

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

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(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*

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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

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(South Baffin)

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

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(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Community and
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of Human Resources*

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John Main
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(Baker Lake)
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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)
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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates Review
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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
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Homelessness; Minister responsible for
Immigration; Minister responsible for the
Status of Women*

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements	1
Members' Statements	5
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	16
Oral Questions.....	16
Written Questions.....	44
Tabling of Documents.....	49
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	52
Report of the Committee of the Whole	68
Third Reading of Bills.....	69
Assent to Bills	70
Speaker's Statement	70
Orders of the Day	72

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

205 – 5(2): Meagan Tassiuk (Netser) 1
206 – 5(2): Wise Woman and Outstanding Young Woman Awards (Sheutiapik) 2
207 – 5(2): Tourism Summit (Akeeagok) 3
208 – 5(2): School Land Trips (Joanasie) 4
209 – 5(2): Nunavut at 20 (Savikataaq) 5

C.

Members' Statements

316 – 5(2): Polar Bear Management (Qirngnuq) 6
317 – 5(2): Encouraging Safe Travels (Keyootak) 6
318 – 5(2): Encouraging Young People Not to Give Up (Kaernerik) 7
319 – 5(2): Recognition of Rosemary Sandy (Kusugak) 8
320 – 5(2): Incorporating Inuit Societal Values (Quassa) 9
321 – 5(2): Recognition of Tasha Tologanak (Ehaloak) 10
322 – 5(2): Recognition of George Henry (Towtongie) 11
323 – 5(2): CBC North Iqaluit Receives Awards (Hickes) 11
324 – 5(2): Tribute to Charlie Panigoniak (Main) 12
325 – 5(2): Apex Youth Request Rink (Angnakak) 14
326 – 5(2): Grand Opening of the Cape Dorset Power Plant (Joanasie) 15
327 – 5(2): Appreciation of Being Welcomed in Iqaluit (Netser) 15

D.

Oral Questions

438 – 5(2): Improving Airline Routes and Airfares (Keyootak)	16
439 – 5(2): Polar Bear Management (Qirngnuq).....	18
440 – 5(2): Status of Housing for New Health Centre Staff (Rumbolt).....	20
441 – 5(2): Beer and Wine Stores (Towtongie)	21
442 – 5(2): Legal Services Board (Akoak).....	23
443 – 5(2): Departmental Grants and Contributions Programs (Kamingoak).....	24
444 – 5(2): RCMP Response Time (Kaernerker).....	26
445 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Programs in Baker Lake (Mikkungwak)	28
446 – 5(2): Respecting Inuit Culture, Youth and Families (Quassa)	29
447 – 5(2): Pagnirtung School Bus (Nakashuk).....	31
448 – 5(2): Ministerial Handbook (Lightstone)	32
449 – 5(2): Inuit Labour Content to Build Public Housing (Main).....	34
450 – 5(2): Men’s Shelters (Qirngnuq)	35
451 – 5(2): Respite Care for Children with Disabilities (Kamingoak).....	37
452 – 5(2): Staffing Government Liaison Officer Positions (Mikkungwak)	38
453 – 5(2): Year of Indigenous Languages (Quassa)	40
454 – 5(2): Construction of New Correctional Facility – Inuit Labour (Main).....	42

E.

Written Questions

028 – 5(2): Graduation Statistics (Main).....	44
029 – 5(2): Recipients of Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (Main).....	45
030 – 5(2): Mine Training (Main).....	46
031 – 5(2): Mine Training (Main).....	48

F.

Tabling of Documents

144 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report (Netser) 49

145 – 5(2): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report – January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017
(Savikataaq) 49

146 – 5(2): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report – January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018
(Savikataaq) 49

147 – 5(2): Grants and Contributions Annual Report 2017-2018 (Hickes) 50

148 – 5(2): Letters of Expectation for Crown Corporations (Hickes)..... 50

149 – 5(2): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies
for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018 (Savikataaq)..... 50

150 – 5(2): NHC Annual Report 2017-2018 (Netser)..... 50

151 – 5(2): Correspondence from Marjorie Autut to the Office of Patient Relations (Towtongie)
..... 51

152 – 5(2): Correspondence Concerning Housing and Homelessness Issues in Taloyoak
(Qirngnuq) 51

153 – 5(2): Speaker’s List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements (Speaker) 51

154 – 5(2): Report of the Integrity Commissioner Concerning Member for Rankin Inlet North-
Chesterfield Inlet (Speaker) 51

G.

