



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**2nd Session**

**5th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 35**

**Monday, February 25, 2019**

**Pages 2125 – 2189**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Joe Enook**  
(Tununiq)

**Hon. David Akeegok**  
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation*

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for  
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation*

**Hon. George Hickey**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial  
Management Board; Minister of Health;  
Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention;  
Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety  
and Compensation Commission*

**Hon. David Joanasi**  
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of  
Education; Minister of Languages*

**Joelie Kaerner**  
(Amittuq)

**Mila Kamingoak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Community and  
Government Services; Minister  
of Human Resources*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

**Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of  
the Committee of the Whole*

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Patterk Netser**  
(Aivilik)  
*Minister responsible for  
Nunavut Arctic College;  
Minister responsible for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

**Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of  
Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister  
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;  
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister  
responsible for the Utility Rates Review  
Council*

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Family Services; Minister responsible for  
Homelessness; Minister responsible for  
Immigration; Minister responsible for the  
Status of Women*

**Cathy Towtongie**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

### *Officers*

Clerk  
John Quirke

Clerk Assistant  
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk  
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Charlie Audlakiak

Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

*Box 1200*

*Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0*

*Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266*

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2125
Ministers' Statements .....	2125
Members' Statements .....	2130
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2137
Oral Questions.....	2138
Written Questions.....	2163
Tabling of Documents.....	2164
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	2164
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	2188
Orders of the Day .....	2189

**A.**

**Daily References**

Monday, February 25, 2019 .....2125

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

153 – 5(2): Minister Absent from the House (Sheutiapik).....2125  
154 – 5(2): New President of Nunavut Arctic College (Netser) .....2125  
155 – 5(2): Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission (Hickes) .....2126  
156 – 5(2): Appointment of New Chief Coroner (Ehaloak).....2127  
157 – 5(2): Certificate in Educational Leadership in Nunavut Training (Joanasie).....2128  
158 – 5(2): Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week (Hickes).....2129

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

246 – 5(2): Focus on Children (Main).....2130  
247 – 5(2): A Better Tomorrow for Our Children (Qirngnuq).....2131  
248 – 5(2): Support for Youth Sporting Activities (Keyootak).....2131  
249 – 5(2): Feeding Our Children (Akoak).....2132  
250 – 5(2): Reflecting on Representing Nunavummiut (Towtongie).....2132  
251 – 5(2): Nuna School in Apex (Angnakak).....2134  
252 – 5(2): Keeping Our Children Safe (Lightstone).....2135  
253 – 5(2): 2019 Canada Winter Games (Akeegok) .....2136  
254 – 5(2): New Constituency Assistant (Sheutiapik) .....2136  
255 – 5(2): Announcing New Grandson (Netser) .....2136

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

326 – 5(2): The Value of Student Assessments (Main).....	2138
327 – 5(2): Gjoa Haven Airport (Akoak).....	2140
328 – 5(2): Nunavut’s High Birth Rate (Towtongie) .....	2141
329 – 5(2): Overcrowded Classrooms (Nakashuk) .....	2144
330 – 5(2): Sexual Education in Nunavut Schools (Lightstone).....	2146
331 – 5(2): Territorial Cost of Living (Qirngnuq).....	2147
332 – 5(2): Specialized Training for Social Workers (Angnakak).....	2150
333 – 5(2): Language Promotion for Children (Kaernerk).....	2151
334 – 5(2): The Need for More Foster Parents (Mikkungwak).....	2155
335 – 5(2): Establishment and Support for Daycares (Quassa).....	2156
336 – 5(2): Busing Services for Students with Disabilities (Rumbolt) .....	2157
337 – 5(2): Child Apprehension Policies (Keyootak) .....	2158
338 – 5(2): Status of Kugluktuk High School (Kamingoak).....	2160
339 – 5(2): Umingmak Child and Youth Support Centre (Angnakak) .....	2162

**E.**

**Written Questions**

023 – 5(2): Child Abuse in Nunavut – Trends (Lightstone).....	2163
---------------------------------------------------------------	------

**F.**

**Tabling of Documents**

124 – 5(2): 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut (Speaker).....	2164
125 – 5(2): 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut (Speaker).....	2164

126 – 5(2): 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth  
(Speaker).....2164

**G.**

**Motions**

025 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period (Mikkungwak) .....2154

**H.**

**Bills**

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Health – Consideration in  
Committee.....2165

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Monday, February 25, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasié, Mr. Joëlie Kaernerck, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>> *House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>> *Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. I believe we were okay this weekend and that our communities were okay. We will now begin our meeting this week and I hope that we will proceed smoothly.

Going to the orders of the day.  
Ministers' Statements. Government House Leader, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 153 – 5(2):  
Minister Absent from the House**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House that the (interpretation ends) Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation) will be absent today. (interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq is attending the CanNor announcement for the Kivalliq Inuit Organization's hydro-fibre link in Rankin Inlet and he should be here tomorrow. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 154 – 5(2): New  
President of Nunavut Arctic  
College**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our new president, Pauloosie Suvega, who is sitting behind me.

>> *Applause*

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Suvega as my ADM of Economic Development during my first term in cabinet. I am very proud that I will be working with him in the coming years.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Suvega is well known to this Chamber in his previous role as Deputy Minister of the

departments of Environment, Culture and Heritage, and Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, this is his 15th year working for this great government.

Mr. Suvega previously held the responsibility of administration, protection and promotion of two of pieces of legislation that mark Nunavut unique as a jurisdiction, the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*, of which celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, President Suvega and I have done a great deal to connect with the staff and learners across Nunavut who work for and are attending our great college. Mr. Speaker, so far, we have visited all of the campuses in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet and we are heading to Cambridge Bay in May. During these tours, the president and I have listened to the achievements and issues of our staff and learners. In conjunction with the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors, we are committed to addressing these issues through the creation of a ten-year strategic plan that will chart the course of the college over three successive government mandates. This plan for long-term capacity building is intended to develop a robust, culturally responsive institution that is able to meet the learning needs of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to raising awareness of the remarkable achievements of the college's staff and learners. Nunavut Arctic College is a remarkable environment of learning and innovation, and too rarely is that expressed beyond the campus

community.

(interpretation) I would like to welcome Pauloosie Suvega. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

### **Minister's Statement 155 – 5(2): Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to give my colleagues an update on the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission and harm reduction initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, 18 months after the opening of the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store as a three-year pilot project, statistics show that liberalizing access to beer and wine has had a positive impact on drinking habits of Iqalumiut. The quantity of hard alcohol sold to residents and licensees in Iqaluit has dropped drastically. The purchase of import liquor permits for hard alcohol has also dropped significantly.

Mr. Speaker and members, in order to monitor the impacts of store, a Beer and Wine Store Monitoring Working Group was recently created, with participants from the departments of Finance, Health, Family Services, Justice, the RCMP, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the City of Iqaluit.

The mandate of the working group is to monitor all the impacts of the store, whether they are positive or negative.

Five sources of data have already been identified: internal sales, permit sales, alcohol-related visits to the emergency room, alcohol-related RCMP calls, and family violence screens. The group has identified several additional sources of data that can be tracked and which can be used for eventual reporting and monitoring purposes.

### **Let's Be Aware**

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Liquor Commission's social responsibility campaign, Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta, is in its third year and the emphasis is now on reaching out to youth and young adults in order to promote responsible use of alcohol. In the fall, Kivalliq youth were asked to submit drawings depicting responsible approaches to alcohol: how responsible use of alcohol or not drinking alcohol can support physical, emotional and spiritual well-being; how to cope with life stresses and challenges without using alcohol; and how to reduce alcohol-related harm by drinking safely and responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, a total of 114 grade 6 to 8 students from six Kivalliq schools participated in the calendar challenge. Kivalliq MLAs judged the art work according to messaging effectiveness, creativity, and aesthetics. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who took on the judging responsibility to choose 12 winning drawings that were used to illustrate a 2019 calendar. Copies of the calendar have been mailed to schools in the Kivalliq.

### **Liquor Systems**

Mr. Speaker and members, since January

2018 there have been four liquor plebiscites in Nunavut. The residents of Baker Lake and Kugluktuk voted to move from a restricted to an unrestricted system while the residents of Sanikiluaq decided to retain their prohibited status earlier this month. Kugaaruk residents will vote on February 25, today, to decide whether they will lift prohibition in favour of a restricted quantities system. If the vote passes, Kugaaruk will have the first restricted quantities system in Nunavut, allowing some access to beer and wine while continuing to prohibit hard alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, residents of other communities have recently reached out to find out how a plebiscite works and what the steps are to request one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 156 – 5(2): Appointment of New Chief Coroner**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is my pleasure to announce today the appointment of Nunavut's Chief Coroner, Ms. Elizabeth Copeland of Arviat. Elizabeth is a Nunavut beneficiary and she has spent 20 years as a community coroner, including two years as the chief coroner of Nunavut.

Ms. Copeland is actively involved at the community and territorial level, notably serving as Justice of the Peace, a member of the Nunavut Planning

Commission, Chair of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board, she was elected as Arviat's first female mayor, and she has served as the Chair of the Nunavut Impact Review Board since 2010.

Mr. Speaker, the role of the chief coroner is an essential service in our territory and it is a challenging profession. I am proud to welcome Ms. Copeland back to serve in this role.

I would also like to offer my sincere appreciation for Mr. Khen Sagadraca's service as chief coroner over the last few months. He has served diligently and professionally and has contributed greatly to upholding the reputation of the coroner's office.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues of the legislature, please join me in congratulating Ms. Elizabeth Copeland on her new role as Nunavut's chief coroner, as well as thanking Mr. Khen Sagadraca for his service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before I move on to the next minister, I wish to remind you that if you have brought a cellphone and other electronic devices, please put them on silent mode or completely turn them off.

Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 157 – 5(2):  
Certificate in Educational  
Leadership in Nunavut Training**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker and fellow members, from February 15 to 23, 41 educators from throughout Nunavut travelled to Resolute Bay for my department's latest offering of courses for the Certificate in Educational Leadership in Nunavut.

Principals, vice-principals, teachers, and learning coaches learned about improving language and literacy achievement, building positive and inclusive school communities, traditional and contemporary views on leadership, and reflective practices in leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that 14 of the 41 participants enrolled in these courses were Inuit educators. As with previous course offerings for this certificate, I am pleased that a course was taught entirely in Inuktitut, focusing on the history and worldview of Inuit, with an emphasis on culture and educational history.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, these master's degree level courses, accredited by the University of Prince Edward Island, are designed to provide qualified teachers and educational leaders in Nunavut with the history, knowledge, and skills to provide culturally-based, effective, and responsive leadership in the school system.

Mr. Speaker, providing high-quality education in Nunavut must go beyond just the classroom. This is why my department continues its commitment to provide training for Nunavut's educators, providing them with opportunity to enhance their instructional and leadership

development.

Mr. Speaker, these courses in educational leadership ensure our school leaders and educators have strong leadership skills capable of guiding students and staff toward a promising future. I encourage my fellow MLAs to encourage our school leaders to participate in these leadership opportunities and continue developing their careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 158 – 5(2):  
Sexual and Reproductive Health  
Awareness Week**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important for all Nunavummiut to have access to age-appropriate and accurate information about their sexual and reproductive health.

As sexual and reproductive health is part of our overall well-being, we must support and encourage all community members, no matter their age, to talk openly about all aspects of sexual health, from healthy sexuality and STI testing, to talking with our children about sexuality, consent, and birth control. We all have a vital role to play in keeping our communities and children well informed on the topic. Mr. Speaker, awareness campaigns are just one way of opening up the dialogue.

The theme for this year's Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week,

which took place from February 11 to 15, was "Sexual Health at All Ages."

The awareness week kicked off early with the Native Youth Sexual Health Network's Sexy Health Carnival held at Nunavut Arctic College earlier this month. The interactive event provided an opportunity for students from NAC and Inuksuk High School to learn about many topics surrounding sexual health. A few topics that were shared included cultural safety, consent, trauma-informed spaces, Nunavut-specific resources, the need for comprehensive, culturally informed sexual health information, the need for sexual health resources by and for youth, and how nurses can support clients.

Mr. Speaker and members, Health is committed to improving the sexual and reproductive health of Nunavummiut. We are working to provide age-appropriate sexual health promotion messaging in forums like the Inuutsiarniq Literacy Program. Topics addressed include contraception, STIs, puberty, healthy relationships, consent, gender identity, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) identity.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Nunavummiut to attend events such as these when they take place your communities. Let's keep the discussions going, addressing all aspects of sexual and reproductive health. Open discussions about this topic promote well-being and help Nunavummiut stay informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 246 – 5(2): Focus on Children

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, as the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus, I wish to make a statement at this time to inform the House that today many regular members will be asking questions on the same topic. This is to showcase our cooperative and collaborative work which we wish to use as regular members especially related to children.

Our children are our future, as we all know. It has been brought forward as a theme for many years, mainly at graduation ceremonies throughout Nunavut, "Yes, our children and our youth are the future," and this theme is repeated time and again.

