Beach is eroding and the sea level is getting lower and lower. Again, the hunters are very concerned about that. When they return home in darkness, their outboard motors break when they run aground. When my fellow residents of Amittuq from Igloolik go to our community, they also have issues with the shoreline. It is a clear indication that Hall Beach should be one of the communities that should be

getting marine infrastructure. The former members for Amittuq also requested this infrastructure, but their terms ended before anything was brought forward.

As you indicated earlier, we're looking at putting in marine infrastructure in order to protect the communities, and I would like you as minister to prioritize my community. I have received a letter of response with regard to what you mentioned, the Oceans Protection Plan. The minister's response was that they're still trying to figure out when they could initiate the projects. Have you set a date as the Department of Economic Development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't set a date yet because we're looking at reviewing all of the communities and prioritizing them after the review. We would like to work closely with the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I was able to have a meeting with the federal minister this morning and we would like to make sure that we have all the information before we set a timeline. We're hoping to get a positive response to the requests we have submitted, but the federal minister didn't indicate when we will be getting a response. We're looking forward to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that there's going to be a review. I'll be focusing on the timeline. Will you be

able to respond to my constituency of Amittuq before the end of this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will have to get a response before the end of this fiscal year. As an addendum, the Department of Economic Development does have funds available to hamlets for access roads and marine infrastructure. Many submissions are received for this program. Don't just wait to have your concerns resolved; be active to ensure that they are being addressed continuously. Those monies can be accessed by way of request only. With these federal funds, it's a 10-year project and we won't be getting a clear response tomorrow, so we will have to wait. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Question 173 – 5(2): Impacts of the Federal Carbon Tax

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. I wasn't expecting to be called right away, but I'm glad that you recognized me. Good day, my colleagues.

I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Yesterday I believe there was a story on national news about the carbon tax. The federal government is going to be imposing the carbon tax nation-wide. For the people of Nunavut, I would like

to see what types of impacts it will have on us.

(interpretation ends) Looking at the Environment Canada website, this was refreshed or updated as of yesterday, under Nunavut and pollution pricing, it says, “With the support of the Nunavut Government, the Government of Canada will apply the federal backstop in Nunavut.” It also says, “Please contact the Nunavut Government for additional details.” I guess I’m taking the opportunity to contact the Nunavut government...

>> *Laughter*

...for additional details. I would like to ask the finance minister if he can provide additional information that may be now available after this announcement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member’s question and the humour that was brought in with it. The latest letter I got from the federal minister is five days ago, so I guess they haven’t had a chance to update their website or we ours.

I do want to acknowledge that, as stated previously, the Government of Nunavut has taken the position that we will rely upon the federal backstop to implement the carbon tax. We have put forward many arguments on our lack of options for power generation or fossil fuel use across the territory and still firmly believe that Nunavut has unique

circumstances to any other jurisdiction in the country.

That being said, there has been some acknowledgement from the federal government through negotiation from the Government of Nunavut and the federal government where, as previously announced, aviation fuel in the territory would be exempt from the carbon tax. I’m pleased to state today that electricity generation for off-grid communities will also be exempt under the carbon tax implementation from the federal government that we’re expecting no later than July 1, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m very pleased to hear that Nunavut will be exempt from carbon tax for aviation fuel and diesel used to generate electricity. My question then is: what about private homeowners who use (interpretation ends) home heating fuel? (interpretation) Do you have any information as to whether or not they will be exempt? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that question. That was one of the other avenues that we’re working very hard to lobby on behalf of Nunavummiut to get an exemption for home heating fuel. Unfortunately we weren’t successful in that lobbying effort and there is no indication at this moment that the federal government will give an exemption to homeowners’ heating fuel.

As a government we are looking at a number of different options on how to get the money that is coming in from the federal government back out to the people that it is impacting the most, especially homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. We all know that there is a major debate on this in Canada. Some jurisdictions in Canada are opposed to the carbon tax, for example, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. We have heard on the news that their leaders are opposed to the carbon tax imposition by the federal government.

As the Government of Nunavut, what position are we going to take regarding the carbon tax imposition? Are we going to work with those provinces that are opposed to the tax? Are we going to support them by way of the media or correspondence? Are we going to have our voice heard loud and clear on our opposition to the federal carbon tax or are we going to be more or less silent on the issue? I would like clarification on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member following up with other jurisdictions on how the federal government is dealing with them with their carbon tax and the levying and what they're going to do with the revenue.

That being said, we have always maintained our position that we believe that the carbon tax in Nunavut isn't fair in a lot of respects as we don't have alternatives.

With regard to how we would support or not support other jurisdictions, to be honest, it would be up to the Premier's Office through his intergovernmental role on making decisions within our cabinet on how and if we would support other jurisdictions in their lobbying efforts to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Question 174 – 5(2): Supports for Individuals with Disabilities

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

We are all aware that people in Nunavut with disabilities face many challenges. We are aware that their families take very good care of them. When services are not available in the communities for people with disabilities, especially children and youth, they need more support on who to approach within the community, whether or not they are going to school. Another concern is ensuring assistance is being provided within the school for students with physical disabilities.

At the beginning of this year we heard that schools are short-staffed and some positions hadn't been filled yet in the communities. There are additional concerns for people with disabilities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our rugged terrains mean that the mobility devices such as wheelchairs are difficult to use to get around town. For some individuals, transportation to and from the community health centre, much less to the other locations in town, can be next to impossible without a specialized vehicle. While our home care workers work very hard to provide care, they cannot always meet the full range of needs required by some clients.

Mr. Speaker, thankfully our northern families and communities are strong and closely knit. If it weren't for our family members, friends, and neighbours pulling together and supporting each other, those individuals in our society who face the daily challenges of disabilities would be at great risk. That said, our family members also need support.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, while I recognize that our government does provide a number of aids and accommodations for individuals with disabilities, more can and should be done. We need to focus on families and communities as a whole in addressing the challenges of disability.

My question for the Ministers of Health is: (interpretation ends) can the minister describe how his department budgets for situations where individuals with disabilities have high-level needs in the area of mobility, such as specialized wheelchairs, modified vehicles, or other specialized equipment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member bringing up that concern. I wasn't the Minister of Health, but I was following the story coming from her community very closely just recently.

With regard to where the budget dollars come from, whenever there's an identified need from somebody in a community, we work very closely with the Department of Education, the Department of Community and Government Services, and the Department of Family Services to identify what needs can be met right away through simple wheelchairs and ramps and things of that nature.

Transportation is a challenge. I know not every community has the availability of contracted services for providing disability transportation and it is a continual challenge. When we're talking about, again, specifically towards the transportation component of the member's issue, we would have to look within the community to see if there's a contracted service provider that could be looked at, but I would be very open to discussing with the member on what services this particular case needs as a one-off.

In general, if any one of the members across the territory has concerns with the disability services not being met in their community, I welcome the conversation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the

minister for that proper response. In the case of youth who require additional supports and assistance at school, can the minister describe how his department works with representatives from the Department of Education to ensure that adequate staffing is available to support students with high-level disabilities through the education system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From a health standpoint, when we work with the Department of Education to make sure that whether it be a lift or a ramp, or something to add mobility to the student coming into the school, it's dealt with on an as-needed basis, dependent upon the needs of the individual student.

With regard to the second component of the member's question on how we work, in the detail of the care of that child and in the classroom, and what types of supports, it would be an individual case-by-case basis that I'm sure my colleague, the Minister of Education, would probably be able to answer with a lot more detail. When a need is assessed, they would decide on what type of student support would be appropriate for that individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. We are all aware that in all of the communities people with disabilities and their families work very closely

together, especially the parents and families within the household. However, there are times when family members of those with disabilities also need extra support so that they can get some rest. Families think about what other support is made available within the community.

My question is: what other support programs are available from the Department of Health for families, especially when they're caring for an individual with physical disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to be corrected, but from what I believe from previous examples of this, Family Services has respite time where they can provide a home or a space for the child to be able to give the parents a break in high needs cases. I would again have to confer with my colleague. Maybe if the member has a specific example or a case in mind, maybe the three of us could sit down and figure out what services are available to meet the individuals' needs that the member is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 175 – 5(2): Staffing at Sanikiluaq's Health Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my

question today to the Minister of Health as well.