Motions

033 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period (Main) 34

H.

Bills

Bill 13 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2017-2018 – Consideration in Committee 52

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – Consideration in Committee 55

Bill 20 – Interim Language of Instruction Act – Consideration in Committee	63
Bill 13 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2017-2018 – Third Reading	69
Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act– Third Reading	69
Bill 20 – Interim Language of Instruction Act– Third Reading	69

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 12, 2019**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickers, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, 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. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 10:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) my colleagues, and especially our fellow Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

To those who are longing for their loved ones and spouses, your family will be coming home to you soon. Perhaps tomorrow, if the weather permits, we will be going home to our families. Thank you for your patience and supporting us even though we were away. Ministers, even though you live here, you are also away from your family like we are. You will also be with your family.

Going to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 205 – 5(2): Meagan Tassiuk

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's a new day. (interpretation) I'm happy. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) our colleagues will be going home and I envy them. Even though we live in Iqaluit, my heart belongs at home, as residents of my community know.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, if we are to shelter all Nunavummiut, we need the help of everyone to make this a reality. We need the help of our current tenants to cut down the cost of maintenance. We also need the help of Nunavummiut to build more

homes to meet the rising demand for housing. And, Mr. Speaker, we need made-in-Nunavut solutions to meet the challenges posed by our unique geography and way of life.

Though still a student at John Arnalukjuaq School in Arviat, Meagan Tassiuk has already proven her passion to meet that challenge, having completed an in-depth analysis into the housing crisis which has persisted since Nunavut became a territory. In a well-written essay, Ms. Tassiuk highlights the reasons for the housing shortage and its effects on the health of Nunavummiut. She links overcrowding to poor mental health, and points out that the number of people waiting for housing will likely increase in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the housing shortage impacts all Nunavummiut. Many people move from one couch to another just to escape the cold. Ms. Tassiuk writes that some people with full-time jobs move between family members to seek shelter. Other people put half their paycheques into private market rentals. Some generously share their public housing units with as many people as they can to stay out of the cold.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of Ms. Tassiuk, “In order to begin fixing this major issue that lays before us, we must educate ourselves about the things that NHC staff is doing. The more we know, the more we can advocate for the basic needs of the people in Nunavut.” My colleagues can read Ms. Tassiuk’s essay at nunavuthousing.ca. (interpretation) Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Sheutiapik.

Minister’s Statement 206 – 5(2): Wise Woman and Outstanding Young Woman Awards

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the visitors in gallery and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the successful recipients of Qullit’s 2019 Wise Woman and Outstanding Young Woman Awards.

(interpretation ends) These awards are intended to honour women across Nunavut, women who are role models within our communities, advocating for and on behalf of others, teaching traditional skills, and volunteering to support those in need.

Uqaqtitsijii, the recipient of the Wise Woman Award is Rosemary Sandy of Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

Rosemary is being recognized for keeping traditional knowledge of sewing and cooking alive across the Kivalliq. Rosemary is known by others as someone who can be called upon in times of need, making her an excellent role model for others.

Uqaqtitsijii, the recipient of the Outstanding Young Woman's Award is Tasha Tologanak of Cambridge Bay. Tasha's volunteerism is being recognized within her community. She has supported previous drives for Christmas hampers, winter clothing, and for emergencies such as fires. Tasha is committed to supporting those in need.

Please join me today in honouring these two women who are role models in their communities and who provide outstanding volunteer, advocacy work, and support to others. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 207 – 5(2): Tourism Summit

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to provide a general update on tourism in Nunavut as the Government of Nunavut is about to enter an exciting, new strategic planning phase for tourism in Nunavut.