Nonetheless, if you look at Canada as a whole, Nunavut has the highest number of youth and children, comprising a major proportion of the overall population if you look at the total population of Nunavut, as we also lead the nation in bearing children.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, if you unpack the statement that children are the future, I guess you can continue that line of thinking. If you look at the young population in Nunavut, the future of Nunavut is our children. If we are to have a bright future, we need to invest in our children today for tomorrow.

>> *Applause*

We have a duty, all of us as elected members, to support our children, to teach our children, to listen to our children, and to protect them from harm. We also have a duty to make sure that the services and programs that our children are accessing or parents are accessing are culturally relevant and include *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Education. There will be other questions on the stream of children and depending on how you chose to look at the situation; we have either cause for optimism or cause for pessimism.

(interpretation) Some of our youth are undergoing stressful situations facing hunger, violence in their homes as well as intoxicated people within their homes. Nonetheless, many young people are bastions of strength, and when you look at these youth, you think that yes, Nunavut has a bright future in some of our eyes.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

(interpretation ends) As I was saying; depending on how you look at the issue of children's wellbeing in Nunavut, there is either cause for optimism or cause for pessimism.

I would like to be optimistic and I would like at the end of our term as MLAs to be even more optimistic because I would like to be able to look back at our terms in this House and say "Yes, we made concrete investments into the future of Nunavut. We made investments that will pay dividends for decades in the future and we made Nunavut a better place for our children."

I'll just end my statement on that note, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to the interesting discussions in this House to come. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 247 – 5(2): A Better Tomorrow for Our Children**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, Premier and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the concerns we hold in Nunavut, and in our communities. We often make the statement that our youth are our future. I have this question that is near and dear to our minds and hearts.

In looking at our future generations, are

we properly teaching our youth? Our children and youth learn not just from their school lessons but also what they observe on a daily basis and as parents, our children are often observing us daily.

Mr. Speaker, as parents and guardians today, are we ensuring that we are providing the proper practices for our children to observe and learn from?

Mr. Speaker, let us ensure we teach our future generations the proper practices by having an open mind, in being dedicated to working with our youth so they will indeed be our future in the upcoming years.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by making this statement: my fellow residents of Kugaaruk are undertaking a vote on whether or not to prohibit alcohol. I urge them to vote by keeping our future generations in mind so they can help them to understand their rights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 248 – 5(2): Support for Youth Sporting Activities**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We take pride in our youth and children and whichever path they take we have to provide support and be proud of them. Further, our youth attend many sports tournaments outside of their communities, and although it is only sports, it provides a great deal of benefits to our youth and children.

When they travel to outlying

communities to play sports, they leave their families behind and we have to voice our pride in our youth when they attend tournaments or other events, so we should always try to shore up their confidence in whichever event they participate in that is a source of enjoyment.

Mr. Speaker, this year our youth came to Iqaluit to partake in a sports tournament, and several youth from my constituency attended this tournament, and I want to voice my pride and share with my colleagues the names of the youth.

From Qikiqtarjuaq, the athletes who went to Iqaluit are Louisa Kooneeliusie, Karen Kooneeliusie, Jenna Aliqatuqtuq, Pasah Kooneeliusie, and Angela Kooneeliusie. I am very proud of these youth and I ask my colleagues to share in expressing our pride in our youth who attend sports tournaments as it has physical and mental benefits, as well as being a healthy activity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 249 – 5(2):  
Feeding Our Children**

**Mr. Akoak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Good afternoon. Firstly, to my children, grandchildren and to my wife, I say "hello." I love you all.

I rise today to speak to the matter of our youth and children, and to ask our government to provide more support to

the youth of Nunavut. There are many children who suffer from hunger when they attend school, so they go to school hungry.

Both the younger and older classes have children who go to school hungry, and they are not the only ones facing that as (interpretation ends) foster children (interpretation) also require our assistance. Please look after them properly, provide support and transportation to our schools so that our children don't get cold.

All students who wish to take a bus should be able to, but sometimes the bus isn't running and I ask our government to lend further support to our children and youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 250 – 5(2):  
Reflecting on Representing  
Nunavummiut**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I also am thankful to you. To the residents of Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, I say "good afternoon."

Now, in this week as we focus on youth and their place in the future of Nunavut, I was reflecting on various themes to voice as all members in this House have been elected to represent our constituents. So firstly, I am proud of all of my colleagues who are fellow elected representatives.

Further, as I thought about this fact, I started recalling that all of us are representing our constituents whether they are male, female, elders, youth, Inuit and non-Inuit. This is my reasoning, Mr. Speaker, to try to think differently about the options we have in Nunavut as we have adopted many non-Inuit practices.

This government will be a public government representing all the citizens, serving them as representatives and providing a voice for our communities in the future.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I remember back in the 1980s when Canada became very much engaged in supporting the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, a system that was based on the lie that some human beings were intricately more valuable than others.

Mr. Speaker, it saddens me to now hear voices here at home that argue in favour of attaching labels to entire categories of people or who argue in favour of exclusion.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, when I meet with other elected legislators from different parts of Canada, I like to point out that our democracy is one where an Inuk woman like myself can represent my non-Inuit constituents with the same commitment, dedication, strength, and passion that every single one of my non-Inuit colleagues in this House bring to the floor every single day when they speak about their communities and constituencies, all of which have a majority Inuit population.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my comments.

Thank you. We have time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I noted last week in respect to the issue of caribou harvesting in the Kivalliq, I need no lectures from anyone about the importance of standing up for Inuit rights.

I'm well aware of the dark elements in our country's history and I'm well aware of the need for government to focus its efforts on improving the lives of those who are still struggling with the negative aspects of our colonial past.

(interpretation ends) However, I strongly believe that the best way forward is together. Messages matter and the worst message for all of our children is one to hear which labels and demonizes entire groups of people as being less legitimate because of their race or other inalienable characteristics.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 20th [anniversary] of the creation of our territory, let us support bicultural and bilingual for our very democratic, public and inclusive system of government, and I believe that for the future of Nunavut. Thank you so much, and I ask members to join me today in doing so for your children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 251 – 5(2): Nuna School in Apex**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all the people watching the proceedings and my constituents. I will be making a congratulatory statement today and I am proud of the students at Nanook School. I represent them as well, so I will make a statement as to how they are progressing.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce Nuna School, which is run out of Nanook School in Apex, as a land-based approach to achieving educational curricula where kindergarten students are out on the land every morning and older students participate in the afternoon. This place-based approach to cultural curriculum provides *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* experiences while students are learning through active creative play.

Mr. Speaker, Nuna School provides many opportunities for our younger students to learn from elders and from language specialists and school counsellors Kootoo Alainga, Martha Peter, and Kalapik Pishuktie.

Grade 1/2 teacher Maggie Kuniliusie has been taking Nanook School students outside for snowshoe, tidal, and tundra hikes for years. Time and time again she has seen the benefits of students spending time on the land.

Kindergarten teacher Breanne Card has been studying the concept and practice

of outdoor kindergarten since 2007 and has years of outdoor education experience as a teacher and outdoor education specialist.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of the land-based program are endless. Since the Nuna School has been up and running, Nanook School educators have noticed that the students are sick less often, they have improved balance and stamina, and they demonstrate excellent teamwork and communication, and have advanced their problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Nuna School is an Inuktitut/English bilingual program and helps to preserve Inuktitut, providing opportunities for learning advanced vocabulary in both languages as students are learning with the seasons and what the land offers in each season.

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

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

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

Currently the students are very interested in the concept of camouflage. Nuna students can tell you that camouflage means to blend in with or become the same colour as the *nuna*.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in this House to celebrate and support land-based and cultural curriculum programming. Please join me and

applaud the Nuna School program, which is inspiring our children to learn. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 252 – 5(2):  
Keeping Our Children Safe**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to speak of the issue of child abuse in Nunavut.

In my member's statement on February 19, I called on the Government of Nunavut to create a campaign to raise awareness of frontline workers as well as parents and children.

We know the rate of reported child abuse in Nunavut is ten times the national average. We know that a vast majority of abuse goes unreported. I believe we need to work together to make change.

I believe we must arm our children with knowledge that might save them from being victimized. We teach our young children all sorts of ways to keep themselves safe. We teach them about kitchen safety and about road safety. Unfortunately teaching children to keep their bodies safe from sexual abuse is not taught until much older and sometimes too late.

Specialists have suggested that children under 10 are the most at risk of sexual abuse. We must encourage parents to teach young children about body safety, to help children become less vulnerable

to sexual abuse. A few basics that all children must know are:

- Teach children that some body parts are private, and by this I mean tell children that their private parts are called private because they're not for everyone to see;
- Teach children body boundaries. We must children matter of "factly" that no one should touch their private and that no one should ask them to someone else's. We much teach children that body secrets are not okay.

Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that most abusers will tell children to keep the abuse a secret. We must tell our children that no matter what anyone tells them, body secrets are not okay and they should always tell you if someone tries to make them keep a body secret.

Finally, we must teach children how to get out of scary and uncomfortable situations. Some children are uncomfortable with telling people no, especially older peers or adults. We must tell children that it's okay to tell an adult they have to leave if something feels wrong and we must help give them words to get out of uncomfortable situations.

Mr. Speaker, we all have a role to play in keeping children safe, but we must also give them the knowledge to keep themselves safe as well, and I encourage our government to pass this message on to all parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 253 – 5(2): 2019  
Canada Winter Games**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My *aikuluk*, I would like you to have a good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today is the second week of the 2019 Canada Winter Games but it is the first day of a very fine person up from Grise Fiord that will be competing in the badminton round along with our Sanikiluaq colleague's.

Mr. Derek Akeegok is a very young energetic young boy that is down in Red Deer right now, and I want to wish him very good luck on all the competitions and have lots of fun while you're playing. It is something that you will cherish for life.

I also wanted to acknowledge this is not the first time an Akeegok has been in the Canada Winter Games. Previous to that, his older brother was down there too following his older brother's footsteps.

(interpretation ends) Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention the mother, Nevee Kakkee, who initiated the program approximately seven years ago offering (interpretation ends) badminton (interpretation) for local players in Grise Fiord.

She has accomplished a great deal with the formation, and I am very proud of the athletes in Grise Fiord that play the sport of badminton. They do a lot of hard work to be able to attend, and they

compete quite hard against the bigger communities and cities, where they can even win so I tend to take great pride in their accomplishments in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

**Member's Statement 254 – 5(2): New  
Constituency Assistant**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the residents of Iqaluit-Sinaa that Moosie Qaunirq is my constituency assistant now. Anyone can call Moosie at my office anytime. Everyone knows her. She is from Iqaluit. Once we finish our sitting here, I will be doing house visits. It is great that I will be seeing the people of Iqaluit-Sinaa, and I will be recognizing a visitor later on. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement 255 – 5(2):  
Announcing New Grandson**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform everyone we have a new grandchild. He was born 8 lbs., 7 oz. We have 15 male grandchildren now and 5 female grandchildren. There are 20 of them and I'm only 21 years old, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize

the athletes in Red Deer, Alberta from Nunavut. There are three athletes from Coral Harbour. There are two hockey players and their names are Owen Anguteealok and Chase Herron. Kyshton Kylai is there. I'm not sure how you say table tennis in Inuktitut, but he is there to compete in table tennis. It sounds like he is winning all of his competitions. We are very proud of him.

When Inuit don't even have a good gymnasium where they can play, they still compete at the top. Imagine if we had good sporting facilities. We would probably be high up there in the world of sports, so I'm very proud of our athletes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I think we are all very proud of our young people when they go and compete in sports. Even though they don't always have the best facilities up here they are always some of the most able. We are very proud of them.

Members' Statements. Let us proceed. Replies to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

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

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think everybody would recognize him if he was talking now. I'm very proud that Moses Atagoyuk is here right now. Welcome, Moses.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Atagoyuk, please feel welcome in

your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

**An Hon. Member:** Oh no!

>> *Laughter*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He was already recognized but I would also like to recognize Moses Atagoyuk, and to add, Atagoyuk's descendants, I have been very welcomed by the Atagoyuk family and I'm married into their family, and I would just like to say thank you.

Also, I remember when I was with CBC he was at CBC as well when he was still kind of young. We remember Sinnaksautit and we would listen to his voice sometimes. He still sounds young when he is talking on the radio.

I thank him for being here and I thank them again for the warm welcome I get from his family. Thank you very much. He has helped all the people of Nunavut a great deal through his work at CBC. Thank you very much.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names, and if I can, I would also like to welcome Mr. Atagoyuk. When you are out and around in the community of Iqaluit the Legislative Assembly is a great place to come and visit when we are meeting. Come by the legislature.

Going back to the orders of the day. Oral

Questions. Member for Arviat North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Main.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 326 – 5(2): The Value of Student Assessments

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for several years now, concerns have been raised regarding the levels of education that Nunavut students are actually achieving.

We find young students in elementary school struggling with basic literacy and math, we have young students in grade 7 and 8 who have not acquired the skills they will need to take on academic subjects when they enter high school, and unfortunately, we have high school graduates who find themselves without the necessary competencies to proceed in the postsecondary programs either at the Nunavut Arctic College or universities elsewhere.