Mr. Speaker, having frontline health staff in our communities is key to a healthier community.

It is my understanding that the Sanikiluaq Health Centre may still have a number of positions which are not filled.

Can the minister provide an update on how many positions at the Sanikiluaq Health Centre are currently vacant and what positions they are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been trying very hard to get the level of detail that the member is requesting. In front of me I have the nursing and the mental health workers in the community health centre. Maybe by the end of his second or first supplementary, I may have the other information, but I can update the member.

As of July, there were four nurse PYs in the Sanikiluaq Health Centre, of which two are filled indeterminately and as of then, three casuals. They're actually overstaffed by one nurse as of this previous July. With the mental health, there are two positions, a professional and a paraprofessional. The professional position is filled, the paraprofessional position is not.

With regard to the frontline staff outside of the medical care, I'll have to get back to the member, hopefully very shortly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate he didn't have that level of detail with him and the information he has for July and the information I feel I have is a little different, and I look forward to his information.

Mr. Speaker, in some cases it's not simply the lack of qualified individuals that result in positions being left vacant. Can the minister clearly explain what are the reasons that the...

Speaker: Mr. Rumbolt, excuse me. Once again, I think we're having a bit of a technical issue with our audio. (interpretation) Some of our colleagues are saying that they're having problems with the audio and they're unable to hear clearly or something.

Let's just take a 10-minute break for now.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:30 and resumed at 14:41*

Speaker (interpretation): My colleagues and Nunavummiut, I apologize for the technical difficulties we were experiencing with our audio feed. We will now proceed as the issue has now been resolved. I will allow the Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt, to proceed. Your first supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope people can hear me more clearly

at this time.

>> *Laughter*

I was questioning the Minister of Health on the vacant positions in the community of Sanikiluaq, and I think he did refer that there could have been a couple of vacancies. My next question would have been: in some cases it's not simply the lack of qualified individuals that result in positions being left vacant. Can the minister clearly explain: what are the reasons that these positions at the Sanikiluaq Health Centre remain vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People may think that I was the one who caused the technical difficulties that gave me time to get a clear answer to the member's first question.

>> *Laughter*

Out of the 11 PYs for the Sanikiluaq Health Centre, like the member alluded to, two are currently vacant. There are a number being filled with casual staffing as well, though.

With regard to the member's first supplementary question, there are a number of reasons why positions may not be filled. Depending upon the position, the competitiveness across the country for health care professionals is very challenging, to say the least, right now. There are a number of different issues even with the infrastructure within the community, whether appropriate housing is available for all of the positions. When we advertise a position

for health care professionals within a community, typically it has to come with housing. I don't know if that is an example of an instance in this case, but those are some of the challenges that we do have filling positions within our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 176 – 5(2): Police Oversight

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

Mr. Speaker, I was very glad to hear the minister address the important issue of police oversight in her minister's statement yesterday. As the House is aware, this is an issue that was discussed in detail during our standing committee's recent televised hearing on the activities of the Legal Services Board.

Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's statement to the House, the minister revealed that her department has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ottawa Police Service and the Calgary Police Service to conduct reviews of serious incidents occurring in Nunavut that involve the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

My question is: will the minister commit to tabling copies of these MOUs before the end of our current fall sitting so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public can know what is contained in them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Lightstone, thank you for your question and you are right. We do have a memorandum of understanding with the Ottawa Police and also the Alberta police. At this time I can't tell you whether or not we can provide copies of that information, but I can check and get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the most significant concerns that have been raised about our territory's current approach to police oversight is that the conclusions of the reviews which take place into serious incidents, including incidents that result in the death of an individual, never appear to be made public. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this actually has the effect of reducing public confidence in the integrity and independence of the process. Can the minister explain why the results of these reviews are not currently being made public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. At this time I don't have that background information. I can check with my department whether or not that information is available and if we can release it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really hope that the minister will be able to share that information. I think it is crucial that the results of those investigations are made public.

Another one of the most significant issues that have been raised in our territory's current approach to police oversight is the concern that one police force should not be investigating another police force.

Mr. Speaker, I have been very clear in my support for the people who serve in the RCMP. I fully recognize that being an officer is one of the most difficult professions there is. However, there are very good reasons for the existence of the concept of civilian oversight, and I am glad that the minister indicated yesterday that she is open to considering other options.

Mr. Speaker, I'll suggest that a good starting point would be to explore the possibility of entering into an agreement with one or more existing civilian oversight agencies that are currently operating in other Canadian jurisdictions. Would the minister agree to my suggestion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question, Adam. Yes, I can commit that we are looking at options. You're more than welcome to give me your information with the options that you have and my

department will review them and come up with options for cabinet to review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Question 177 – 5(2): Issues with Polar Bear Management

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to say that as MLAs, there are a whole lot of laws that bind us, and I grew up when there were no polar bear quotas. We know that in our Premier's community of Arviat, there was a person who was killed by a polar bear and another person in Naujaat was killed by a polar bear. Therefore I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

As the Minister of Environment, Joe Savikataaq once said that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is going to increase the total allowable harvest of polar bear in western Hudson Bay in the Kivalliq. They added 38 polar bears that could be harvested every year. We have been silent as MLAs about this as we know that there's an NWMB.

However, in our area it has become very dangerous for women picking different kinds of berries like cloudberry and crowberries, and we can't go camping in tents in the fall anymore. Cabins are being broken into and damaged.

When he was the Minister of Environment, he said that in 2011 to 2014 the Department of Environment was using the best practices with the Baffin Bay and Kane Basin

(interpretation ends) subpopulation. (interpretation) They worked with the people in Greenland and the Canadian government.

As a regular citizen, I would like to get clarification from the Minister of Environment. When Inuit are saying there are too many polar bears and the scientists are saying we're running out of polar bears, what is the actual position of the Department of Environment on this matter? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Ms. Towtongie, for your concerns. The Department of Environment is also concerned regarding the number of polar bear attacks and the number of polar bears coming near our hunters or residents who are out on the land.

The polar bear quota/total allowable harvest is administered by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. They're the ones who come up with those total allowable harvests and make recommendations to myself as the Minister of Environment. We do review those, but there has not been any discussion since those attacks on whether or not the total allowable harvest will change. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is aware of those situations and there will be hearings on polar bear total allowable harvests in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, minister, for your very clear answer. I was getting phone calls when somebody got killed by a polar bear, including people from other communities. In my constituency community of Chesterfield Inlet they're allowed to harvest 14 polar bears. There have been four defence kills within the community. The community freezer has been broken into by polar bears twice and there's a survey being conducted because of that.

I will speak in English. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment conducted one of the most robust scientific population surveys of the Baffin Bay and Kane Basin subpopulation with Greenland and the Government of Canada. The results of this survey indicated that both subpopulations remain healthy and productive. I'm assuming that if we do a robust scientific survey in western Hudson Bay, it will say that the subpopulation is healthy and productive.

A joint Canada-Greenland commission was formed. The joint commission recommended an overall harvest of 160 bears for this subpopulation, that's Baffin Bay and Kane Bay, with 80 bears to be harvested by each jurisdiction, and Greenland implemented the recommendation.

What is the situation? As an ordinary Inuk, not as an MLA, I'm confused. Where does the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board get their information to recommend to you, the Minister of

Environment, as to what type of study has taken place? Where is the information coming from? The local grassroots individuals like me; my cabin was demolished by a polar bear, my Honda was demolished by grizzly bear. Where is this survey? Are we getting a survey? Is there a scientific survey in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment does do polar bear population surveys. The information that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board gathers with co-management partners, which includes the Department of Environment and their scientific specialists, but we try to gather that information so that they can use that to come up with their total allowable harvests. The next hearings for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Minister of Environment, for that response. I'm not asking about a hearing. I'm asking: is the scientific evidence-based decision-making process being followed for the polar bear population?

The total allowable harvest, I believe, as other Inuit... . With the two deaths of the two hunters who have children, who have mothers, who have dependants, they died from a polar bear attack. They're gone. We will never see them

again. I believe that as an Inuk, instead of focusing on polar bears, we should be focusing on aboriginal hunting rights. Where are the aboriginal hunting rights in this process? I believe that the security of life is more important when Inuit are saying that polar bear population has increased.