To facilitate the development of a new strategy, the Department of Economic Development's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division will host The Spirit of the Arctic: Tourism Summit 2019 in Iqaluit, Nunavut from April 15 to 18, 2019.

(interpretation ends) The summit will be a chance for stakeholders to help shape the development of a strong and sustainable tourism industry in Nunavut through discussion and consensus. Invited guests will include tour operators and outfitters, community leaders, national and regional Inuit organizations, territorial and federal government departments, as well as national and indigenous tourism organizations. Tour operators and outfitters are highly encouraged to attend to take advantage of networking opportunities and learn about best practices.

Nunavut's tourism industry offers 250 direct jobs and accounts for about 1 percent of the territory's GDP accounting to some \$21 million, a small slice of Canada's \$90 billion tourism industry. The upcoming summit is aimed at finding innovative and resourceful approaches for the next evolution of tourism planning and making Nunavut Canada's next tourist hot spot.

This event will provide a forum for collaborative discussion on elements to be included in the new strategy and stimulate conversation around the next big trends driving the tourism sector.

More information about the summit can be found at www.tourismsummitnu.com. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Minister's Statement 208 – 5(2): School Land Trips

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I say “good morning” to the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the importance of school land trips for Nunavut students. These trips enhance the school curriculum, providing valuable opportunities for social and academic development. By encouraging and supporting school land trips, my department is acknowledging the long known fact that learning needs to take place in different environments and not just within the four walls of a school classroom.

I had the opportunity to witness it myself at the invitation from the Pangnirtung DEA last spring in May, where we went to the fishing lakes nearby and it was great to see the kids participate in these land activities. As well, in Taloyoak later on in 2018 in the fall when I visited the community, the high school students embarked on a caribou hunting trip and you can just see the excitement in their faces.

Mr. Speaker, schools across Nunavut use land trips as a way to engage students in the learning process and to deliver the curriculum in a more culturally relevant way. Students learn to develop traditional and land-based skills in addition to fostering teamwork and collaboration by interacting with each other and their environment.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, for centuries, Inuit have maintained a close relationship to the land and nature. This is reflected in the principle of *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*, respect and care for the land animals and the environment. My department is committed to nurturing a closer relationship between our students and the land around them by supporting class time outside. Land trips help students build their identities with the values, knowledge, beliefs, and cultural distinctiveness of the people of Nunavut. In our schools, the land will remain an important place of learning and experience.

To remind the people of Nunavut as they will be taking students out on the land this spring, make sure you plan the trip properly and keep safety in mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Minister's Statement 209 – 5(2): Nunavut at 20

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning” to you. Spring is coming.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on this last day of our winter sitting, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments as we approach the 20th anniversary of the creation of our territory.

>>Applause

Nunavut is the realization of a vision of the desire to set ourselves apart, of hard work, creating our own path and following the desire to shape our future with Inuit culture, language and values.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the struggles, setbacks, and challenges our peoples and communities face. Our needs are great and our resources are limited, but we also have much to celebrate. My colleague, Minister Hickes, highlighted some of our accomplishments at the start of his Budget Address a few weeks ago, but we must also look at the people and initiatives that make a difference. Community-based language programming, successful community-led businesses and entrepreneurs, early childhood education rooted in Inuktitut and Inuit practices, our artists, designers and musicians who are bringing Nunavut to an international audience, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of this 20th anniversary milestone, I am pleased to announce that the Government of Nunavut is providing funding to our communities to use for planning as they see fit. Additionally, there will be ongoing contests through Government of Nunavut social media for Nunavummiut to showcase their Nunavut at 20 – their memories, their hopes, their favourite moments, and their suggestions for the next 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, we have learned so much since 1999. We may not be where we thought we would, but we are so far from where we started. We are growing in our capacities from lessons learned and in our partnerships and from each other. I for one will be reflecting and hopeful on April 1, and hope you will all join me. This is Nunavut – our success, our vision, our future, together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 316 – 5(2): Polar Bear Management

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to state that the people who assist us in the lower levels are invaluable as they seem to be tireless, so I wish to expressly thank them.