My first question, Mr. Speaker: can the minister clearly and briefly describe how his department measures and assesses student competencies, how the information from those assessments is compiled and analysed, and where the results are published so that parents, educators and students themselves can be aware of the actual levels of competencies they are achieving or not achieving as the case may be?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

there was more than one question in but if would like to respond, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that question. I was quickly trying to calculate the answer. (interpretation ends) Part 8 of the *Education Act* authorizes me, as minister, to establish and maintain a program for a Nunavut-wide assessments and our department has been working on an assessment evaluation and reporting policy and framework and this will be used to guide assessment practices in the territory and strengthen the Nunavut education system from kindergarten through grade 12. The assessment handbook in relation to this framework is being developed and shortly thereafter it would be rolled out along with this assessment policy and framework this fall in September 2019.

(interpretation) Nonetheless, regarding the actual question related to the studies, I am not sure if the statistics are published and where you could find the data requested. Perhaps if the subject relates to (interpretation ends) report cards (interpretation) that are provided to parents are a separate assessment tool that I am aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a quick review of the Department of Education's business plans show references to many of the things that the minister just mentioned. It's clear that the department has invested significantly

in developing Nunavut-specific benchmark competencies in such areas as language arts, literacy, and math for various grade levels. More recent business plans show that, as the minister mentions, these are implemented in schools Nunavut-wide.

Under the *Education Act*, section 126 requires the minister to table an annual report on the education system in Nunavut. The most recent report for 2015-16 does not contain any information on the results of any Nunavut-wide student assessments.

Just to be clear, Mr. Speaker, I'm not asking for the details on each individual student; I'm asking for information which pertains to the school system as a whole.

Can the minister please explain: what is the value of these assessment activities if the results are not made publicly available so that parents and students can know whether the relevant benchmark levels are being reached? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. We're working on trying to revamp our student assessment tools and measurement. With that, I think the annual report that he speaks of, I am making motions to table our next one, which will be out hopefully in the very near future, but in terms of getting more information around school-wide,

Nunavut-wide results, we will look into what details can be provided and not leaving names and personal information. We will look at that and see if we can incorporate those into future annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for being willing to look into, I think, this matter, but as a regular member, I'm looking for more than that. I would like the minister to commit to publishing the results of Nunavut's student assessments for the most recent academic year. The minister could answer this with a yes or no. Will the minister commit to publishing the results of the student assessments for the most recent academic year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for his third question. As to how this would apply or the design that is something we would have to review first... (interpretation ends) It's hard for me to say yes or no to the member's question, especially since we will have to decide or determine what that would look like essentially, but I'm willing to take a look at what that would look like and report back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 327 – 5(2): Gjoa Haven  
Airport**

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

As the minister is aware, the Municipality of Gjoa Haven recently prepared and submitted a proposal for upgrades to the Gjoa Haven Airport which are intended to support the community's emerging tourism system sector and the discovery of the wrecks of the Franklin Expedition.

In January of this year I wrote in the strong support of the community's proposal and the minister has now had the opportunity to review the correspondence with care, which I tabled in the House last week for the benefit of all members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when I can expect to receive his reply to my letter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The letter was received at the end of January and Feb 12. It made it to my office. We have the correspondence and we are preparing a response. We hope to get in contact with the mayor and to meet him as well regarding this letter. I want to prepare a complete response. Right now I cannot tell you when I will be responding, but this is a work in progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Parks Canada recently wrote to the municipality recommending that support be requested from either the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program or the National Trade Corridors Fund.

Last week my colleague from Amittuq spoke about the close to \$10 million that was recently announced in the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program, funding for upgrades to the Hall Beach Airport. For the record, can the minister confirm if Gjoa Haven's proposal has or will be submitted for consideration under the Airports Capital Assistance Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As we all know we have 25 airports and runways throughout the territory, and each of them are graded and in terms of where its status is. Further as members might be aware, during the capital sittings here, I committed to updating our 20 year needs assessment for our transportation needs, and that's what I am working towards. In terms of putting an actual submission for Gjoa Haven under the ACAP Program, I have not done that or my department has not done that to date. There are more airstrips that are in dire need compared to Gjoa Haven's current condition, which from my department's perspective is fair. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know he's answered this question but I will ask it anyway. Last week my colleague from Uqqummiut spoke about the proposal for new marine infrastructure in Qikiqtarjuaq that has been submitted to the National Trade Corridors Fund. For the record, can the minister confirm if Gjoa Haven's proposal has or will be submitted for consideration under the National Trade Corridors Fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Under the National Trade Corridors Fund, for the Gjoa Haven airport or marine infrastructure, that has not been taken into consideration by our government.

We are looking at more option. I think for Gjoa Haven there is an excellent opportunity as the discovery of the Franklin Ships, there are now times where the Inuit organization and Parks Canada should be in negotiations in terms of what benefits can come to that community.

I think that is a very good venue to look at those options. For the marine infrastructure side, as I stated last week in my statement, every community will be getting a community scoping for our marine infrastructure. I encourage, when our department goes to the community, all of this is mentioned and I want to thank the member for continuing to raise

this to my attention and I encourage that.

It's going through different programs or processes that we'll take a look at, but under the National Trade Corridors Fund that I want to confirm that Gjoa Haven is not in that consideration under our government's proposals. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 328 – 5(2): Nunavut's High Birth Rate**

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

First of all, I love children very much and it's very good when somebody has a child, but in Nunavut we have the highest birth rates when we look at it Canada-wide. In one year 1,000 new babies are born and there are 365 days in a year. That would equate to three or four newborns every day.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, when our session ends on March 13, this means approximately 33 newborn babies, somewhere between 33 and 35 babies. So, my question to the Minister of Health is: in looking at the next 20 upcoming years, what will these newborn children be doing?

We face a severe housing shortage, limited employment and career opportunities and has the government taken these challenges into consideration or incorporated them into existing plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about our growth in population, as I had mentioned it in my budget address from my finance hat, the other, it's an exciting time. The more population we have the more economic activity we have. It is going to continue to increase the opportunities for our communities to diversify any revenues or income associated. With regard to health specifically, when we're looking at the continuation of a very young population, we need to make sure we focus our endeavours and our health promotion activities to make sure that we're addressing youth.

There have been a lot of comments earlier today about the health and wellbeing of our children and that is something I know with the Department of Education, the Department of Family Services and the Department of Health, we work in conjunction with each other on a number of different initiatives to make sure that, again as I mentioned in a statement earlier, the sexual wellbeing, respecting yourself.

With regard to how we're going to continue to provide health care in the communities with a growing population, that is something we're always taking a look at and making sure we have sufficient staff and resources in communities and working with the challenges that we have on recruitment and retention.

I'm not sure what information specifically the member is looking for but we are aware of the continued growth of the territory and it is always

factored into any of the decisions that we make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for responding. However, looking at the sexual program, it was for only one week, February 11 to 15, sexual health of all ages. Looking at it, I was questioning myself where the Inuit IQ was incorporated. I know in our history, because of lack of resources, if a child was born and it was a girl, they would be left out to freeze. Inuit were always conscious of scarce resources.

Nunavut is seeing more children becoming parents without parenting skills; children giving birth and raising children without these skills. Is the Department of Health educating these children our parenting skills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although that week of recognition of sexual health is from February 11 to 15, that's just one week of focus from a national perspective. We work on that every day, the Sexual Health Framework for Action, which completed its five-year implementation in March of 2017. We're continuing to work on promoting sexual health and preventing disease.

We've got Nunavut-specific, and that's where I believe the member is going, of training and resources for community

health representatives and frontline health educators across the territory. We want to make sure that we're continuing to target education and awareness initiatives with all types of sexual health, including the well-being of our children and making sure that we have age-appropriate materials. That was one of the things that I was talking to earlier.

We want to make sure that we're not introducing some of these concepts to children too young. We want to make sure that we're using age-appropriate educational opportunities; the [irespectmyself.ca](http://irespectmyself.ca) website, which is reviewed and updated consistently to take advantage of any new resources available in the territory, in partnership with the Embrace Life Council and Voice Found, a national non-profit organization working on sexual abuse prevention initiatives.

We're developing "Our Children, Our Responsibility" training resource specific to child sexual abuse prevention training that is made for and in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the minister for responding to me. However, Inuit children are taught to be innocent. In fact each of us remembers that if there were serious topics that were going to be discussed, we used to be told to leave the house or leave the room where adults were saying. In your statement you said that topics addressed include contraception, STIs, puberty, healthy relationships, consent, gender identity,

and lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBT) identity.

I believe in procreation, don't get me wrong, but young mothers giving birth...I don't know what the English word is. After they give birth, their mental and physical health is affected. Is there a program in dealing with young mothers so they understand there's a physical and mental change when they give birth? I come from a long line of Inuit midwifery, including the fact that the hips have to part when they give birth and the muscles.

My question is: where in the plan is the Inuit IQ with the Inuit young mothers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hicke.

**Hon. George Hicke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the initiatives that I spoke to a little bit earlier are targeting as children go through puberty and go through different stages of their development and to promote healthy decision-making processes with sexuality. Again, it goes back to the "About Me" portion of the Inuutsiarniq Literacy Program that we partner with the Department of Education to make sure that there is age appropriate sexual health promotion.

I believe the English word that I understood from the issue you were talking about is postpartum depression where not just young mothers but any mother at any age can go through. There are a lot of hormones and challenges of being a new mother balancing work and home. It's very challenging and we want to make sure that anyone who is feeling

any type of additional stress does seek out resources that are available through our community health representatives in our community. Our staff are trained and continue to be trained on how to identify different aspects of not feeling well themselves, different symptoms and how to deal with that to work with the young mother on how to deal with this life-changing event that they have just experienced.

I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to remind all my colleagues that sometimes when you are asking a question, you tend to speak fast and with the minister's eagerness to respond to a question, it makes him speak faster. Please keep in mind that we do go through the interpreters and because of that sometimes I am quiet so that we have full participation, so that Nunavummiut can hear and to allow the interpreters to conclude what they're interpreting.

Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

### **Question 329 – 5(2): Overcrowded Classrooms**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pangnirtung and my colleagues.

This afternoon I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that the classrooms in Pangnirtung's schools are often very

overcrowded which makes it difficult for students to focus on their schoolwork and for teachers to do their job. My first question is: can the minister confirm whether he is aware of the situation and, if he is, what plans he has to address it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Last year the Pangnirtung DEA invited me to come to their community and I had a meeting with them. One of the topics of discussion was the overcrowding at the school. That is for the elementary school. Right now, for 2017-18, we are looking at the utilization rates of the schools. The student population for Aluki Elementary School is at a 74 percent utilization rate, and for Attagoyuk School it is at 55 percent.

We use this system with the help of the local district education authority and whether we can move some of the students to the other school in order to alleviate the overcrowding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his explanation, as well as issues the minister has heard about as this seems to be a barrier or obstacle.

Some of the students, based on the information conveyed to me, are using the computer room as a classroom and

some students have to use that room as a classroom, as they have to divide up the classes in order to accommodate all the students due to the overcrowding of the classrooms.

I want to speak to this matter as well, but my question will be posed in English. (interpretation ends) I understand the *Education Act* specifies a maximum student to educator ratio. Currently this formula states that we must have one educator for every 13 or 14 students. Unfortunately this formula does not have any real impact on the number of students that a teacher may have in their classroom at any one time.

Can the minister explain if there are any policies that are in place to ensure that there is a limit on the maximum number of students in a classroom?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) We use the cabinet-approved formula and as we calculated, it's well within the national formula, but in terms of if there's a specific number of students that are limited per one educator, I can't say whether or not we have that, but I could look into that and report back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To reiterate, (interpretation ends) overcrowding in a classroom is not a good environment for learning and we cannot expect to concentrate when they are being pressed in from all sides. The more individuals in the same place, the more disruption will occur. Will the minister commit to limiting the number of students in a classroom to a safe and comfortable number so that our children can learn and our teachers can teach?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. We are still reviewing this (interpretation ends) formula (interpretation) and how this formula will be established.

However, I can state as an example that the numbers of teachers and students are increasing throughout Nunavut. And further, in light of Nunavut's population growth, we have to conduct annual recruitment drives to hire more teachers as we face teacher shortages. This is part of the problem that we are faced with up to now.

Nonetheless, I want to encourage our local DEAs to look for more teachers. However, we must also keep the student to teacher ratio in trying to keep up with the student numbers. That is what I can state here, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Question 330 – 5(2): Sexual Education in Nunavut Schools**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my member's statement I did mention that parents must play a role in teaching their children about their body parts and how to protect their rights, but it must be reinforced in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, all provinces in Canada provide the public with sexual education curriculum. Unfortunately I was not able to find any details on Nunavut's information on sexual education.