In saying that, a lot of hunters have come to me that they will kill without a quota. They will just kill. It has happened in Arviat, and I was informed in Naujaat some hunters have killed, left the meat and just took the skin. A hunter came up to me, "We don't have to inform the wildlife officers." There's almost a feeling of civil disobedience with the individuals who have approached me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for your response.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Towtongie, can you please clarify your question. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Okay. The joint commission between Greenland and Canada developed harvest recommendations based on the results of the scientific study as well as the harvest risk analysis and Inuit knowledge. That's what they did.

I want to know, when the minister is getting a recommendation from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on total allowable harvests, whether the Inuit knowledge that is saying the polar bears are increasing is included and where in the recommendation is it implemented. Is the knowledge of the Inuit implemented when they're decided? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment carries out science-based research and collects traditional knowledge on terrestrial wildlife species under our mandate. The Government of Nunavut consults communities or new research results or updates in order to collect feedback and additional traditional knowledge.

The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment also tries to accommodate community concerns and input. If a community member feels that their life is in danger or their equipment is in danger, they have the right to destroy the bear. Any consultations that we do, try to do, or come up with a total allowable harvest, we do take into consideration community input, traditional knowledge, and elder input. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Question 178 – 5(2): Breastfeeding Challenge

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke of the challenges faced by breastfeeding mothers who are denied the option of travelling with a child who requires medical attention because they are also breastfeeding an infant.

Could the minister clearly explain his

department's client escort travel policy as it relates to breastfeeding mothers who wish to accompany their children on medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that issue. It has been brought up in the past and I'm sure it will come up again. Whenever there's an individual case, if they're denied as an escort, there's always an appeals process.

Just to get right to root of the member's question, breastfeeding is a very important part of parenting, nutrition and the healthiness of an infant, and we strongly encourage it. It's not just on breastfeeding day or breastfeeding week; this is every day. We strongly encourage breastfeeding to all of our mothers across the territory.

If there's ever any way when somebody is travelling under the medical escort policy, the only time that we would stand in the way or maybe suggest another escort for somebody is if the breastfeeding of that infant would interfere with their ability to be an escort for the other child or the medical patient. We do have to take into consideration everyone's needs, but when somebody is being sent out for medical reasons, they are our primary concern. It's the patient that's being sent down south to receive the health care that is the priority.

If the mother is the person who wants to travel with that other child and she's breastfeeding and it won't interfere with her being able to care for that other

child, absolutely there's no problem with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the government's policies are conflicting with each other. Will the minister commit to instructing his officials to review his department's medical client escort travel policy to enable breastfeeding mothers to accompany their other children when they need to travel for medical care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We started a review of the entire medical travel process, which would include escorts, in April 2017 and we're in the process of finalizing it and looking forward to the anticipated implementation date of April 2019. That work is being done.

Again, I would have to add that the only time that we would interfere with a mother travelling with a breastfeeding infant is if it interfered with the care that she is able to provide to her other child. It's never a good situation where we would want to stand in the way of that.

I strongly encourage the member, if there are any concerns that she has with any of her constituents, to contact either myself directly through her office or direct the patient or the client to our patient relations line and I'm sure we

can help people through the process.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 179 – 5(2): Marine
Infrastructure Plans**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague made a
member's statement, and I'll be directing
my question to the Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation.

My colleague was talking about the need
for marine facilities in the smaller
communities. Mr. Speaker, as the
minister had stated, they still have not
set the priorities for communities that
require marine facilities.

Mr. Speaker, when they are setting up
the priorities, some communities have
more urgent needs than other
communities. As we're aware, some
depend more on marine resources while
others depend more on land resources.
My constituency communities of Clyde
River and Qikiqtarjuaq are really
dependent on marine resources. We
know that the marine environment
causes damage to expensive hunting
equipment, especially when a
community lacks marine facilities.

Mr. Speaker, once the minister is setting
up the priorities for the marine
infrastructure plan, I am wondering if
the department will look into making
sure that communities like Clyde River
be one of the priorities. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister of Economic Development and
Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the
member for his good question. The
request for Qikiqtarjuaq was submitted
last year to the federal government
through the National Trade Corridors
Fund. It was not approved through that
application, but we will not give up, as
we stated before. To date we're still in
consideration of that project and we will
continue to fight for this.

We have also talked about that, but we
have not prioritized the communities for
marine infrastructure plans. We have
applied for different programs and we
will keep in touch with each other. The
federal government has different
programs. We're trying to get funding
for Qikiqtarjuaq through the federal
government and we're trying to get
funding for other projects through the
Oceans Protection Plan. There are
various programs that we're trying to
obtain funding from.

Also, we try to tell the federal
government that when they first started
developing infrastructure from Canada's
provinces, they forgot Nunavut. I'm very
proud that we are now working on
marine infrastructure in three
communities. We tell the federal
government to do their work properly,
but not much has been announced.

We apply for various pots of funding as
they become available. At this time we
have not prioritized the communities, but
we are looking at the communities as a
whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your first supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for giving me that information, though it wasn't what I was asking about.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, what I was trying to ask about is that in my other constituency community of Clyde River, we are looking at a small craft harbour, which should be placed as a high priority. There are very high waves there and very expensive boats are destroyed by them because there is no small craft harbour. I was trying to ask if Clyde River would be placed as a priority when small craft harbours are going to be built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. I do apologize. I didn't talk about Clyde River. I was looking at Nunavut as a whole, and we are trying to access funds from the federal government for the smaller communities through the Oceans Protection Plan. We are looking at all of the communities and reviewing the needs, which includes Clyde River.

I would like to add that the federal government, Government of Nunavut, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association are trying to come to an agreement regarding the protection of Tallurutiup Imanga. We're working with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the federal government so that Inuit can benefit more through an agreement.

At this time we haven't set up our priorities yet. We don't have that agreement yet, but we are looking at various options, including your communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister commit to working with the Hamlet of Clyde River to look at how they're going to build the small craft harbour? Can the minister commit to working with the hamlet council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was last year or two years ago that we started working with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. There are going to be five communities affected by the Tallurutiup Imanga project. They met with the hamlet councils. I don't know if they went to Qikiqtarjuaq, but when they started the consultation tour of the five communities, I was able to be in Arctic Bay. When marine infrastructure plans were being considered for the five communities that are affected by the Lancaster Sound project, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans held community consultations last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Question 180 – 5(2): Assistance for Nunavut Hunters

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an appropriate time. My question is for the Minister of Environment.

When we were just starting, my colleague made a statement about a boat catching on fire. This is not the first incident of this type. It has been happening in various communities where hunters have lost their equipment, such as their boats or motors, and motors sinking because they're lacking marine facilities. In Igloolik there was an incident when the tide went out. A boat capsized and the motor got covered in salt water and wasn't working anymore. This is not new.

We hear that there is funding available through hunter support from the government. Can the minister inform Nunavummiut who are listening if there's such a program available to assist hunters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, the Department of Environment is committed to support active hunters and will continue to deliver our programs. Those programs are wildlife management compensation and wildlife management prevention program for 2017-18, and will continue to do so in 2018-19. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About how much money has the Department of Environment set aside in the fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank Mr. Quassa for his question. The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program has an annual budget of \$40,000 and the Wildlife Damage Prevention Program has an annual budget of \$60,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$40,000 and \$60,000 pots are very small. Boats and motors in today's prices are very expensive and we know that the cost of living is expensive all over the place. The \$40,000 and \$60,000 will only benefit very few hunters if we look at Nunavut as a whole. I think that should be reviewed.

If a hunter should lose his equipment or his equipment is destroyed, who can they approach in their communities to access the funds? Does the government have a phone number that they can call or who can they contact if they should need compensation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inuit or hunters/harvesters can approach the conservation officers in their community and they will help them fill out the applications and make sure that all of the information that is required is in the application so that there are no delays in the process of their application. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 002 – 5(2): Road Paving for Igloolik

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by over 200 of my constituents in Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, the petition draws the attention of the government to the health risks that are posed to residents as a consequence of the high concentrations of dust in the community during the summer months.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents in Igloolik and I look forward to a positive response from the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 059 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut News Release re: Road Paving for Igloolik

Mr. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I presented a petition on behalf of my constituents... Well, just a while ago.