And as we begin to head to our homes, I wish all my colleagues a safe trip home and into your house, and this includes our ministers whom I wish the best while they are here in Iqaluit. I am happy for you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the polar bear management issues within the territory of Nunavut as the residents of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk as we hunt polar bears annually, and the two management zones are being managed adequately by the HTOs of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk.

(interpretation ends) We do so proudly in keeping with the tradition and teachings of our elders and ancestors.

Mr. Speaker, there are many issues of concern to my constituents in this area including the importance of minimizing the use of invasive techniques such as use of tranquilizers when conducting population counts. We are also concerned about the impact of contaminants on the health of bears, as well as humans who harvest and consume them for food.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many tragic incidences in Nunavut over the past year, involving encounters between bears and humans, and I believe in the importance of listening to local knowledge when it comes to preventing such incidents.

Mr. Speaker, we need a sound approach for polar bear management that will endure for years to come and I will have questions for the minister on this subject at the appropriate time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 317 – 5(2): Encouraging Safe Travels

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish good morning to residents of Qikiqtarjuaq who are listening or watching the proceedings, as well as residents of Clyde River, and in particular my colleagues, including all of the ministers, good morning!

Mr. Speaker, today I rise as we are preparing to all travel home as we are finishing this winter session, so I want to expressly state my appreciation for coming to the end of our

meetings albeit it was quite onerous dealing with our legal requirements, but we have to complete it.

And, in particular, Mr. Speaker, we are getting close to early spring and Inuit will soon be out hunting in all places, particularly the younger hunters who I want to advise “it is healthy going hunting, especially in the springtime when the days get long and the weather becomes beautiful” that you must always keep an eye out, and particular our youth who are out hunting.

You must always bring your emergency supplies, and especially since we heard that many hunters have required searches and I too, have become lost and was the subject of a search and rescue previously.

I urge you not to forget the SPOT devices, even if you plan on being out only for a day, as the weather today is largely unpredictable. Some hunters now use powerful machines that are quite fast and even within a day, can reach hundreds of miles in distance, especially some of the younger hunters today.

Even if you don't think you will need the device when out for a day, please bring it on every trip. Let us ensure we bring our SPOT devices, and further, ensure you always have an emergency supply that can last longer than a day even if you don't need it.

This applies especially to camp stoves, sleeping bags and such if you plan to be far off and keep them handy, as no one can control the weather and these days, the weather can change overnight as the climate is no longer as static as it once was. Today, the weather can change rapidly now.

Please ensure that you keep these preparations in mind, especially to our younger hunters this spring season where long distances are attainable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements, Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Member's Statement 318 – 5(2): Encouraging Young People Not to Give Up

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Amittuq, ministers and colleagues I wish you all good morning.

The reason why I rise this morning is to voice my gratitude, to extend wishes to colleagues for a safe trip and...when you receive help you feel very thankful and I urge our youth to know that, and further, when you help someone out and someone is thankful, and giving thanks is free.

It doesn't really have a price but when a person is thankful, that good feeling is passed along. This is what I want to see practiced more often by residents of Nunavut, as partnership and collaboration and serving others is the traditional practices of Inuit, and our government is emulating that through the *Turaaqtavut* mandate.

Now, this is part of our ancient oral tradition which is *Katujjiqatigiingniq*, or collaboration, especially where you have weak skills, if you trust an older person with sage advice, it become more manageable.

This is why I keep spouting my urging to the youth to please approach your elders. You can start to feed off their wisdom, their capabilities as well as skills. They may not be very vocal at first, but they open up when you ask. Even though it may not feel as if you are getting prepared for later stages of life, they are preparing you for that future life.

I keep speaking to that need to offer encouragement to our youth, as I am both urging and advising you as fellow Inuit to provide opportunities for growth, so yes, if it leads to bettering yourself, please follow that path.

As women, if you enjoy sewing, that is good. As men, when you start hunting on your own and you enjoy being on the land, that is fine. I used to get this advice from our elders "as men we need to breathe fresh air on occasion" and when we get home, we are relaxed and I know now this is true.