I would like to ask the minister: what sexual education curriculum is currently in place in Nunavut schools and specifically what is being taught in what grade? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Lightstone, who are your questions to? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** My apologies, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, my question is for the minister responsible for our schools, the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I thank you. (interpretation) Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the member's question. In line with *Turaaqtavut* and our priorities to address family violence and sexual abuse, my department has

been strengthening child sexual abuse prevention efforts. One specific way is the "Be Safe." It's a personal safety program and it's geared towards children aged 5 to 9. This is focused on preventing child sexual abuse and it's an approved grade 4 curriculum program in Nunavut schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really glad to hear that about the "Be Safe" program and how it is included in the grade 4 curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I had also called on the government to create a campaign to raise awareness of child sex abuse to all frontline workers as well as parents and children. I also mentioned today about the need for children to have the knowledge that might save them or prevent them from becoming victimized.

My question to the minister today is: will he commit to creating an awareness campaign for teachers as well as parents and children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the member for his strong advocacy against child sexual abuse. Our department is committed in providing all school staff the skills, knowledge, and resources that they need in order identify to help students develop protective skills. With that, we do ongoing campaigns to highlight the "Be

Safe” kits, which have been translated to all official languages. The text has been made into Nunavut-specific content and distributed to all elementary schools.

With that, we have trained all grade 4 level teachers as well as *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* counsellors to deliver this specific program, “Be Safe,” and continue to provide ongoing support. I think it’s an ongoing campaign and I look forward to working with the member to address this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is very specific. I mentioned that it’s very important for frontline workers to understand the red flags and symptoms of child sexual abuse. I would like to ask the minister specifically if every teacher receives training on how to identify symptoms of child sexual abuse and if every teacher is given instruction on the proper procedures of what to do in an instance where a child does come forward with allegations of child sexual abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for his question. Right now I can say the grade 4 teachers have been trained with this “Be Safe” program. I stand to be corrected, but I’m pretty sure our department has also collaborated and

heard from other jurisdictions. There is a “Good Touch Bad Touch” program in Nunavik that I’m pretty sure has been very successful in terms of getting all of our school staff trained to be able to identify. I’ll see what that would entail, but I think it’s worth pursuing that and I hope to report a good response to my fellow member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 331 – 5(2): Territorial Cost of Living**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance and they concern the issue of the high cost of living in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in his Budget Address last week, the minister made a number of references to the high cost of living in our territory. (interpretation ends) The minister stated that “We aim to minimize the effect of federal carbon pricing on the cost of living and doing business in Nunavut.”

As one of my colleagues pointed out last week, at least one other northern Canadian jurisdiction has announced plans for a carbon tax rebate. Can the minister provide a clear description today of what specific options he is looking at to address the impact of carbon tax on Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, in my response last week, that I was hesitant to go into too much detail on what types of options we are considering, just on the basis that I could make mention of a program that we're considering where the naysayers and the trolls could be out there throwing rocks already before we even look at that.

Looking at some potential tax rebates, looking at maybe programs for people looking at putting in other methods of power, whether it be solar or small windmills, looking at potential lowering of corporate taxes, looking at homeowner fuel rebates, that has been done in the past. The main focus that we want to focus on and for the member's direct response, we want to make sure that the revenue that we gain from this goes back to the people that are most impacted by it. We want to make sure that the people that are most influenced by the increased costs due to the carbon tax implementation get the benefits back. We want to make sure that this is as cost-neutral as possible.

We also have to take into consideration the increased costs to the government; the increased costs to providing public housing, to providing power to our public housing units. We want to make sure that we balance it as fair as possible and although it's not in place until July of this year, and I will be coming forward to this House when we have decided on some avenues, that we will look at how this revenue gets back into the pockets of Nunavummiut. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) One of the most serious consequences of our high cost of living is the impact that it has on the rates of child poverty, which (interpretation) was brought up this morning, (interpretation ends) in the territory, which are already unacceptably high. The minister's budget speech indicated that 40 percent of Nunavummiut turn to the government's Income Assistance Program at least once a year.

In a recent article the national *Globe and Mail* newspaper reported that 70 percent of Inuit preschoolers are food insecure. Can the minister clearly explain whether or not his budget includes additional funding to increase the food allowance rates under the government's income assistance regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Family Services is looking at increased benefits for people on income assistance. I don't know the details of where those benefits come from. I apologize, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize to the member. I just don't have that level of detail. I just know that they are looking at increased benefits. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. I look forward to getting the

information from him later or hopefully soon.

(interpretation ends) The federal budget will be coming out in a few weeks, and I believe that it is always a good idea to remind the federal government that Inuit do not live on reservations and we pay income taxes like other Canadians.

Can the minister indicate what discussions he has had with his federal counterpart regarding ways to address the high cost of living in Nunavut through enhancements to the Canada Child Benefit and the Northern Residents Deduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did have an opportunity in December to meet with Minister Morneau along with my other finance minister colleagues from across the country. There are a number of topics that were brought up and one of the overall themes that I brought up was the high cost of living in Nunavut, particularly in relation to the carbon tax, homeowners' fuel, and the transportation costs for cargo and for people. Thankfully the federal government did acknowledge with the aviation fuel being exempt from the carbon tax was a positive step.

With regard to specifically on what different topics I had with the federal minister, there were a number of different things. We want to make sure from a food security standpoint, like the member brings up, that we have breakfast programs for our schools.

There is a topic I made the other day that communities have opportunities to apply for funding or schools can apply for funding for lunch programs in their schools as well. We don't have dedicated funding for that, but we do have project-specific funding that would encompass lunch programs in a school.

We want to make sure that at the end of the day, the food security... . If you look at the price disparity between communities, we have all recognized that the Nutrition North program doesn't work for Nunavut. That was one of the other things that I brought up with the minister. We want to make sure that the hard-working Nunavut residents that are going to work every day are getting their just due. We often talk in here about the working poor, of people who have the expenses of going to work of having child care and rent and all the associated costs of trying to move ahead in life.

We have programs through Family Services, soon to come to Human Resources from Executive and Intergovernmental on training programs for Nunavut residents and for people who are on income support to get them off that reliance and out into the workforce.

We look at the postings of employment opportunities across the territory and not every community, as Mr. Main has frequently brought up, there's not always an equal level of opportunities in every community, but where there are opportunities, we need to make sure that there are training and educational opportunities so that Nunavummiut can access those jobs.

We need to make sure that through our

school system, we're preparing our graduates to enter the workforce in a contributing manner and have opportunities to work their way up the ladder if they so desire.

I believe there are a number of different ways where we're looking to address the low-income population and I feel very strongly, through *Turaaqtavut*, that this government will continue to focus on our most vulnerable population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 332 – 5(2): Specialized Training for Social Workers**

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

I have been listening intently to my colleague, Mr. Lightstone, regarding sexual abuse of children, and it's a very sad fact that some children across Nunavut experience severe trauma, including sexual abuse or violence from a family member or suicide in the family or the violent death of a parent or family member. Being able to provide support to children and youth who have suffered through these kinds of experiences takes special skills and training to be able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, we really depend a lot on social workers to address so many pressing issues like sexual abuse. I'm wondering if the minister can clarify whether any of Nunavut's social workers are specially trained to work with

children who have suffered extreme cases of abuse, violence, or trauma. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

### **Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. Today I can say that I am very happy to hear what I am hearing that if we don't help the children that are going through hardship that it will affect them throughout their lives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I can say that our department has mandatory training for our frontline workers and that if they want to work as a social worker in our territory or as employees of Family Services it is mandatory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if mandatory training meant mandatory to be specially trained in that area or mandatory that they have to be trained all across the board and it is something perhaps she can clarify, but I understand that some service organizations like the RCMP have specialized training and it is available for peace officers to learn to interview, to counsel, to investigate allegations of sexual abuse or violence specifically involving children. I'm wondering if the minister can confirm whether or not similar training is available for Nunavut's social workers who may be involved in identifying,

addressing, and dealing with these kinds of situations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The department, as stated, there is mandatory training for child sexual abuse for our social workers. Our department currently spends \$269,000 each year for child sexual abuse initiatives. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Children or youth who have suffered from sexual abuse, violence, or other major traumatic events need help and support outside of the legal systems which are there to protect them and, hopefully wherever possible, to bring their attackers to face justice.

Can the minister clarify what kinds of counselling services are specifically available to children and youth where they can talk about their experiences or the effects of their experiences with individuals who have the appropriate skills to work with the younger age groups? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. I am very excited. The minister responsible the other day made

a member's statement of the Umingmak Child and Youth Support Centre. That's going to be a one-stop shop for children who have experienced abuse. I also know from experience, as we know the high rates, that unfortunately sometimes they're interviewed by multiple. This centre is going to be one-stop where all the people who provide the service and support for youth and children are in one facility. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

### **Question 333 – 5(2): Language Promotion for Children**

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, this is the Year of Indigenous Languages and in the minister's statement, he invited us to celebrate International Mother Language Day. We all know that languages are strongest when we learn them at an early age and continue to use them as we grow older.

Can the minister describe what programs his department offers specifically for children to promote their Inuit language use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. The Department of Culture and Heritage has various funding programs available, and residents of Nunavut apply for funding through the (interpretation ends) grants and contributions (interpretation) programs.

Within the department there are different programs specifically for funding cultural events or categories specific to (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values, (interpretation) as well as specific to *Inuit Qaujimaqatunqangit* or for specific language programming, or even programs designed for our elders or youth.

With these types of funding programs, there is an annual RFP sent out asking for proposals and to keep residents informed about the funding programs they can apply to for funding their programs. Additionally, our employees at the Department of Culture and Heritage now travel to communities that rarely apply for funding to explain the process so that they can receive funding.

As well, they identify the different programs that organizations can apply to, and I want to also reaffirm the toll-free number, 1-866-934-2035, our residents can call into or send out an email information request to [chfunds@gov.nu.ca](mailto:chfunds@gov.nu.ca). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, minister, for clearly identifying the

programs that can be accessed for mothers and children, as well as elders and youth. You responded to the question I was going to ask.

Now, with regard to the Department of Education, they also produce or actually they are responsible for the delivery of Inuktitut language programming in our schools. However, when students return home from school, our children and here I will use smaller communities as an example.

Has this matter been considered to look at optional studies that could help our children encourage usage of the language, such as different books or materials that can be created using our traditional Inuit practices?

Can the minister describe what future investments they are contemplating in looking at our options such as developing Inuit linguistic programs using this example of reading materials, through films and other audiovisual materials like cartoons or short films?

Has the Department of Culture and Heritage taken these types of mediums into consideration to preserve our language and to strengthen the Inuktitut language? We all know that our children love to watch cartoons, and they are causing them to learn only English. I am not saying that I am against cartoons, but rather how we can strengthen our language and cultural pride in our youth. I wonder if the Department of Culture and Heritage has looked at these ideas to try to strengthen our Inuktitut language and to show the language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question about language. Now, I wish to respond again by stating “use your language,” as this is the best way to preserve one’s language and ensuring the language is heard on a daily basis to our fellow Nunavummiut and additionally, to have the Department of Culture and Heritage focus on language matters.

We have a languages plan that we are trying to implement in collaboration with several departments within this government along with outside agencies. This can include private businesses, where we can provide up to \$5,000 to local businesses on an annual basis, and I am happy to say that we must also speak our language at home as parents, as grandfathers and grandmothers.

Although we can’t force anyone to speak their language within their homes, the work is done in the departments and schools. Let’s use our language every day. As well, some of the work is spent producing reading materials, such as the principals to guide healthy living. We have collaborated with the Department of Health to produce some of these books, and by April 2019, the production run will start and it has different levels and reading comprehension requirements. We want to publish more books to promote our language and to ensure it is highly visible.

This is just a portion of the overall plan, but there are many categories we can use to prop up our language or to disseminate new ideas that we want Inuit to hear about using our own language.

Furthermore, we are also preparing to host a languages conference in March on various linguistic topics, where we will welcome all topics related to language.

To reiterate, we must use our language daily, and as our colleague stated previously, where he encouraged both the department and Nunavummiut, to go ahead and use our language, so we too must encourage our residents to continue using Inuktitut in their homes as this is the best way to teach children our language. If they hear it and listen to it daily, then this will encourage them to speak it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. That is a good response; one that I can take pride in as he clearly outlined the details.

Indeed, we have to take pride and honour our traditions, our culture and language which has no equivalents as our culture is quite different from other cultures in the globe. I, too, in having grown up amongst elders, kept my language as I spoke it every day and this is why I want to keep Inuktitut visible for Nunavummiut.

>> *Applause*

Now, in saying that we must not forget our elders as well, and the person sitting behind me is now an elder. In looking at our youth, we are now living in a manner totally alien to our past cultural practices as they are growing up differently.

We, as the older generations, want to keep our Inuit culture and language, but with the reality we face, this is why I am adamant about voicing this fact. The young people today are now having children at such a young age, so we must prioritize the availability of parenting courses or proper child-rearing practices to teach these young parents. I believe that we should be doing that.

Now, this is an ongoing concern held by many people, and as I mentioned earlier, the young people are now the main contributors to Nunavut's birth rate, which was stated to be the highest in the country. Now, in stating that fact, I now ask the minister: can the programs that are specific to our youth linguistic programming be restructured within the department, to use this example, through artistic programs or social interaction courses or even physical activities such as sports?