>>*Laughter*

...constituents in Igloolik, who are calling on the government to initiate a road paving program in the community to help combat the health risks posed by dust.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a good idea to keep past precedents in mind when considering today's issues, which is why I am tabling a copy of the 2008 news release that announced the Government of Nunavut's \$12 million contribution for road paving in the capital city, which was described at times as being an initiative to "improve the health" of the community by "getting rid of...dust around the city." I encourage the government to keep this precedent in mind when responding to the petition from Igloolik.

Just a short note, at that time in 2008, Elisapee Sheutiapik was the mayor and for the media contact, it was David Joanase at that time.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Hickeys.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 08– An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act – First Reading

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 8 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickeys.

Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019 – First Reading

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 10 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickeys.

Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018 – First Reading

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 11 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickeys.

Bill 13 – Write-off of Assets, 2017-2018 – First Reading

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 13, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2017-2018*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 13 has been read for the first time.

Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 9 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:27 and
Committee resumed at 15:52*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 9. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to commence with the review of Bill 9 and the capital main estimates starting with the Department of Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 09 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2019-2020 – Health –
Consideration in Committee**

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Does the committee agree that the minister's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Hickes, if you could introduce your witnesses and then continue on into your opening comments, please. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, as all members are quite familiar with her, my Deputy Minister, Colleen Stockley, from the Department of Health, and to my left, the Executive Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Greg Babstock.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am very pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2019-2020 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health.

The emphasis of the department's capital plan again remains focused on projects intended to replace and renovate our aging community health care facilities. The department is committed to

providing safe, modern, efficient, environmentally-friendly and welcoming facilities for staff and clients across the territory.

Mr. Chairman and members, as of this summer of 2018, existing community health centre replacement projects in Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset are progressing through various stages of construction and detailed design, the details of which will be outlined shortly.

Planning for the new Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre will be completed in March of 2019, with resources for detailed design and construction being requested as part of the 2020-21 capital estimates process. Baker Lake and Kugluktuk are the next two community health centres identified for replacement.

Mr. Chairman and members, it is anticipated that planning for these community health centre replacement projects will commence near to the end of the current five-year capital planning horizon.

For fiscal year 2019-2020, Health is requesting an additional \$35.65 million for four identified capital projects. I will briefly provide details of each of these items.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, Health is requesting an additional \$12.3 million to continue with year 2 of construction on the Sanikiluaq Community Health Centre. Construction on the facility began in July of 2018. A further \$250,000 is required in fiscal 2020-21 to conclude construction and complete any work to occur during the warranty period and to facilitate fit-up of

the facility. \$17.65 million has been approved in prior capital estimates in support of this project, with a total estimated investment of \$30.2 million. It is expected that the new community health centre facility will be providing care to the residents of Sanikiluaq by September of 2020.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, the department is also requesting \$18.35 million in fiscal year 2019-2020 to commence the first year of construction on the Cape Dorset Community Health Centre. Currently the detailed design phase of the project is nearing completion, with the construction tender package scheduled to be issued before the end of January 2019, permitting contract award in advance of 2019 summer sealift scheduling. In subsequent fiscal years the department will be requesting an estimated \$12.8 million in 2020-21 to fund the second summer season of construction as well as a further requirement for \$250,000 in 2021-22 to conclude construction, cover the warranty period, and enable fit-up for the new building. Mr. Chairman and members, the Cape Dorset Community Health Centre, with an estimated total cost of \$33.05 million, is expected to be open and serving clients in the fall of 2021.

In the detailed design and construction of these new community health centres, the department continues to capitalize upon common and streamlined design elements as well as best practices identified from the three prior next generation community health centre replacement projects, these being Naujaat, Taloyoak, and Arctic Bay. All current and future community health centre designs, for instance, will

incorporate specific elements, such as negative pressure rooms, to assist in the management and treatment of tuberculosis as well as providing secure calming rooms to facilitate acute mental health services for those in immediate need.

Mr. Chairman and members, the department is requesting funding of \$1.5 million for small capital procurements. The small capital annual allocation is for the purchase and replacement of the department's medical equipment, vehicles, and furniture. I will provide you with a detailed listing of the equipment, vehicles, and furniture that we are planning to replace in 2019-2020 once the priority listing is finalized.

In fiscal year 2019-2020 the department is requesting \$3.5 million for ongoing lifecycle and maintenance of Health's fixed assets. This annual allocation is dedicated to minor renovations, repairs, modifications and upgrades of departmental facilities territory-wide and is essential to ensure effective lifecycle management of Health's assets. Mr. Chairman and members, we have also set aside contingency funding within this envelope for any emergency repairs that may be required at health facilities during the year.

In closing, the department is consistently looking to further enhance the design elements of new health centres and other health facilities to better meet the needs of our department, our clients, and our communities. This capital plan proposal is focused to ensure clinical facilities and the essential services they provide are available to Nunavummiut by replacing aging health care assets and through prioritized approaches to ongoing

building maintenance and lifecycle management.

Mr. Chairman and members, I thank all of you for your support on these important projects, and I welcome any questions or comments from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickey. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Nakashuk, please proceed.

Ms. Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2019-2020 is \$35.65 million for four projects, including two ongoing health centre replacement projects in the communities of Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq, as well as two Nunavut-wide budget items for ongoing lifecycle repairs and small capital purchases.

Mr. Chairman, members of the standing committee appreciate that it is a long-term goal of the department to replace aging community health centres across Nunavut. During his appearance before the standing committee to discuss his department's draft 2019-2020 capital estimates, the minister indicated that the health centres in Baker Lake and Qikiqtarjuaq would be next in line with respect to consideration for replacement. While the standing committee anticipates seeing these projects appear in future capital plans, members would

also appreciate receiving up-to-date information on which other health centres have been prioritized for potential replacement or renovation and the possible timelines for construction.

While members recognize that some health centres may have been constructed more recently than others, other factors such as the growth in population or the lack of office space are having an immediate impact on the ability to deliver programs and services. This has become increasingly problematic in some communities. Members encourage the minister to work with his staff and his colleagues to address the critical need for additional space in those community health centres where space limitations have been identified.

Members recognize that including such features as staff housing within newly constructed health centre facilities is no longer economically feasible given current building code requirements for health centre facilities. However, it has been noted that health centre staff accommodation needs must be better taken into account when planning new health centres. The standing committee encourages the minister to work with his counterpart responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that housing needs for health centre staff who will be working in the new facility are addressed in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has again noted the lack of capital commitments in either the currently proposed capital estimates for 2019-2020 or in the department's 2020-24 five-year capital plan to address needs in the areas of mental health, addictions

treatment, or elder care. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss his department's draft 2019-2020 capital estimates, members were given to understand that a number of options are being considered in these areas and encourage the minister to provide regular updates on possible future initiatives. The standing committee fully supports the minister in his efforts to increase the level of federal support to address needs in these areas. Across Canada, significant attention has been given to such issues as the residual traumas of the residential schools system, the murdered and missing indigenous women inquiry, and the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee and its calls to action. The federal government has an opportunity to make significant investments, both capital and operational, to support initiatives to address needs which have been identified in these areas.

Mr. Chairman, the increasing need for Nunavut-based long-term elder care has been addressed on many occasions in the House. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss his department's draft 2019-2020 capital estimates, members were given to understand that a comprehensive study of options across the territory is currently underway. Members look forward to reviewing the results of the study at the earliest opportunity.