When you just spend time indoors such as being in these meetings, you sometimes get very worried, but I want to advise our youth to be strong and resilient. Life can become exceedingly hard, and you may go through hard times, but ask for advice and help.

That is the only way that our future is less bleak. To our youth, keep putting your foot forwards and while here, I wish to express my thanks perhaps as I may seem to be speaking off-topic, but I always offer this advice to assist others.

This is now the time to say my goodbye to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 319 – 5(2): Recognition of Rosemary Sandy

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Rankin Inlet and I am happy that I will be able to go home shortly after next week. I am really homesick at this time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Iqaluit are very hospitable so I first wish to thank them here.

>>Applause

While we are here, we feel right at home due to the hospitality and warmth of Iqalungmiut and I wanted to let everyone know and I am quite grateful to them.

Mr. Speaker, this morning my ministerial colleague, the Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik spoke about an issue I absolutely agree with, and I am also quite proud of this person from my riding *Angugasak* Rosemary Sandy, who was recognized today by the Qulliq Status of Women for being a wise woman, for her commitment to assist fellow Inuit and this acknowledgement happened to fall in the right time, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to voice my pride in *Angugasak* which is why I rise today. From the time I was a young person, I have known her and during my youth, Rosemary taught many residents of our community, and as a matter of fact, the children she taught the skills to, when they grew up, she also taught their children so she has taught several generations that is some cases includes grandchildren.

Although she no longer works in the schools, she would still offer courses outside of the school environment, teaching traditional sewing techniques. She has taught other seamstresses not just in Nunavut as she has travelled great distances.

As well, she is well-versed in cooking country foods, as well as preparing foods in the Inuit tradition and preserving them as well, and she has also taught them to others. I could go on forever and a day just speaking about the people she has helped.

Angugasak, we are extremely proud of your commitment and dedication, and for your recognition and award, that must have been an easy decision as all of the things you do are a source of pride, Rosemary Sandy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Member's Statement 320 – 5(2): Incorporating Inuit Societal Values

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I say “good morning” to the residents of my community and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, this morning as we are barely in the morning still, I rise as I have vocally urged the government to place more emphasis on the Inuit cultural values or (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values (interpretation) within our legislation as a valued component.

Mr. Speaker, I believe you are also very aware that I have passionately espoused the need to modernize our legislation that is culturally relevant to us, our children and our families

especially and that we have to reflect that by revising these antiquated laws to respect Inuit values.

Mr. Speaker, families, familial relationships are extremely integral to Inuit culture. Perhaps, it may be the most critical component our familial relationships. Now, we all know that our legislative foundation in Nunavut related to children, life counselling and such is culturally irrelevant and problematic in light of our familial relationships.

Sometimes social workers force couples to separate, especially families and we have all heard horror stories about this inside this House.

Mr. Speaker, as you will be aware, I feel very strongly that the legislation which governs how child and family services are delivered in Nunavut must be revised and amended to fully consider the cultural and social values of Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, the family is one of the most important social units in Inuit society, if not the most important. Currently, our legislation, Nunavut's *Child and Family Services Act*, does not work towards keeping families together and keeping that unit strong. Under the current implementation of this law, families are being pulled apart and weakened. Our current legislation does not respect the cultural and social importance of the family unit.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this is not only an issue within Nunavut. Indigenous peoples across Canada, families across Canada, have been torn apart under similar laws with similar practices.

Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2019, the federal government introduced Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families.

This enactment affirms the rights and jurisdictions of indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services. If it passes it will have a major impact on the provision of child and family services in relation to Indigenous peoples across Canada.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on what this federal legislation means for Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

Member's Statement 321 – 5(2): Recognition of Tasha Tologanak

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning to my colleagues, the people of Cambridge Bay, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to congratulate a young lady, as Minister Sheutiapik mentioned earlier, on her award for the Young Wise Woman and Outstanding Young Woman Award.

Tasha Nogahak Kihuak Tologanak.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, Tasha will be graduating from her 2-year culinary arts program at NAIT in Edmonton, and I'm sure, like my constituents, we are very proud of her.