We must search for all avenues that assist us in preserving Inuktitut for the residents of Nunavut whom we represent, to ensure our children are using their language properly and to retain their language, as the culture is stronger with its language. How do we ensure these are restarted through the Department of Culture and Heritage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This language debate encompasses the breadth of linguistic challenges as it relates to Nunavut, and to its residents and with legislation to protect the Inuktitut language, this government foundation of

legislation is one area.

However, Nunavummiut have to enforce their personal rules in the home related to language, and to use Inuktitut daily at home, and this can become a good starting point to retain the language. The government isn't the sole arbiter of language provision and teaching.

However, the government can provide assistance, yes, especially related to funding requests, but even with these funding programs, nonetheless, due to the immensity of the challenge, we cannot do it unilaterally. However, what I can reiterate here is that we require everyone's cooperation in Nunavut in order to accomplish this and if we are going to make it successful for our children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please note that the time for question period has expired. Mr. Mikkungwak.

### **Motion 025 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

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

>> *Laughter*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried and the time allotted for oral questions is extended by 30 minutes starting now.

Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Question 334 – 5(2): The Need for More Foster Parents**

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

First, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the staff of the Department of Family Services and especially to the social workers who face many difficult and challenging situations. They need our support. One way to support them is by becoming a foster parent to provide a temporary home for a child or youth in need.

Can the minister clarify what steps her department is taking to recruit more foster parents in the foster care system to provide safe homes for children and youth who need them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Family Services annually does a call out to encourage individuals to become foster parents, but also we have now foster parents coordinators who I am sure will also be doing additional call out for foster parents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to note that ever since Baker Lake became an unrestricted community with respect to the purchase of alcohol, domestic problems seem to be on the rise with more and more children and youth suffering the consequences.

Can the minister describe how alcohol use within a family situation is assessed to determine whether children or youth need to be removed from their home and placed in foster care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There are many ways for where the Department of Family Services looks at apprehension. There are several criteria. Is the child at risk? Has there been a report to a Family Services' social worker? Of course, which children have been apprehended and how do we deal with that child? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, when there is no extended family or no foster parent available within a community, children and youth who have been removed from a family situation for their own safety have to travel away from their hometown. This simply adds to their trauma.

Will the minister commit to launching a new campaign to recruit more foster parents in all of our Nunavut

communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I certainly will. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Question 335 – 5(2): Establishment and Support for Daycares**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow community members in Igloodik and my colleagues.

Today I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

In Nunavut we have daycares and many communities have been trying to get daycares for many years. It takes a long time to open them. Trying to set up daycares is good. It really helps the economy. Along these lines I would like to ask: when you’re trying to set up a daycare in a community, what support services are there and what rules are in place? What legal requirements exist in order to have children at a daycare? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The daycare program is run

through the Department of Education, and they assist the communities to hire employees and to provide training programs or provide assistance with daycare regulations or operational issues such as financial management or daycare operations. However, to clarify, Nunavut Arctic College is another facility that can be used to offer more daycare provider training locally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, as an example, in looking at the daycare facilities here in Iqaluit, as quite a number of people go to Iqaluit to move here, to start employment and not just specific to Iqaluit, it becomes noticeable in looking at our daycares in Iqaluit that the majority of positions are grabbed by transient workers from outside Nunavut.

Now, you mentioned that the daycare providers must receive the proper training prior to working in daycares. There are requirements that must be met to ensure proper care of our children. Now, from what I understand about daycares, they can hire anyone who is qualified. Can they be hired even if they never took any daycare training courses at Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and for the question. The daycares in all of Nunavut, actually all daycares are regulated by territorial legislation. For example, they

are not employees of the government even when working inside a school, as the daycares create a society that is specific to the daycare. They have their own local boards, their own managers, and hire their own daycare providers through that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are all aware, children who attend daycare facilities are usually more skilled when it comes to schooling since they are introduced to schooling earlier, as an example, they become quick studies. They become quite observant and learn very quickly on issues they are hearing and observing. The children become quite skilful when they attend daycares prior to attending kindergarten.

Now, it's obvious that future daycare providers will have to know about child care, about the need for daycares in Nunavut to teach Inuktitut and not just English. Due to these reasons, the legislation, (interpretation ends) the *Child Care Act* (interpretation) was developed to regulate daycares operating in Nunavut. I would like to ask: will this legislation be reviewed in the immediate future? The *Child Care Act* was developed in 2011. Will the minister or his department review this legislation in the short term? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. Yes, when the

Department of Education conducted its consultations in the communities, the *Child Care Act* was discussed, with a prepared outline and to ensure that we would have the plans to immediately begin this work. Nonetheless, at this time we have been faced with shortages in staff that can perform this review, including the associated (interpretation ends) regulations (interpretation) and legal requirements that are going to be reviewed in the future.

Further, the employees of the daycares will also be part of the review; including the (interpretation ends) certificates (interpretation) are up to date. This includes checking their proficiencies as well as qualifications. We also look at linguistic or cultural aspects that may be needed, and this includes the financial reports and statements we require. We have requested this previously, but the review of the legislation specific to daycares will have to be deferred to a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 336 – 5(2): Busing Services for Students with Disabilities**

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed towards the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education provides busing services for students in those communities where they are needed, either through contracts or the purchase of buses. However, it is not clear to me how the department makes arrangements to provide specialized transportation for students

with disabilities.

Can the minister clarify how communities can access specialized busing services for students with disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the member for his question. Our department, every year we budget \$280,000 for busing services in the territory and we seek requests from DEAs whether they would like specialized busing services made available to their community. Case by case we will work with the DEA if they need it or request it through a letter to my office and we will consider that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for speaking too fast in my previous question.

Mr. Speaker, for some disabilities, the use of a wheelchair is necessary. Specialized vehicles which can transport wheelchairs are not available in every community.

Can the minister explain what criteria must be met for his department to authorize the purchase of a vehicle specialized for the transport of wheelchairs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. It normally depends on demonstrated need. As well, we take other factors into account, whether there's ample storage and maintenance and drivers available for a special needs bus. We take those into account, but first we need a letter to initiate the process, but again, every year we have a budget for busing services and depending on how many requests we get, we can try to assign a new bus to whichever community needs it the most. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 337 – 5(2): Child Apprehension Policies**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River and my colleagues.

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

I believe we are all aware of this fact, as members have brought up this matter during our statements about our children and our youth as being both the future and to brighten their future options. We have spoken to this matter, and further, we all know that each person as adults have different levels of understanding and capabilities as Inuit. Some people can't quite grasp the points while some Inuit can recall episodes of when they were newborns and have photographic

memories.

Perhaps we are all aware of my maternal uncle, as he has conducted numerous interviews with elders. He is my maternal uncle and he works at the CBC radio, and it is obvious that many of the elders he interviewed could recall events when they were just newborns or as young children and their recollections stem way back into their childhood.

This has always been part of the Inuit life, as some children even as very tiny babies can recall events and their memory retention is much larger. They can tell stories about when they recalled certain events while they were still carried or when they recall their first memory.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Family Services is specific to situations where very young children have to be apprehended from their families, and this has positive connotations as children should not be in dangerous situations, especially newborns or very young children who must be in a safe place.

Alternatively, it can also be problematic because they now face a foreign environment that can be quite traumatic when they find strangers facing them, it can cause additional mental trauma due to being placed in a different family obviously, as they are placed with guardians who are not their parents. When a young child is suddenly thrust into a new family, it can cause mental trauma to the child.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if these types of scenarios are played out prior to apprehension of the children from the

parents. Are the relatives, for example, of the parent that will have their child apprehended, if any, consulted firstly if they can place them with their grandparents or their mother's sisters or relatives? Is any priority given to relatives when a child is subjected to apprehension by Family Services prior to being sent out to be placed in a foster home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. Yes, as I have announced previously, the relatives of the parents are usually consulted as to which family members will house the apprehended children to be fostered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, I have another question I want to ask. Prior to a child apprehension from their parents, is there an age limit for this? We are aware that it can be used to apprehend a tiny baby, but what is the cut-off age for when children can't be apprehended from their homes by social workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The agreements themselves are also

quite different, but what I can state here is that in looking at the legislation and regulations, it appears to allow apprehension from the time of newborns up to becoming an adult that can be dealt with by our social workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What age are they considered of age? There's a big difference between the Qallunaat concept and the Inuit concept. A child may be of age but can be kept at the parents' home. People of age, to us are still children.

Mr. Speaker, if a child has been in a foster home until the age of 14, 15, or 16, they tend to forget who their relatives and family are. Again, that has a traumatic effect on the child. When a child is fostered or adopted outside of the Inuit community, they are not told of their family, but in the Inuit culture, the child is told where he or she was adopted from.

Mr. Speaker, do you tell the child or youth who their parents are at the end of their apprehension? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different agreements following the circumstances in the community. (interpretation ends) Volunteer support agreement, an

agreement where parents of children under the age of 16 who are not in need of protection but require some form of support (interpretation) is one. (interpretation ends) Support service agreement, an agreement with youth between the ages of 16 and 19 who cannot remain safely in their parents' home and are making efforts to care for themselves and live independently (interpretation) is another one. The third agreement is (interpretation ends) extended support agreement, an agreement that allows the Children and Family Services Division to continue to provide supports to children and young adults between the ages of 19 and 26 (interpretation) is another one. With respect to the member's question of whether the child or youth is informed of who their parents are, they are informed and some of them are provided annual visits to their family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 338 – 5(2): Status of Kugluktuk High School**

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, when I last asked the minister about future plans to replace the high school, it was not clear when decisions would be made to proceed with this project in the capital plan.

Can the minister provide an update on the current plan to replace the Kugluktuk High School? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. My department, for this 2019-2020 fiscal year, had submitted six projects for preplanning consideration, including the Kugluktuk High School, but at this point we have not much further plans on...there's such a great need across the territory, whether it's major renovations that we're proceeding with at Sakku School in Coral Harbour, there are five others, but at this time we will have to see where the Kugluktuk High School situation might fall in, in future planning cycles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. It is important that our children have good environments in which to grow and learn. The Kugluktuk High School is one of the oldest schools in Nunavut and has consistently been well over the 85 percent utilization rate, the rate which determines whether a new school should be built. Kugluktuk needs a new high school. Can the minister, for the record, tell us today when the community of Kugluktuk will get its new high school? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. According to the data I have,

the 2017-18 school year, Kugluktuk had the highest, I think, out of the entire territory, utilization at 109 percent. With that, as I had said, we are right now proceeding on the Sakku School major renovation. That is the biggest one right now to date. However, also with the major construction happening in Kugaaruk, the Igloolik high school is near completion. As we finish off new schools in construction, it opens up opportunity for others. I can't say right now when that would happen, but as we complete our capital plans, it opens up the door for other major construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Overcrowding at the elementary school led to the grade 6 class being moved into the high school. However, I recently heard that overcrowding at the high school will now require the grade 6 students to be moved back to the full-to-capacity elementary school. Can the minister provide an update on this situation? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. I'll have to check for an update. I don't have an update for the member at this time, but given the situation, if there is overcrowding in one school, and we do try to work with the DEA on catchment areas whether a grade can be moved between, then as the member stated, they have been doing that. In the meantime I think we do try to

consider if there are other potential options available for additional space. We've had to do it in some other communities where a portable is installed based on the need and our capital capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 339 – 5(2): Umingmak Child and Youth Support Centre**

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

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the minister's statement on Friday regarding the upcoming opening of the Umingmak Child and Youth Support Centre that will provide a safe and comfortable space for children, their families and service providers to come together and address difficult and traumatic situations.

Mr. Speaker, I was also glad to see that some of the key individuals involved in the initiative were here in our gallery on Friday and I would like to apologize for not recognizing them at the time.

My first question is: can the minister clarify where this office will be located and how the office can be contacted by individuals who may need its services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation

ends) Yes, I was very pleased with my statement last week regarding our Umingmak Centre. The Umingmak Centre will be located here in Iqaluit. If anyone or members want to get a hold of this centre, they could do so through the Arctic Child Youth Foundation, the RCMP, our Department of Justice, Health, Education, and Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the name threw me off a bit. Umingmak, I thought maybe that would be in the west somewhere because we don't have *umingmaks* here.

Mr. Speaker, having a child-friendly centre where the needs of child victims or children who have witnessed a crime can be addressed in a culturally appropriate and compassionate manner, and that's I think a right step or a step in the right direction, I should say.