Members note that the elders facility in Baker Lake continues to undergo repair and renovations and look forward to an update on when that facility will be able to reopen its doors.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of

Health's proposed capital estimates include two blocks of funding for ongoing lifecycle projects and small capital projects. Members appreciated receiving additional details on what projects have been prioritized under these items.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health. I am confident that individual members will also have comments and questions as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. I will now open the floor for general comments, and please keep in mind it will be comments only, not questions. Save your detailed questions for when we get to the line item in the budget. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening comments of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, during the minister's opening appearance before the standing committee, "members were given to understand that a number of options are being considered in these areas" with regard to mental health, addictions treatment, and elder care. I was wondering if now would be a good time to ask the minister for an update on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. We're just open for general comments now. You will have ample time to ask these kinds of questions when we get to details. Is that it for you for now? Okay. Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just on the small capital projects, \$1.5 million, are ambulances considered as part of the small capital projects? Again, medical equipment, vehicles, and furniture, are they considered as vehicles? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Before I go to the minister, again, I stated that this was general comments only, not questions to the minister at this particular time. I will just move on. No? Okay. Sorry. Mr. Main, you have a general comment. Please go ahead.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and your officials. We know that health is extremely important. In speaking for the people I represent in Whale Cove and Arviat, they all know that more work needs to be done for health care delivery in our communities. I'm always bringing it up here and I'm bringing it up again because we see people dying and people who are getting ill or sick. The health care professionals in the nursing stations are working very hard. The nurses have a very heavy workload.

We're always lacking nurses and doctors. For example, our health centre in Arviat is too small now and they have a lack of nurses. Even if we get more nurses, they will have a very small workplace. It's very important to have it properly staffed and our health centres need to be properly maintained. That's very important because it affects our people.

That's just a general comment. I completely support the department in their efforts to help the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I don't have anybody else for general comments, so I'll move on. We are on H-3 of the capital estimates for the Department of Health. Directorate. Are there any questions? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I was going to ask earlier was about the estimates we get for small capital. It's usually used for (interpretation ends) medical equipment, (interpretation) vehicles, and (interpretation ends) furniture. (interpretation) I don't know how you say that in Inuktitut, but it's for things like that.

The question I have is, in some of the larger communities like Igloolik, there are around 2,000 people living in Igloolik now. The airport is higher than the rest of town. It's not that far. It's a little far, but people who are very ill and those who need to get to the airport or when there are emergencies, there are situations like that. Igloolik has many people living there now.

Are ambulances included as part of the small capital projects? I don't see ambulances under small capital whenever you're proposing the estimates. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from

the member. It is a good one. The simple answer is no. A longer answer is those services provide communities and hamlets with economic development opportunities, such as in Kugluktuk where the hamlet purchased an ambulance on their own and they use that as a contracted service to the Department of Health to transport people to the airport or any other needs around the community where it provides an opportunity for revenue generation to the hamlet or municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. I completely understand that. Thank you. I also know, as I just came from our community, there are 40 ambulances that apparently will be made available to the communities of Nunavut, not from the government. There are 40 ambulances that will be made available. I know that Igloolik may get one, so let's keep our ears open.

Another question I would like to ask is about our elders. When they get really old, you can almost look at them as disabled people. Some of our elders have to use wheelchairs and whenever they need to go somewhere like the health centre, they wonder who can take them there. There are people like that.

The question I would like to ask is about small capital. Vehicles are considered small capital. Are these vehicles able to be used to carry people with disabilities, especially elders, to health centres? I almost said "over." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The vehicles that the Department of Health purchases are for their staff, whether it be for home care nurses providing care to people's residences, or delivering medicines and that type of thing.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide transportation for clients. A number of different reasons for that are one, the type of equipment that would be needed. The member brought up an ambulance situation where stretcher-bearing or special equipment would be needed for wheelchair patients. There are handivans and things like that. The second part would be for insurance purposes as well. If we're providing transportation to somebody and something were to happen, these vehicles are intended for GN employees, so we wouldn't be insured for having passengers of that nature.

Again, depending upon the opportunities in the community for a hamlet or a private industry, I know here in Iqaluit, R.L. Hanson helps transport disabled people on a contract basis. Again, it's an opportunity for economic development either through private enterprise or through a hamlet or municipality to be able to provide that service on a contract basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank you for helping us to understand that. There is another thing I

would like to understand. If there was a business like that in Igloolik, would the contract be with the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you and I apologize, Mr. Chairman and members. I was just clarifying the elders portion of it versus somebody in emergency care or medical transport.

With an ambulance, for example, it would be through a reimbursement or a billing through either NIHB or the Department of Health in certain circumstances. Typically a lot of those arrangements would be done through the hamlet.

With regard to elder transportation, that is a little bit different of a scenario where it would be with the elders centre. If there is an elders centre like in Igloolik as an example, if they were to provide transportation, there are options for possibly contracting out that service. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For (interpretation ends) addictions treatment centres, (interpretation) this was also explained. Are those considered a part of the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a great question and it's a very complicated answer.

Health would obviously be a partner in a facility if there was one to be built, and there are ongoing negotiations with a number of partners. The federal government has invested money in a feasibility study through the Department of Health to look at what type of infrastructure would be needed.

As I'm sure people have been aware through media coverage, there are partners with NTI, as an example, through the Department of Health and through the federal government of looking to see how we could provide a facility of that nature in this territory sooner rather than later. Right now I can't commit to any comment on any commitments that are made; the negotiations are ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening remarks it states that the planning for the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre will be completed in March 2019. That is the design for the new health centre.

The question I would like to ask is about when someone dies in a community, the body has to be held for a long time when there is a need to wait for family to arrive into town for the funeral. In our community we don't have a proper morgue or a good place for bodies to be held before the funeral.

I know the design for the new health centre will be completed by the spring. Will this design include a morgue as a part of the health centre where bodies can be kept? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand right now, a morgue is not a part of the planning for the health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq. There are funds available through CGS to provide funding through the integrated community sustainability plans led by CGS, and hamlets would then be responsible for maintaining and staffing the morgues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): I'm finished.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to return to my question on the opening comments of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness. On page 2, "the standing committee has again noted the lack of capital commitments...in the areas of mental health, addictions treatment, or elder care." During your appearance before the standing committee, "members were given to understand that a number of options are being considered in these areas and encourage the minister to provide regular updates on possible future initiatives." I was wondering if now would be an ideal moment to provide a regular update. Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I very much would like now to be an ideal moment to provide an update. Unfortunately, as I had mentioned during one of my responses to Mr. Quassa, we're still in negotiations and planning for a facility and it would be very preliminary or presumptive of me to make any comments on it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Now, I believe Mr. Quassa was asking about new mental health facilities. My question further expands on that and it includes addiction treatment centres and elder care facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying that. With regard to mental health centres, right now we're in the planning phase for the Rankin Inlet Mental Wellness Centre, with planned construction starting in the 2021-22 fiscal year. We have recently done some renovations to the Cambridge Bay Mental Health Facility and that's expected to be completed this month, pretty much any day now. There is progress being made in that regard.

When we're talking about elder care in

the territory, it's a different entity. I have always been of the opinion that, like every other jurisdiction in this country, elder care is provided on a fee-for-service basis. I believe we're probably one of very few that actually owns any type of elder continuing care facilities. When you look at the civil service and the infrastructure, the capital costs, the O&M, and everything, in my opinion, it's just not financially prudent for us to be in that business. We will be looking for partners in that industry to provide care in the territory for elders and I look forward to any advancement in that in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand where you're coming from where it's not usually typical for a government to own and operate an elders' care facility, but we are not a typical government. With that being said, I do understand where you do want to partner with other organizations and I definitely see the economics to that, but my question on that topic of partnering is: would it be limited to fee-for-service only or would the government or would the minister be willing to make a capital contribution to another organization's construction of an elders facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're looking at providing any item or piece of infrastructure to our capital plan, it's a

very long and onerous process. I want and I know our Premier and the rest of my cabinet colleagues and I know all of us want projects like this to move forward sooner rather than later. We do have a number of residents that are outside the territory being cared for, dictated by their level of need.

I, along with everyone else in this territory, want to bring people closer to home, closer to their families, and closer to the communities where they're originally from. To do that would entail partnerships with societies or corporations or hamlets or municipalities, Inuit organizations, a number of different avenues for partnerships for a fee-for-service type model like is done everywhere else in the country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to Mr. Quassa's question regarding patients outside of the territory, for example, in Winnipeg. The vehicle for disabled people does not have a lift for wheelchairs, but the (interpretation ends) First Nations (interpretation) have a very good vehicle.