My second question is: can the minister confirm that services at the centre will be delivered by bilingual staff who speak Inuktitut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, member, for this question. I can assure you that all our staff within this Umingmak Centre must be bilingual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Your final supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In many cases, children and their families need ongoing support while addressing a traumatic situation. Can the minister describe how children and their families will be supported both during and after an investigation has been initiated, especially if a family member has been identified as being involved in the traumatic incident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Once a child has been in the Umingmak Centre, follow-up with this child or the parent or guardians will continue until the family feels safe that the child or the parent or guardian feels that they no longer need the support. That support will be there and will be reviewed by all members of the Umingmak Centre with the individual, with the child, with the parents, with the guardian until they feel that they have their problem, their issues, their mental help has been addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the extended time for question period has expired and cannot be extended it again. Thank you. Let's proceed. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

### Item 7: Written Questions

### Written Question 023 – 5(2): Child Abuse in Nunavut – Trends

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister of Justice and it is regarding trends in child sexual abuse in Nunavut.

As I have stated before, sexual violations against children and youth in Nunavut is an ongoing issue. In response to my question regarding trends and relating to investigations of alleged sexual violations against children in Nunavut, the minister stated, “The increase in violations against children in Nunavut is troubling. The number of increased violations went from 49 to 103 within the last few years.”

I believe that it is in the best interest to make statistical information and trends related to child sexual abuse public. We must ensure that parents and children are fully aware of the amount of abuse in their communities and encourage them to adjust to a level of alertness appropriately.

My questions are detailed and I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. Since April 1, 1999, how many allegations of child abuse have been investigated? Please provide information by year and community.
2. Since April 1, 1999, how many allegations of child abuse have led to a conviction? Please provide information by year and community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

The member is seeking unanimous consent to have his questions entered into the record as read. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. They will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Budget Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 124 – 5(2): 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 125 – 5(2): 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 126 – 5(2): 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth**

Thank you, my colleagues. I have three documents to table today. (interpretation ends) The first document is the 2019-2022 *Business Plan of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut*.

The second document is the 2019-2022 *Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut*.

The third document is the 2019-2022

*Business Plan of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth*. (interpretation) Thank you.

Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:58 and Committee resumed at 16:22*

#### **Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following to deal with: Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 Main Estimates of the Department of Health, followed by the Department of Education. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 15?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Health – Consideration in Committee**

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

**Hon. George Hickee:** Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. I know by now that your witnesses don't need any introductions, but for the record, Mr. Hickee, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then I understand you want to make some clarifications from previous meetings, so you can go into that as well. Minister Hickee.

**Hon. George Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad you made a comment on it. I was going to say something similar.

With me to my right is Acting Deputy Minister Linnea Ingebrigtsen and to my left, Greg Babstock, the Executive Director of Corporate Services with the Department of Health.

I just wanted to touch on, when we were

talking about Embassy West on the first day, I made a comment that physician services for dental and eye care are provided outside. There are some services that are provided on site as well. There are physicians available on call 24 hours per day.

I just wanted to update members that since our last discussion, the menu and the recreation calendar at Embassy West have been translated into Inuktitut and we are looking at additional signage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickee. We left off on Friday. We were doing to the Department of Health and we were on page H-5, Branch Summary for Public Health, and the next name I had on my list was Mr. Main. Mr. Main, do you want to ask questions at this moment? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, I do. Okay? (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) When it comes to immunizations in Nunavut, is this under public health? Just a clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main, please go ahead with your questions.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Are

there any specific actions planned under this fiscal year to address concerns across the country tied to measles and other lack of immunization issues in the country? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nothing specific, although I will say that the recent coverage, especially with the measles coverage on the immunization, has kind of drawn a light to the issue of immunizations in the territory. I will be working with my public health team to make sure that we're following immunization schedules and working with community health centres to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a confirmation that the minister or the department will be liaising with the Department of Education when it comes to immunizations and school children. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will continue to do so.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak, you had questions? Please go ahead.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. Under Public Health, I just had several questions here. One of the first questions I have is I understand that the Department of Health is, as the minister indicated, using the MEDITECH system. When we look at Nunavut, we are cloned off by regions, Baffin going to Ottawa and Kivalliq going down to Winnipeg for medical services and Kitikmeot going to Alberta. With that MEDITECH system and when we go by Nunavummiut going to these particular hospitals, is that conforming and/or are there any barriers in providing efficient, relevant health information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to MEDITECH and our southern partners with the Ottawa Health Services Network, it has been implemented as well as at the Kivalliq Inuit Services in Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we moving in that direction with all the community health centres or are we still utilizing data systems that are currently being used within our community health centres, relaying information to southern facilities? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. We have rolled MEDITECH out across the territory of Nunavut to all communities now. The latest one was just in January of last year. There have been a few since. The latest one that was done would have been in the summer, June of 2018. There were some delays in some of the communities just building up the infrastructure with Community and Government Services to make sure that technology is available. Where appropriate, we will continue to explore how and when we interact with other jurisdictions on how to integrate that system, but with our health services in Winnipeg and Ottawa, we do have that link right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had one other question here moving on to a different subject that my colleague was talking about, immunization. Is that still an option for Nunavummiut? For example, the flu immunization, is that an option to the family or will that also be mandatory when we are talking about immunization for people coming into our territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asked some questions on this the other day where we have to take a look at what the medical and the clinical impacts are of not having immunizations, how each individual one has different... . A flu vaccine, as an example that the member used, we have a very poor uptake of it and we pay for it

every year with increased medevacs, increased medical travel, increased service demands on our health centres. I highly recommend people take advantage of all immunizations that are available, but we have to take a look at whether we make it mandatory or not. That is still up for review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):** Thank you very much. The reason I am asking questions about this is because last fall in national news, I am not sure which province it was in, but they were in a critical situation where they found something wrong with the flu vaccine and they had to stop immunizations in the south, and we were told not to use certain medications. Before problems like that come into Nunavut, how does the Department of Health monitor it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of any examples last year with the flu vaccine. There were some anecdotal discussions on the effectiveness of it and whether they got the right strains. They typically pick six to eight flu strains that they anticipate being an impact, and that's what they base the vaccine on. This year, as an example, it has shown to be very effective, especially with the H1N1 strain of the flu, which impacts children especially.

Again, I can't recommend enough for parents and guardians to make sure that

their children and themselves are vaccinated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My other question relates to the time I travelled down to Ottawa and I received a call from the Department of Fisheries about addictions. I will be asking about these matters here, if possible.

To use an example, when people wish to quit smoking cigarettes, I was informed about treatment options in Ottawa that are available, such as (interpretation ends) omega laser therapy (interpretation) that was available and the other medicine called Champix. Are these two treatments available for people of Nunavut or is it impossible for them to get them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have laser therapy here. I would have to look in to see how that would be covered if you are traveling and happen to go to a jurisdiction where it was available on how to pay for it, but with smoking cessation products here in the territory, we do cover those expenses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. It would be good if the minister could look into that for further clarification.

In your business plan on page 152, we talked about this last year when we were looking at cannabis legislation. You state her that you will "Implement and monitor programming to address the impacts of the legalization of cannabis."

At the Legislative Assembly we usually get a response saying that it's under review or there is a pilot project happening in a particular community, but what I would really like to know is: if you're going to be doing another pilot project, is it just going to be for all Nunavummiut or only a few communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure I understand. I was looking up page 152 of the business plan and it's got the "Begin the legislative process to propose amendments [to] the *Tobacco Control and Smoke Free Places Act*," but I don't see anything in particular with regard to implementation across the territory or pilot projects. Maybe if the member could clarify.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 152, the question I'm asking is, in 2018-19 your department plans to "Implement and monitor programming to address the impacts of the legalization of cannabis," which is now legal in Canada.

My question here is: when you're going to try to monitor the impacts of legalized

cannabis in our territory now, are you going to start off with a select few communities or is that going to be across all the communities in Nunavut to monitor the impacts of legalized cannabis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you to the member for clarifying. I misunderstood that it was tobacco that he was talking about, but it was cannabis.

We have worked on some basic health information that is rolled out across the territory. They were mailed out to all community health reps last August and all mental health staff in November of last year. There was also a national mail-out with Health Canada where we have collaborated with them to design a nationwide mail-out to provide some basic facts and talk about cannabis legalization, the effects, distribution, etcetera. This was mailed out the first week of October of last year.

There have been some training events that were completed in the fall and we have been following that up with telehealth sessions held in November, as well as working with the Department of Family Services' supervisors and the supervisor of community health programs in October and November of last year as well too. Included in that there were some radio scripts to be developed and distributed to all community health reps to play on community radios. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. When I'm asking in that aspect, I understand your department's focus is on professionals and paraprofessionals across the territory. My question here on that particular concern for me would be, as we all know, there are some patients within our territory who have been medically prescribed cannabis use for medical reasons. As a department, are you guys also going to or already collecting data information from those particular patients who are medically prescribed cannabis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because Nunavut is a small jurisdiction, from what I understand, the federal department of health tracks that information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for his response. With that information, does your department work with the federal health department? With that information, I guess my question here would be we want a better system for Nunavut patients who are getting the health system. Are you guys making headway or is that a learning process at the current situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With any prescription that's provided by a physician or a health care professional, there are always ongoing education opportunities from that profession on the applicable prescribing of medicines, including cannabis. I would have to say that it's a work in progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my last question is on the same topic, but on your business plan again, I'm referring to page 153 on your priorities for 2019-2020. On the particular priorities the very last bullet indicates, "Develop cannabis programming that informs risk reduction strategies for target populations." Can the minister elaborate a little bit more on that? Are you targeting a certain age group in reference to risk reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that. It gives the opportunity. Through the different posts and training opportunities that I explained a little bit earlier, there is a mass media campaign, if you want to call it that, across the territory, which there's an environmental scan of what type of surroundings, the literature review, and some research involved in it as well. We will be coming out with a full public campaign in the fall, but just for early indicators, absolutely the demographic that we're targeting to make sure have limited exposure to it is youth.

With the legislation that we passed here last year, we want to make sure that we put in fairly stringent controls on accessibility in certain homes that have daycares and such in it. We want to make sure that it's very publicly known that the formation of our brain isn't developed until we're close to our mid-20s. We want to really emphasize on restricting use of cannabis up until that point at the very least. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first thing that I would like to bring up is environmental health officers and their role in health protection. Last year I brought this up and it's regarding a CBC article that was released a number of years ago about an establishment failing multiple health inspections and the public didn't hear about it for a number of years afterward.

When I brought this up last year, I was informed by the previous minister that "The Department of Health is in the process of adapting the Hedgehog software for all environmental health programs to support digital health inspections and reporting by environmental health officers. It's anticipated that by the end of 2018, this will be completed for the adaption for the food safety, rabies, and drinking water safety..."

I would like to request an update on the issue of health inspections and digital reporting conducted by health inspectors. Were they completed by the anticipated end date of 2018? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very close. The software has been adapted for that purpose, but it was completed in January of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone, before you start, just if you could slow down a little, please, for the interpreters. Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year I also brought up the idea of the Department of Health enforcing restaurants to openly display their most recent health inspection results. At that time I was told that it was something that the department can consider in the regulations. I would also like to request an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of right now, those reports are handwritten. The software, like I said, has been customized for food inspections and there's a working group that's working together to look at adapting it to that full role. We will have to see how readily it can spit out that type of a document to be able to give a rating or that type of thing. I have seen places where they will have a score out of a hundred and give a couple of different itemized categories. It's a work in progress. There's a working group that's developed right now that I'll make sure that that's the topic of discussion. Thanks.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to reiterate why I'm raising this concern because I am concerned for the safety of the individuals who are consuming the foods in these establishments. Right now I and the public have no idea what the results of health inspections are in our restaurants.

I would like to ask the minister today: are there any other establishments in Nunavut that are continuously failing health inspection reports and, if so, can you please tell us more about it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will preface my response in saying that there are a number of different factors or categories that could be deemed as failing an inspection and not necessarily all are attributed to unhealthy habits; it's just making sure the rules are followed, that things are stored at proper temperature, that there's no cross-contamination, as examples.

I'm not aware right now of any facilities that are repeatedly failing the environmental health inspection, but I will say that if there is such a case where it's a very serious matter, it's not a matter of it going to a report somewhere and finding its way up to me at some point. The environmental health officer has the ability to shut that facility down if it's deemed unhealthy. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes.

Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to know that health inspectors do have the authority to shut down an establishment that is non-compliant and is causing a health risk, but I would like to ask if, within the last year, any establishments have faced major infractions that could have caused major health issues and in those instances, what did the health inspectors do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of any and with this software partnership, I guess if you want to call it, of being able to implement the food safety data into the software, it makes it easier for us to follow that type of information. Right now I'm not aware of any cases that came to that level, but there's ongoing education and training with businesses that do provide food services on a continual basis. Inspections go in and if there are any issues that are raised, they're highlighted, and our environmental health officers work with those owners and workers to make sure that they are following the parameters. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: who does the environmental health officer report to? Does someone else review the reports and does any of that information go up to the higher levels? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those environmental health officers report to the chief medical officer of health. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say that I think it's in the public's best interest that those reports are made public and done so immediately and, if not, in the most expedited manner, whether it's on the Department of Health's website or restaurants are enforced to publicly display the results of those inspections. I think the public needs to know that information and I request the minister commit to do something immediately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I will preface my response in that it is with this software, with making sure that the inspections are done and reported in a consistent fashion where right now every environmental health officer has their own handwriting, we will say for one, to make it to be able to grab all that information out of those reports. Again, this software is going to help.

Within our *Public Health Act* there are regulations that are being developed and that will help guide the direction of where we're doing from a reporting standpoint, so I can't say immediately. We don't have the ability to implement something like that immediately, but it is

something that I can assure the member is on the radar and as we're going through with the development of those regulations, we will look at what is able to be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that I won't have to put forward this request again this time next year. I really hope that the department will get this software up and running fairly soon. In the meantime I guess we will just have to leave it up to the media to request ATIPP or use their ATIPP abilities to get the results of those health inspections made public.

I'll move on to my next topic. On page 152 of the business plan, in the 2018-19 priorities, the department has indicated that it will "Continue to support the Coalition in the renewal of the Strategy and development of the Food Security Action Plan." It indicates in the status, "Health continues to work collaboratively with the Nunavut Food Security Coalition co-chairs."

I would like to request an update on the development of the Food Security Action Plan. To date, what are the department's roles in the strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just at a cursory level, there are a number of different actions being implemented under the strategy and action plan. Country food guidelines, we

are working with our EHOs and hunters and trappers organizations. Those guidelines were completed in the fall of 2016, but we are implementing guidelines for serving country food in government-funded facilities and programs.

As part of the community consultations, food skills resources were one of the avenues that were highlighted. We are looking at school food programming itself. I know it's a topic that's near and dear to the member's heart. We contribute approximately \$2 million to those programs annually and we do provide funding to each school. There has been a lot of work with the food security coalition that was also established in 2012, working with NTI and other partners there.

I'm not sure how much level of detail the member wants me to get into. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: how much funding does the department receive with the Nunavut Wellness Agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** If the Chair can indulge me for a moment, I will get the exact number instead of using my memory, which is usually pretty accurate, but I just want to make sure, which is a good thing I did, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. It's approximately \$19 million per year.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming this is where the \$2 million school food program is coming from. What else is this funding used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could be here for a while, but I will just give you the topics: different community wellness programs, community capacity development, territorial health promotion initiatives, program management, home and community care, Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative, children's oral health promotion program, public health nursing and tuberculosis prevention, as well as Quality of Life receives funding under there. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a long list of programs. My next question is: how did the Department of Health determine that \$2 million was sufficient to fund school food programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of any feedback from any of the schools to say it wasn't sufficient. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pretty sure that currently there are no standardized school food programs in Nunavut schools, so I think it is safe to say that \$2 million is insufficient when it comes to feeding children in schools.

I don't know what other types of evidence that the minister needs. I highly recommend that the \$2 million be increased in order for more to be done to feed hungry children in our schools. I believe that the \$2 million that is allocated to our schools equates to thousands of dollars per school and it's no way near enough what is needed.

I would like to request that the minister do a thorough review of the school funding programs and identify what the true need is to have a universal breakfast program in every single school, as well as if the program were to be expanded, how much it would cost to have a universal lunch program in every school in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can talk with my colleague, the Minister of Education, and see how much analysis goes into the measurement of how effective that program is.

I will say that we're just one partner. It's just one funding stream for breakfast programs across the territory. There are also proposals available through the

community wellness program dollars available which we have nearly \$7 million a year available if communities decide that that is an avenue they wish to explore. Some schools do use the breakfast program funding to provide lunch services as well currently.

In cases like that, again, I can commit to talking to my colleague, the Minister of Education, to see how much need there is or how to go about doing an analysis to measure whether it's meeting all the needs. There are a number of different factors that could be taken into consideration on that. I would have to discuss with my colleague on how to implement something like that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask a few questions. Are we on page H-6 now? Mr. Chairman, let me ask that. 5? Okay. When we get to page H-6, I'll ask questions. I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, please go ahead.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to return to this question if possible, although it was already asked. With respect to the food inspections or facilities that require inspections, whose buildings can be identified for this level of inspection? I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, could I get you to repeat your question,

please. I don't think we understood what you were talking about. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I was referencing an earlier question that a colleague raised during the health and safety inspection debate about restaurant safety issues.

For example, if someone was served contaminated food or got food poisoning, they could identify the facility that was the subject of their concern. They can identify a restaurant for food and safety inspections after a person suffers food poisoning after eating a meal at the restaurant.

In thinking of this inspection requirement, I wonder if inspections can be done at other establishments and not just restaurants. I imagine that safety inspections could be earmarked for other facilities. I wanted to know if other establishments or buildings can be earmarked for inspections, especially office buildings that house many employees under this health inspection requirement.

Maybe I can be understood now as to what I am asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Hickes, if you understood the question, please go ahead.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the member correctly, where there could be a case of food poisoning or some type of a health impact from a food server facility or restaurant of some sort, it would depend on the circumstances. Sometimes it could be the source of food. The product

itself that's purchased could be contaminated or whether it be storage or handling processes that created the issue, but if anyone ever has any concerns on the quality of food or somebody getting sick from a restaurant or food service, they would have to let us know and we could investigate the circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was thinking of this matter when I brought up the question as it isn't really food poisoning specifically, as the minister responded with, as well as the rules used to inspect buildings, hotels, or even beds. I wonder how many times in a year an establishment is inspected or what the upper limit is of inspections that can be done on any type of building. Hopefully I was clear. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every community has gotten inspected. There are a standard number of inspections; twice per year. That being said, when I look through my list, the majority of communities were inspected four to five times, six times in some cases. If there is ever a new facility opening up, they would have to be inspected before they could open, if that answers the member's question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Let me move to another question as earlier my colleague from Baker Lake raised an issue related to (interpretation ends) cannabis (interpretation) information being made available to inform residents and if the information is forthcoming from the department to our community health centres. It would mostly apply to our health centres.

I wonder how it will be made available as information to Inuit and in what format. Will it be some sort of information sheet or will pamphlets be distributed? How will you deal with this? Some of the smaller communities don't always receive the information that does get sent out to the larger centres, especially on this topic that Inuit want to know about. Mr. Chairman, hopefully I was understandable with my query. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two community health representatives all have received and as well as all mental health staff have received a foldable information card on cannabis use and harm reduction. In addition, there are different training events and a national mail-out, including radio scripts that community health representatives can read out on local radio. Those have been provided already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$23,089,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed

**Chairman:** Thank you. Moving on. Page H-6. Health Care Service Delivery. Mr. Quassa, you had a question on this one? Please go ahead.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to ask further questions. Within the draft 2019-2022 business plan, one of the priorities of the Department of Health for 2018-19 includes one issue that keeps popping up, which is specific to the (interpretation ends) Office of Patient Relations. (interpretation) Can the minister provide further details on what's happening with that office? We keep repeatedly hearing from the minister that you can just call that office if you have any concerns or problems, which seem to be the rote answer of the department. What is happening with that office and have you done any improvements on the services that are provided through that office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising the patient relations office. I know my office itself relies very heavily upon the great work that they're doing. I know a number of different members now are just reporting any issues directly to them and just copying me on and they're getting immediate responses back. I have been very pleased with the turnaround time.

With regard to specific, one of the things that we have done recently to improve

the services was to provide Inuktitut services to the patient relations office. We're continuing to look at improving the capacity and the outreach by taking on actually more operational activities.

We have done a survey that was done in the Qikiqtaaluk region and we are looking at bringing that out again to the other regions in the upcoming year, I believe. I would have to look into the actual dates on when those other surveys are going to be coming out, but the Tammaativvik Boarding Home was done in June and then there was also client awareness. With the information that they received from that, we're looking at again doing a satisfaction survey.

The patient relations staff are actually visiting facilities that Nunavummiut use, including boarding homes, so they can get hands-on, so they can see the services that they're in charge of investigating or helping people navigate through the system, as well as looking at engaging and learning from clients from the community-wide tuberculosis screening clinics. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that you're integrating the Inuktitut portion of it. It has been 20 years since Nunavut was created and we're finally putting Inuktitut services in those types of facilities and offices. It is a requirement so that people out there who want to use the Inuktitut language can do so, but I am very pleased that it's finally being implemented.

I'll go to another subject and I'll speak English. (interpretation ends) Funding for the Long-term Care Division of the Health Care Service Delivery Branch is projected to remain stable in 2019-2020. Will additional funds be required when the Baker Lake Elders' Home is reopened or if the continuing care centres in Gjoa Haven or Igloolik are expanded? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were some monies a couple of years ago that the member is talking about on a feasibility study for taking a look at Igloolik and Gjoa Haven as they're the same footprint building. I haven't seen any results on that study yet that we did partner with CGS on. I'll have to follow up with that to see exactly where it's at.

With regard to any additional, we did request additional monies more from the out-of-territory care. There was an investment in last year's budget of \$800,000 some odd for in-territory through the Igloolik, Baker Lake and Arviat offices as an example. We're still unclear on how Baker Lake is going to pan out from the fuel spill that they had there last year, so I'm not sure what direction we're going to be taking with that facility right now. I'll have to keep members updated with that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, within the 2017-

2020 business plan it speaks to the ongoing challenges facing our elders, specifically an elders' facility. I practically could not say that term. What is the status of this facility now? It continues to be a hot topic with the need to return our elders back to Nunavut. What is the status of this facility now? You have alluded to it previously, but I wanted more information on where this facility now stands for the elders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is one of those times where I'm glad we're nearing the end of the review with Partnership BC that we had doing a review on our continuing care/elder care in-territory. That report is nearly done so that we can take a look at some hands-on options that are available with some meat to them instead of just a hypothesis or estimating.

Just some preliminary information that has come out of that, we are looking at regional opportunities. There was an announcement and I believe it was a part of the Budget Address on looking at having elder care facilities in each region and increasing the capacity, one, so that we can start bringing people home by providing the level of care needed here in the territory and limiting having to send people out period.

We are looking in the west in Kugluktuk of taking a look at, as has been talked about here in the House many times, the unsolicited proposal that we received from them. We are looking at trying to find a way to make that happen. I know I'm going to keep getting questions on

this, so I'm going to be keeping on top of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is good to hear. Now, we all know that in the Baffin region many of the Inuit organizations have attempted to propose such a facility. I imagine these various ideas have been contemplated, especially in light of the announcement by the minister. Are the ideas or plans from the Inuit organizations included in this review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the things that this Partnerships BC report will help tell us of exactly what types of facilities are needed to meet today's and tomorrow's needs. I hate saying this, but we are waiting for that report to be done so that we can make educated decisions on our path forward instead of knee-jerk reactions. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this will be my last question. I think in Ottawa there are many elders that are housed at Embassy West. To date, do you have any elders on the waiting list to enter this elder care facility or to another elder care centre aside from Embassy West? Do you have any elders on the waiting list for being housed at different elder care centres such as that one? I personally don't need

to go, but I too am now an elder. I am kidding of course. I am just asking: (interpretation ends) is there a waiting list? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we went out for the RFP a few years back on providing care outside of Nunavut, Embassy West was the only proponent, so we only use that facility right now. All other beds that are in the territory are utilized for the elders that we can meet the care of. If we can't meet the needs of anyone in-territory, then we use the Embassy West facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we are aware of this fact, but the reasoning for my question was whether a waiting list exists with names of elders who are on the list to be housed at facilities other than Embassy West that our government uses currently. Are any elders waiting to be housed in a facility or does a waiting list exist? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information I have is fairly recent and there was nobody on the waiting list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that in Nunavut, our elders only form a small portion population as the majority of our population is comprised of young people and eventually they will all get old, and then the elders will become more numerous. For example, many of us who are sitting in this House can expect that.

Perhaps to ask my last question, as I tend to have many last questions... I'm just kidding.

>>*Laughter*

Now, with respect to this request for proposals, when do you anticipate the government releasing this RFP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at this summer of having it completed and coming forward with options to the legislature probably by the fall. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. Welcome. Good afternoon.

Just keeping in line with the same subject matter, Embassy West, I'm wondering if the minister can tell us, and it might be too detailed perhaps, but one thing that kind of concerned me when I was there was the number of times that the elevator breaks down. When you have an elevator that's broken down so you only have one, I was thinking: what

are they going to do when there's a fire? It made me think and I asked one of the staff how often they have a fire drill. It had been over a year. Is this something that you would discuss with the management?

Let me tell you I have my parents there and it worries me and it worries me for everyone there. What's going to happen if there's a fire and there's only one elevator that works because the other elevator breaks down quite a bit? I'll do a personal example. My mother is in a wheelchair like a lot of them there. There's no way my dad could carry down my mom down those stairs and I'm sure a lot of others would be in that same predicament. It is a worry of mine and I'm wondering if you've had any kind of conversations. Has that ever come up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a new one to me. I'll have to look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister commit to getting back to us too so that we know? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes and I'll have our staff reach out to the Ontario Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority as well too

to see how often this issue has been raised with them. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickey. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I've had a letter recently from a constituent of mine that has a family member at the Embassy and he was very upset because he has power of attorney over this family member and the family member was falling down a lot. How do you report back if somebody has fallen or some kind of accident has taken place? He found out that this family member was given antipsychotic drugs and sedatives on a daily basis. He says that he doesn't understand why he was given that medication. Because of the medication, he felt that that was why his family member was falling down a lot.