(interpretation ends) Going back on a follow-up to Paul Quassa's question with regard to capital items, how about outside of Nunavut? We have the Inuit centre in Winnipeg. That vehicle is not designed for handicapped people. It does not have a wheelchair lift. Has that been considered, Mr. Chairman? Thank you, sir.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie.

Just a reminder; you asked your question in Inuktitut and then you asked it in English, and we have interpreters who are quite capable of doing that so we don't kill too much time in asking the questions. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. When we're talking about transportation outside of the territory with contracted services such as the Inuit centre in Winnipeg or the Larga for Baffin in Ottawa or Edmonton or Yellowknife, the Winnipeg Inuit centre right now is a contracted obligation, so there will be accessible vehicles being purchased by the contractor to provide that service. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you. I'm interested as to what the current status is of the health centre replacement projects in Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq. Are they on schedule and are they under budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are on schedule. As far as under budget, I can't comment on that right now. It's not complete yet, so we won't know until the final numbers are calculated, but as of right now it's on budget and on time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): The staff housing shortage for health centres has often been raised as an issue of concern. Will the new staff housing be built to accommodate the staff at all new health centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever we're building any type of government infrastructure in a community, it is going to have staffing needs to it.

Typically when we're replacing a health centre, there is not an increase in staff unless the PYs are allocated through the normal budgeting process to increase staffing levels of a community. Typically the staff housing wouldn't change unless there are some other types of a substantially modified part of the operations and maintenance business case for providing more PYs.

The short answer, no, but anytime there is infrastructure that is being built in a community, there are discussions with the Department of Finance, the Department of Community and Government Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the department involved in the infrastructure project to determine if any additional staff housing would be needed or allocated in that community. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. (interpretation) Some

community health centres are quite old. Have the community health centres been identified as requiring replacement or renovation in the near future, and what plans do they have to deal with the aging community health centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any more questions.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can give all the members just an update on this. As you well know, Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset are in the midst of the construction or design phase. With regard to Qikiqtarjuaq, the planning is ongoing and is expected in March of 2019 to be completed the planning for that. With Baker Lake we are looking to start the planning in the fiscal year 2020-21 and in Rankin Inlet and Arviat, subsequently, expansions of the existing health centres there in 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. After that we would be starting the planning process for Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, officials and minister.

I appreciate that my community of Kugluktuk has been identified to replace our health centre, but it is anticipated to be in the planning stages nearer to the end of the current five-year capital plan. For the record, can you confirm that the replacement will be in the five-year capital plan? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is in the requested capital planning project right now, so it's there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on, you spoke about fee for service and looking for partners with other entities for elder care. As you now, Kugluktuk's hamlet has a proposal that is ready to be signed. As the Minister of Health, where do you stand with this proposal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the first I have heard of Kugluktuk. I'm kidding.

>>*Laughter*

I used to sit beside you, so I know you brought this up numerous times.

In my former time as the Minister of Health, I have met with the planning committee for that project. I'm very much looking forward to working with my cabinet colleagues and our process to seek out partnerships with, like I said earlier, hamlets, municipalities, corporations, and Inuit organizations to provide elder care. I look forward to updating this House in the fairly near future on progress along that line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes.

Ms. Kamingoak, you're done? Okay. Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, to follow up on my colleague's question in regard to elders facilities, (interpretation ends) the minister just mentioned that he's looking forward to providing an update in the fairly near future. I wonder if he could elaborate further in terms of: is this in the coming weeks? Is this in the coming year? I would like a little bit more information on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish I could be more precise. We have an organization that we have contracted to provide some options on different models to provide elder care facilities across the territory.

With regard to our own spending of capital dollars, unfortunately the Department of Health doesn't qualify for any type of Building Canada funding or anything along those lines. Funding like that would have to flow through... . As in your community, the centre there is owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, which can access funding in that regard.

With regard to the type of models of a contracted service and a fee for service, what type of care needs to be provided at what levels in each region and by community, there's different information that's being digested and correlated right now. Until I get enough information that I can bring to my cabinet colleagues and decide on a direction to go, I can't

provide any further details on that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) On the issue of the Arviat elders facility, I'm a bit concerned with regard to that facility because, as you mentioned, it is owned by the housing corporation. There are all these different organizations that are involved. There's a contractor that runs it. The local housing association does the maintenance on it because it's a housing corporation asset.

Obviously the Department of Health has some role in there in terms of the care that's provided. With regard to the capital asset, and we're talking about capital here, has there been any consideration given to transferring that elders' care facility from Housing to Health, whether that would streamline anything? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to take a look at it and talk to my colleagues with CGS and Housing to gain a little bit more insight into that, but at a quick initial thought, I wouldn't see any value in that. It would simply be changing over the maintenance responsibility from the LHO to CGS, which would have to contract that service out. It may even still work it through the local housing organization there.

One of the biggest components, if we're ever to look at expanding that facility, as an example, if it was a Health asset, we wouldn't be able to access any federal funding to expand it. We would have to take it out of our Government of Nunavut capital planning dollars, whereas leaving it with the housing corporation does give that wiggle room to be able to apply for federal funding through the CMHC on elder housing programs that they do have in place.

To me it wouldn't make any sense to take it over for Health, but if the member wishes, I could correspond with my colleagues to look into it. I just don't see the value at a cursory level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister. I understand there may be certain advantages to being underneath the housing corporation, but based on my own rudimentary understanding, I'll use an example. A tender was put out in 2016 for a renovation of that facility. The tender was awarded and to date the work has not been completed.

I'm not talking about the operators of the facility, which is a private company. That's not their job. I'm not looking to pick a fight with the housing corporation either, but you have elders living in what I would consider substandard conditions where they got leaky windows and cracked walls and whatnot. For two years now they have been told, "Yes, this place is getting a renovation. This place is getting a renovation."

I understand that's not Health's responsibility, but I'm just trying to explain where my concern about that facility comes from. On the one hand we have excellent work being done, on the O&M side we have mostly Inuit employees there and excellent community involvement in the centre, but on the capital side, I would appreciate it if the Minister of Health could strike up a conversation with the housing corporation with regard to whether it would make sense to transfer the asset or help to manage it, if the minister would care to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a problem with looking to see if there's any validity or reasoning on where it could benefit the facility itself. I believe it was a couple of years ago or maybe just slightly more that I was there and noted the windows and I was under the same impression that you are that there was a tender at that time that was being put out to do that renovation work. What I can commit to is checking on the status of that and find out what is going on with the delay in that work being done. I'll look into that immediately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll just add on that I think another one of the issues that have been flagged with that centre on the capital side is the lack

of a dishwasher. My understanding is that following health regulations, not having a dishwasher... You're supposed to have a dishwasher so that the dishes can be sanitized. That's just a minor issue, but of course if it affects our elders, it's a big concern.

With regard to the Baker Lake elders facility, I see under ongoing lifecycle projects, there is a bunch of work that is supposed to be done there in Baker Lake. I wonder if the minister can provide an update in terms of the work going on in Baker Lake. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Kind of in a nutshell, I was just in Baker Lake very recently and I toured around the community with the member from there and that was one of the discussion topics we had. Even at that time there were a number of bags of contaminated soil that were dug out from underneath the facility.

There is a number of different testing that still needs to be done, including air quality monitoring, to make sure that people can actually move back into there. Until we complete all of those tests to make sure it's a safe facility, and some of those can't be done until the springtime, so right now we're working to make sure that we've got the contaminated soil out of there. It's a fairly low building to the ground, so it's very difficult to get under there and get all the soil out. We want to make sure that we're doing the job properly before we allow residents back in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With regard to that facility in Baker Lake, I'm asking about it because I would consider it the sister facility to the one that is in Arviat. It's similar in size. When it comes to the furniture, say the furniture that is out in the common rooms, is that provided by the government? The couches and whatnot, would that be government-purchased furniture? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that would be through small capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To bring it back to the Arviat elders centre, again, that is one of the reasons why I'm interested to get the Department of Health involved with the Arviat elders centre. One of the elders there went out and bought a couch for the common room because they needed a new one. She was tired of the ratty, old, ripped up couch that was there. It's out in the common room. It's interesting to compare the two facilities. That is just a comment.