With that letter, I decided to look at what's the trend across Canada and there are a number of articles I came across here in my research. There are three at the least here. Maybe there are more. It seems to be a trend across Canada where there's a lot... Well, one in five is put on antipsychotic drugs. The trend across Canada now is for nursing homes to take residents off antipsychotic drugs.

Don't get me wrong. I go to the Embassy quite often and you have some really good staff there. I'm very thankful. I just want to get a better understanding about some of this, especially when this concern has been brought up to me. I wanted to do a bit of research just to see myself and I found out that like CBC has something, "Hundreds of nursing home residents taken off anti-psychotic drugs." This was February 5. This could just be

coincidence, so I don't know, but it just got me thinking.

When they went into the side effects of these drugs in this, one of them is that you can't swallow. It affects your ability to swallow. I often eat at the Embassy with my parents and when I'm there, I see so many people with that munched up. I speak with everybody there. I sit down with some of the patients and one of their complaints and I voiced this to the kitchen staff and that is that they had the same thing every day because it has to be munched up and they don't like it. When I saw that the side effects of one of these drugs is that they can't swallow properly, I wondered, was this the cause of the antipsychotic drugs or not, only because somebody wrote to me and said that their relative was on one without them knowing.

I'm just putting them out there and I certainly don't want to start any rumours or anything. I raise it as a concern and we should all be asking questions when we have concerns, I think. I'm raising it as a concern to you and ask if you can look into that just to make sure that if they are on such drugs, they have the permission. I would like to speak with you confidentially about this other case here so that you can look into that one as well, so if you have any thoughts or comments on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the benefits we have of being Canadian is that we partner with other jurisdictions, we share best practices, we learn from each other, and health care itself is an evolving

profession where the medications that were deemed necessary ten years ago aren't being used today or different treating techniques are used.

This concern was just raised to me recently as well too and I haven't had a lot of free time in the last week, but it is something that I'm going to be looking into. I can assure the member that for one, I have been recently made aware of this issue and the practice in other jurisdictions, and we will be checking into it, myself along with my officials, and two, I would welcome the opportunity to sit down and discuss your constituent's circumstances. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickee. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the minister. Just to talk a little bit about something different, the power of attorney, I know there have been some cases where the government has taken power of attorney over some of the patients from Embassy West. Can the minister give us how...do you know how often that's happening? Is that something that's being raised as a concern by family members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickee.

**Hon. George Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In general we don't take power of attorney. It is public guardianship that's done through the Department of Family Services. To my knowledge, it's always done with the family involved. There are many opportunities for the family to communicate, again, not just with our

patient relations but with our Continuing Care Division. They talk to family members regularly on the level of care that's being provided. If there are any concerns, I would be more than happy to speak to the member or any members or any member of the public out there, but I don't have stats on how many residents of Embassy West are under public guardianship. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickee. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to also ask in regard to the business plan. There is a decrease of \$860,000 for the Community Health Centres Division. Given the concerns raised by MLAs and their constituents regarding reduced levels of service at the centres due to staffing shortages and other issues, why is the level of funding for health care and public health services at the community level being decreased?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickee.

**Hon. George Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bulk of the decrease in budget is due to leases expiring. Finance and CGS have implemented a direction that budget adjustments for supplementary leases required over and above, so it just takes away that lease obligation under this budget line. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickee. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister just elaborate on which leases just to clarify

that, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Various spaces in various communities; Arctic Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Churchill, Iqaluit, Winnipeg, Whale Cove, Kugluktuk, just to name those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us if the health care centres are operating at a deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not really sure. There are a number of different services provided out of every health centre. Some programs are not in deficit, some are in deficit. I think everyone saw the bill that we put forward here the other day of supplementary appropriation, so I would say probably in a deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister can tell us what the department's palliative and respite care strategy is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm really pleased the member actually raised this. I believe it was just last month or the month before we had a forum here in Iqaluit where health care professionals came together to help work out our palliative care training and work on making the programming more available. It was a big step and I'm looking forward to further progress, which I'll be happy to update the House as that program develops. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I've got a minute left, so I want to ask more on that, but I think I'm going to go to home and community care. I'm wondering how the department is helping elders stay at home. What new initiatives have you come out with so that elders don't have to leave their homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not so much new initiatives. There has been more investment in our home care division, with some help under the wellness agreement. When we look at home and community care, it's kind of going on nationwide. There is case management, homemaking, personal care, nursing care, respite care, palliative care, rehabilitation services, foot care, and personal care. I know the member is very familiar with a lot of these services.

One of the benefits that we have had is some assistance from the federal

standpoint in our Territorial Health Investment Fund invested in additional supports for home care, so making those services more available to people in the communities, again, like you just said yourself, to make sure that people can stay home longer to increase the visits, that type of thing, increase staffing where that's available. I thank the federal government for that investment that they are putting. It's not a large amount of money. It's about \$1.1 million a year. A number of different factors, but one of them is including home care. Where we are able to use that money to beef up the program, we do so. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickey. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question I have, when we want to keep elders at home, one of the challenges I see right away is overcrowding in our public housing units and a lot of these housing units are not built to accommodate maybe like an elder who might be in a wheelchair because you need wider everything for a wheelchair to go through.

What kind of discussions, if any, have you had with the housing minister over some of these, I'll call them opportunities, where you can make a home or a house, where you can renovate it according to health standards of meeting the needs of somebody like an elder who might be at home but requiring the design to be different as part of your strategy to try to keep elders at home?

If the elder can't move because one, it's overcrowded, two, the hallways are too

narrow so you can't get a wheelchair or walker through, it's very hard to keep an elder at home. I pose that as my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to again refresh my memory with the Minister for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but I do know in the past there has been elder-specific builds where the doorways are wider and where there are ramps. There were fourplexes that were done in a number of communities, I believe, about eight or ten years ago where they're built specifically for elders. I'm not aware. I would have to have a conversation with my colleague. I am not aware of any circumstances where any requests for renovations to make mobility a factor being denied that it was raised up to my level within Health anyway. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickey. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Talking about disabled and housing and how Health is involved, I was speaking to somebody at Embassy West who is not an elder. He is a young man, really, in a wheelchair. One of the reasons, I understand, that he's not at home is because there is no ramp or something to accommodate him to get into his home. He has been there for quite a while now and there might be other reasons why, but that's what he told me. Is this something that you are aware of and, if you are aware of it, what's being done so that we can get this young man home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to publicly discuss a client's needs. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Addictions and Trauma Treatment in Nunavut* document tabled by the minister on November 8, 2018 proposes three interrelated options for developing a Nunavut-based addictions and trauma treatment system.

The Mental Health and Addictions Division of the Health Care Services Delivery Branch will see an increase of \$532,000 in 2019-2020 while the Quality of Life Branch will be allocated new funds of \$4.6 million for addictions and trauma treatment.

Can the minister describe how the current mental health and addictions program services will be provided in collaboration with the new community-based services and Nunavut recovery development team? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still fleshing some of the details out, but in general the mental and addictions staff in the community would be working very closely with the on-the-land based program. It's still through a referral basis. We are looking at just regionally right now.

As an example, if somebody in your

community were to feel that they would want to attend an on-the-land programming in Cambridge Bay, as the case would be in this circumstance, they would work with their mental health professional in the community to substantiate the need and to make sure that that is the appropriate level of care. Again, just going forward, we want to make sure that the communities have the say and the individual has the say in what level of care that they need and desire, but it also has to be clinically responsible as well too.

There's a lot of talk of treatment centres and sending people out for treatment. Not everyone needs that. Not everyone wants that. There are different levels of addictions counselling. It starts in the community and that's where we need to ramp up our services, ramp up the availability of resources, and work with our partners in the regional hubs for on-the-land programming, and then hopefully someday have a treatment facility in-territory developed by Nunavummiut to be able to treat at that level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Somebody's phone to the right of me is dinging from time to time. If you could correct your phone, whoever's phone is pinging, much appreciated, please.

>> *Laughter*

Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the on-the-land program, for the record, if people were interested in Kugluktuk to run one, how would they go about doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is possible. We are looking at right now of building upon the success that Cambridge Bay has had with their program and to establish some costing factors, we are looking at regionally. If a community had the desire and were able to build the capacity, they would simply just submit proposal through either the Embrace Life Council or through our Quality of Life Division. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. What plans are currently under consideration for the establishment of a residential treatment facility in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been working very closely with a number of partners on this and I have recently gotten correspondence from NTI, as an example, of their support for this project. We have been working with Health Canada and every opportunity we get we stress the fact that Nunavut is the last jurisdiction in Canada to not have a residential treatment facility, even so far as our Premier brought it up recently with the Prime Minister. We do need partners to get this off the ground.

There are a number of different costs that we're investing in with on-the-land programming and transitional housing, but with regard to the treatment facility

itself, we are working with Indigenous Services on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Towtongie (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The medical transportation budget for 2018-19 was increased by \$14.5 million from 2017-18. Now, according to the business plan for 2019-2022, that budget will again increase by \$14 million in 2019-2020.

(interpretation ends) Given the ongoing need for supplementary appropriations to address budget shortfalls for medical travel, do you, the minister, feel that the proposed funding is a realistic estimate of what it will cost to provide medical transportation this year, 2019-2020? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's one of the challenges with medical travel, and I was up here before and previous ministers have been up here addressing budgetary shortfalls. One of my common responses was that until there is a real correction in the budgetary process, I'm going to be continuing to come up for supplementary appropriations. Whether this is enough is yet to be determined, but with the forecast that we have made right now and with efficiencies that we're hoping to implement over the next year, my hope is yes. I'm not going to stand here and say that I'm not going to be coming forward with a potential for a supplementary appropriation, but this investment in medical travel is long

overdue and I'm very happy we were able to add this to the existing budget. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this continues for medical travel next year, you will reach a total of over \$100 million. What factors most influence the cost of medical transportation and what initiatives have been considered to address them? That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. MEDITECH is one of the things that we looked at, making sure that appointments are corresponding with the travel needs. I have recently spoken to the director of medical travel and more consistent training across the territory to medical travel coordinators in the health centres, making sure that they've got the resources to be able to do their job properly.

We have taken one of the exciting steps I mentioned in the last session of we had one community farther north from us here, I won't specify the community right now, not that it's a secret or anything, but the example there was there were 35 people on a surgical wait-list to come down for consultation. Instead of sending those 35 people here, we sent the surgeon there and it was only determined that six people actually needed to come down for surgery, so that was hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings.

We're looking at rolling that out to, as an example, in Rankin Inlet in the upcoming near future to take advantage of bringing the specialists in like that instead of sending so many people out, especially for surgical consults because you go down, you're in there for 20 minutes and "Yup, you need surgery. Come back in a few months." Do we really need to do that all the time?

Where we can find those efficiencies, one of the things that are a pressure on our budget has been physician services. We have been going over our budget in that area. One of the reasons for that is we have been extending the stays of physicians in some communities to provide that level of care in the community versus travelling out. It saves in one area, but it costs a little bit more in another. It's still saving money overall, so just some factors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question here. I wonder how better understanding can develop between the patient and the medical professional. It is due to this reason that I am bringing up this matter, as I believe understanding one another alleviates the stress on the medical patient and it allows the health professional to deal with the patient.

Sometimes they are told that they don't require a medical escort from their home community, but upon travel, they find that an escort is needed, especially when the patient is scheduled for surgery. Now, what happens when the patient wants to submit a complaint? To use this

example, from our home community, medical patients travel to Yellowknife or Edmonton when they are scheduled to have surgery. When health officials in either Yellowknife or Edmonton are required to communicate with our local health centres, how can this communication be used to allow for medical escorts when a patient is scheduled for surgery?

Some patients require an escort while others don't, and it can get confusing. I wonder if the minister can explain how decisions are made in these cases and what is needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anyone who has had to travel for medical purposes or knows somebody who has knows circumstances can change quite quickly on some occasions. There is an appeal process or if circumstances change, they can request an escort even after the fact. If you know somebody who is going in for a surgery that wasn't planned to go into surgery when they first left town, you can still ask for an escort and we will send somebody down right away on the next available flight when it is determined an escort is needed. We realize circumstances can change and we do our best to remain flexible to meet the needs. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, is there a training component for our local health staff in that area specific to what they are

supposed to follow in terms of handling medical patients and the need for escorts? Can the minister provide an explanation on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question with regard to medical travel coordinators, they are trained, but it has been recognized for consistency and to make sure that everyone gets the same level of service, we are looking at standardizing our training more. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. 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. Opposed. Thank you too. The motion is carried.

Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses out, and I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

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

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Your committee has been considering Bill 15 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Netser. 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.

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

### Item 23: Orders of the Day

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus tomorrow at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for February 26:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions

13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

14. Tabling of Documents

15. Notices of Motions

16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

17. Motions

18. First Reading of Bills

19. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 13
- Bill 15
- Bill 16
- Bill 17
- Bill 18

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 26, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:58*