With regard to the new health centres that are being built, I know that one of them is going to Cape Dorset and the other to Sanikiluaq. What types of measures are put in place for fire

retardancy? I know that this has been an issue with Nunavut schools burning down, and it has meant changes in the design with regard to fire retardancy in the new health centres. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We go by the very stringent building codes for health centres when we build them, so there would be fire retardant materials that would be used and different doors to seal off different parts of the building, so every measure according to the building code and possibly then some, even going so far as sprinklers. I can't comment on whether every health centre has sprinklers, but it's something I could confirm with my capital people and get back to the member. I believe sprinklers are part of the health centres as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickee. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm interested in the same area of these new health centres that are being built, but I'm interested in the area of security. It is very important that our health centre staff feel safe and that they feel that they can work and do their jobs without facing any intimidation or physical violence.

I know that there are security services provided under O&M, but with regard to the capital when you're looking at, say, the new health centre in Sanikiluaq, are there any changes that have been made to try to make them more secure for the

staff and for the people who visit there?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.
Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Again, I would have to check
the design itself, but I do know that there
is space for security at the front, which
would obviously have a physical barrier
for anybody coming in with ill desires or
ill intent. As I have said numerous times,
the safety of our staff and the people
who are in the health centres across the
territory are a very high priority. We
have gone so far as to hire security in a
number of our health centres right now.
To me I think it's almost a shame we've
had to do that, but it's necessary. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes.
I have no more names on my list. Oh,
sorry. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank
you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Hickes
and staff, (interpretation) welcome. I
have a question regarding the
legalization of cannabis in Canada. We
expect to have places where people who
are addicted can get help. What plans
does the Department of Health have for
addiction treatment centres? Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Like I had mentioned earlier,
we're in discussions with a number of
partners on an actual addictions facility,
but one of the pillars that we're focusing
on is at the community level of having

services, counsellors, and people
available, such as on-the-land
programming. We're getting a little bit
away from the capital side of things, but
if somebody is going through a severe
mental challenge, there are also safe
rooms in any health centre that's being
designed. It's in our planning request for
like an addictions and treatment facility,
but that's all I guess I can say for now,
Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms.
Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank
you. The minister indicated that they're
looking at the possibility of building an
addiction treatment facility. The federal
government indicated that they would
like to provide more funding to
indigenous communities. How is the
Department of Health working with the
federal government on those types of
facilities and how are they able to move
forward on this issue? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk.
Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Like I had mentioned, there
are discussions that are ongoing and I'm
very optimistic that we can find some
partnerships with the federal government
and other stakeholders in bringing a
facility to the territory. I think the
commitment for them to provide money
for the feasibility study itself shows a
desire to work with us. It leads me to be
more optimistic that there is something
that may be coming through partnerships
with the federal government. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. As you're having discussions with the federal government, when can we expect to get more information as to whether or not this will go ahead after the feasibility study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I had my way, in the next federal budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on to something else, Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq are getting the construction of new health centres, along with Cape Dorset.

In the smaller communities we are very aware of these things happening. When health centres are being built, how will the government check to make sure that more Inuit will be hired to build them? Does the Department of Health have anything to do with that or am I out of line with that question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. The actual contract of building health centres is done through Community and Government Services and the Inuit labour content is all negotiated in their contracts, so that is basically how it works. I don't think Mr. Hickes will have that kind of answer for you or the

same answer that I just gave you, probably.

Ms. Nakashuk, do you have a different question you would like to ask? Please go ahead, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I don't have any other questions.

>> *Laughter*

I'm a little confused now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next line of questioning is going to be on the Cape Dorset's replacement health centre project. I have noticed that the size and scope of the project has changed since last year. Last year the size of the facility was 1,730 square metres and the current substantiation sheet now shows a total size of 2,048 square metres. My first question is: what is this increase due to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any time that the design process for a project comes forward, there are discussions that take place with the clinical side of things to make sure that the proper facility is in place. When you're talking about the neutral air rooms for TB treatment, safe rooms for mental health purposes, a security place within the facility... . When you're doing the planning phase, you would see an early stage of what is estimated or perceived to be a need. When it actually

goes through the planning process and you sit down and itemize what the footprint of that building is going look like, that's just a more mature level of the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the increase in size, a significant increase, I don't see any increase in the capital cost of the facility. Is it correct that increasing the size of the facility will not have an increase in cost associated with it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, when we go back to doing estimates for a health centre, we've got a rough idea from previous ones in Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay, as an example, of fairly new health centres where we know the construction costs of projects like that. It gives us a ballpark to start with. It doesn't take into account a per metre formula at that point. It's simply an estimated footprint before it goes to the planning phase. As it gets through the planning phase, things get tighter within what we're looking for. The tendering process would dictate the pricing as well too, but it's just a maturation of the planning process to tighten everything up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to continue on the Cape Dorset Health Centre. On the first page of the substantiation sheet in the summary the last sentence states, "Pending determination of the most opportune process to complete the build of a new ten-plex residential unit for health centre staff, Health will request additional capital funds." I was wondering if the minister may be able to expand a little bit on that last statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very similar to a response I was giving to the member from Sanikiluaq during question period today.

As any time there is a new health centre being built in a community, depending upon the need, there may be requests for PY increases which would need more staff housing availability, depending upon the community and the existing health centre infrastructure. A lot of them had housing units above them. If we were to move out of that building and surplus that building, we would lose access to the staff housing.

Like I said, these are discussions that go on with CGS, Housing, the Department of Health, and the Department of Finance to decide when and what size, and if additional staff housing is needed by a new health centre being built. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 3 of the Cape Dorset Health Centre substantiation sheet at the top, there is more information on the proposed ten-plex, but also the last sentence there states that the scope includes renovation of an existing five-plex. It threw me off a bit there. Is Health planning on constructing a ten-plex or renovating a five-plex? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are two separate projects. There are the existing five-plex staff units that are attached to the current centre. These are all up for discussion. That is kind of the point I was getting at earlier. As we're finalizing the planning of this health centre in Cape Dorset, that is when these discussions will get a little bit more formal with CGS, Housing, Health, and Finance to determine what path is most fiscally prudent to meet the needs to provide staff housing in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. I have only one question because I got really curious. Has any consideration been given to renovating or expanding the regional health centres to offer new areas of health care service that are currently provided outside of Nunavut, for example, in such areas as cancer treatment, dialysis, or palliative care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie.

Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member brings up an interesting concept. It has been bantered about for a number of years. I'll start with dialysis. I believe we only have two people, I think, in the territory that are currently receiving dialysis treatment. To receive that treatment, the people and the training that would need to be done is just not economically feasible.

When we're talking cancer care, there are special equipment, special hoods and everything and special training to be able to provide those medicines. It is a project that I'm very on top of and I believe there's no reason why we shouldn't be providing cancer treatment in the territory at some levels. Whether it goes down to a community level, it would be very challenging depending upon the number of people and the infrastructure that would be needed to make it feasible. Bringing it to a regional centre or to the hospital here in Iqaluit would be a first foray into that type of a field.

Right now we're looking at ways of providing more care into the territory where feasible. In some cases there are options, like I just stated, and in others it's not feasible. We're continuously and I know I've had numerous discussions with the department on moving forward with initiatives on bringing care closer to home and we're going to continue to do that. I relish any ideas that members may highlight to the department and to myself on bringing more care closer to home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Again I have no more names on my list for questions. I would ask members to

please keep your hands up instead of me having to repeat myself all the time. Keep your hands up if you have questions, please. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll certainly remember that.

I think just one question. There's the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre that's being planned. Baker Lake and Kugluktuk are the other two community health centres identified. Are you also considering the issue of midwifery rooms or any of these? (interpretation) Is there anything like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not specific. There are rooms in new health centres that could be modified for delivery to support midwifery.

I have often been very vocal in this House about my support for midwifery services across the territory and it's something that I'm looking forward to developing. We've had some great success out of Cambridge Bay with the midwives there going out to different communities and providing not the delivery part but the prenatal and postnatal care for before and after babies are born. We've had some fantastic successes there.

I think it's evolving and I'm very excited about how it's maturing. I'm very much looking forward to having it mature more. I was just speaking in Rankin Inlet about three or four weeks ago to a midwife who just got to town that day

and how excited she was to be in Nunavut and providing care here. It's something that I'm very much looking forward to developing further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask the minister regarding the Arviat Health Centre expansion project. The minister touched on it earlier, but in terms of the process and when it is slotted for based on your current plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in the planning process right now. That being said, we're anticipating the construction start date of the 2024-25 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to understand a bit better what the planning process looks like. How does the health department know when an expansion is needed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of

different factors that come into play. Using Arviat as an example, the population has grown a lot faster than anticipated. I believe the building was built in the year 2000. When you look at the population then, it was 1,900 people. Now you're nearing 3,000. The growth maybe wasn't anticipated when the size of the building was chosen.

Population, usage, tracking in visits, and the needed space, I'm sure you have heard very well from many of your employees in the community how packed it is in there. Employee input also comes into play and just the needs. When I visit a health centre, numerous times I'm shown a room where equipment is being stored and crammed in together and there are certain things that need to be accessible on a moment's notice that they're very strategic in how they utilize the space in an overcrowded situation.

There are a number of different factors just through forced growth, community input, staff input, and clinical needs taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickeys. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. It's good to hear that it is on the books and I hope that it stays on the books in terms of the planning process because it is very much needed in Arviat as well as other communities that have high forced growth.

When it comes to public health clinics, I seem to recall the information

somewhere, but if the minister could explain how many public health clinics exist across Nunavut and in which communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information from what I understand is it's in every health centre. There are public health initiatives that are ongoing within the health centre. Now, there may be some through the community wellness where healthy baby initiatives and things like that might be done with health care staff in another facility like a community centre or something like that or a wellness centre. In general the public health is dealt with through the health centre in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickeys. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess I'll clarify my question a bit. I'll use Iqaluit as an example where you have a stand-alone facility for public health, right? How many of these stand-alone public health facilities exist in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To our knowledge, only here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickeys. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)
With regard to capital, has there been any consideration given to establishing stand-alone public health clinics in other communities? I think there are a number of reasons why that might benefit, let's say for example, when it comes to vaccinations or minor medical issues where people don't want to go into the health centre or the health centre is overcrowded and it's a long wait to get in to see anybody. That's my reasoning. Has there been any consideration given to this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any clinical needs would be assessed. As an example, when Arviat is being scheduled to finalize the planning and everything that's needed, they look out forward-reaching to see what type of needs are anticipated. Unfortunately they didn't do that properly in the year 2000 to be able to accurately see the amount of growth that did occur.

I have trouble envisioning the value on putting a stand-alone infrastructure where you're taking a lot of the same needs that are delivered within a health centre right now, kind of a one-stop shop. If you were to remove that portion of it, it may give you some efficiency, but again, where you're looking at a separate building, you're looking at increased cost. It's different than just adding a section to a renovation or a new build to meet those needs. You would be making a stand-alone building, which would increase the cost, and we all are very aware of how tight our capital

dollars are.

I don't see the efficiency there, but maybe I'm missing something. Maybe we can discuss this at a later point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)
Thank you, minister, for that offer. I'll take you up on that.

In terms of the Kivalliq Regional Boarding Home, I wonder if the minister could give us an update on the planning project for a future facility. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not anticipated to be a piece of health infrastructure; it would be a contracted service like the majority of our boarding homes, but those negotiations with Health Canada are ongoing right now. The second I've got anything to announce, I can assure all Members of this House and the public that we will be announcing the second we're able to move forward with that project. I look very forward to having that service available in the Kivalliq. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main, please continue.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)
Please continue your excellent chairing

by the way.

I wonder if the minister can explain a bit more when you say that talks are ongoing with Health Canada. It's my understanding and this is already public information that there will be a boarding home built in Rankin Inlet. I would just like a bit more information in terms of what the talks are about at this point. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the years this has been a fairly long-going conversation and there has been acknowledged support from the federal level, but this is the first time it has gone down to actual discussions on establishing what type of need would be there, the costing of... . We have to work with Health Canada when they establish the rates.

The talks have never progressed to this level that they are right now. Again, when I said earlier that I'm optimistic about certain things that we're negotiating with the feds, this is also one of them that I'm very optimistic that this is going to be moving forward in the fairly near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll leave that alone for now, but with regard to the other boarding home serving Kivalliq residents, the one that's located in Churchill, Manitoba, it's my understanding it's a Government of

Nunavut asset. I wonder if the minister could give us an update or any recent information with regard to that capital asset. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I just got back into this portfolio, I have talked about this with my officials and it's something we're going to have to make a decision on in the fairly near future as well.

When I said earlier that the majority of boarding homes are not owned by the Nunavut government, that is the one that is and in my opinion, it has been under-utilized. We've got two options, either utilize it more to make sure that it's more fiscally responsible or to stop using it altogether.

We can't maintain the levels of use that we're experiencing right now and that's something that I'll have to have discussions with the Manitoba health care system to see if there is an opportunity for increasing the services in that so that we can utilize that facility more, which would be my preference.

That being said, it's not strictly up to me and I know some of my staff are listening right now and have probably already reached out because I was just speaking about this last week, of reaching out to my counterparts in the Manitoba government to discuss options moving forward with the Churchill Health Centre there. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's good to hear that it's on the radar. It's very interesting to note that our neighbours to the south of the Kivalliq in Manitoba are going in the opposite direction that we want to go with our health capital. They're shutting down rural health facilities. Let's hope that we're never in that position here in Nunavut. That facility in Churchill is underutilized, so it would be good to get more use out of it.

My final question is on the ongoing lifecycle projects and I guess small capital. One of the projects listed here is a dental clinic project in Arviat and a dental clinic project in Baker Lake. What I'm interested in is expanding the types of dental procedures that we could offer to people.

If you look at Arviat, for example, it's a fairly large community by Nunavut's standards, and you can't have a root canal done in Arviat. They will tell you, "You can get your tooth pulled out or you can leave town and get a root canal done because we don't do that here." That is just an example.

Is the lack of equipment the limitation on why we can't do things like root canals or is it a service provider limitation? Is this a capital question or is it an O&M question, I guess, is the question.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I was giving some thought on whether it was one or

the other and I'll let the minister decide. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we have our contracted services through NIHB, it dictates what level of work can typically be done. We do have our dental contracts in each region that provide a number of days per community and the level of service.

Again, when speaking of Arviat as an example, when we're looking at any additions to any infrastructure and things like that, these are the types of things that will be taken into consideration. Typically that level of care would only be provided in an operating room setting. Just the needs and the equipment, like you said, are an issue, but the space of going out would require additional enhancements to existing facilities to be able to provide that service.

It's a very good question. Myself, I think I'm going to look a little bit further into what level of limitations we have. I would appreciate if the member would leave that with me and let me do a bit more research to find out what our options and our contract obligations are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for committing to look into that. I'm just looking at the list of the small capital for this year and I don't see anything that refers to dental equipment. It would be interesting to see if that is a need that is out there.

Just as a comment, I'll note that there are several industrial dishwashers for elders facilities listed here. One of the notes on here says that for the Igloolik facility it says, "Not heating the water to safe levels," which is important for sanitization and proper care of our elders. That's a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Again I don't have any more names on my list for questions. Moving on. We're on H-3 on the capital estimates with the Department of Health under Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$35,650,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page H-2. Department Summary. Health. Total Capital Expenditures. \$35,650,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Health?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the minister if he has any closing comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and all members. It has been a while since I've had to sit in this seat and a first time in this Assembly.

I really appreciated the detail of the questions, a lot of food for thought for myself that I've got to look into a few things. I can assure the member from

Arviat North-Whale Cove's comments on the dishwasher for the facility there has been boldly noted.

I just want to thank everyone for the level of questions and I look forward to continuing working together over the next three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here today to answer these great questions that have come across and I'm sure there will be many more to come.

With that, I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he could please escort the witnesses out. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this point I would like to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering

Bill 9 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>*Laughter*

The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Moving on. Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 25:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 13
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 9
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Clerk. (interpretation) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:29*