(interpretation) It pleases my heart and I love you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 322 – 5(2): Recognition of George Henry

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I am very proud that my *angajuruluk* Rosemary Sandy was awarded Qulliq's 2019 Wise Woman and Outstanding Young Woman's Award. *Alianait*.

I would like to focus on women and children and those in between; the men. We represent more and provide more services. This week I saw a young man named George Henrie, who is from Rankin Inlet, Alice Kingmiaqtu's younger sister's brother, who is a body guard for Prime Minister Trudeau, and before that, for Mr. Harper.

He works in the background but provides that type of service. We have to remember the Inuit men who we have to provide more services and to recognize them for what they do and the volunteer hunters who provide food for the communities.

For those who have not completed their education, they have less employment opportunities than women do because down south it is the men who work but the men up here are living in two worlds. I urge the Premier and my colleagues focus on Inuit men who need more support and more services and to help them further their education or to become full-time hunters.

We have to find money to help our Inuit men of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Minister Hickey.

Member's Statement 323 – 5(2): CBC North Iqaluit Receives Awards

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate CBC North on receiving a remarkable eight nominations for the Radio-Television Digital News Association East Region Awards.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, of the eight nominations for CBC North, I would like to specifically note that CBC North's Iqaluit Team earned five nominations for their new coverage in digital, radio, television categories.

Their nominations include:

- Breaking News – the Charlie Edwards Award, Digital and Radio with regard to the CBC North Iqaluit, *Northmart in Iqaluit Destroyed by Fire*
- Continuing Coverage – Ron Laidlaw Award, Digital and Radio, *Nunavuts TB Epidemic*
- Breaking News – Charlie Edwards Award – Television, *Iqaluit's Bowhead Whale Hunt*

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize CBC North's nomination in the radio category for their live AWG, Arctic Winter Games Hockey coverage. From that, that was broadcast in Inuktitut, with guest commentator, David Ningeongan.

Mr. Speaker, last year CBC Iqaluit's Jordan Konek, did the first broadcast on CBC's The National all in Inuktitut.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, it makes us all very proud to hear our Inuit language broadcast across the nation for all to hear.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Members of this House, I would like to congratulate the hard working reporters, producers, and staff at CBC North Iqaluit for their achievements. These nominations are a well-deserved recognition of your hard work and commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 324 – 5(2): Tribute to Charlie Panigoniak

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues. I rise today to remember Charlie Panigoniak and to pay tribute. I send my condolences to Lorna, their children and grandchildren. We love you all.

The people of Nunavut lost Panigoniak, but we also have to say thank you because he left behind a legacy. I'm not sure what to say about Charlie Panigoniak, but if we listen to his

songs, it's evident for what he will be remembered for. He told his different stories through song about family, for example, Anaanaaga Ataataga, my mother and my father, or "my younger brother is more capable than me."

>>*Singing*

Ananattiaq, atatattiaq, sujualuvisi; that song.

>>*Laughter*

I'm not a singer, but I pay tribute to Charlie Panigoniak, and again, he told stories through song about the land, like that song...

>>*Singing*

..and that song is about is a river close to Arviat. There is also that song about going from Baker Lake to Arviat. One song that I truly like is this one;

>>*Singing*

...and it's a very beautiful song. He wrote songs about animals, or mosquitos, sandflies...

>>*Laughter*

...ground squirrels... .

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I'm running out of time, but I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow members.

He wrote songs about animals, and usually he wrote funny songs about the ground squirrel who don't see very far into the future, or wolves, or this one;

>>*Singing*

Which says "In my dream I was playing guitar." He used to work in Rankin Inlet, and he wrote a song about Makaija;

>>*Singing*

Like that one. He made you smile. He made you happy, he made you emotional, and he did that by way of song and we have to pay tribute and thank him. He wrote happy songs, he wrote sad songs, he wrote songs of hardship, and especially about love. He wrote about the land, he wrote about his family, he wrote about animals and he wrote made in Nunavut songs. He really appreciated everything.

We felt his love for the people of Nunavut appreciating the people. It is a gift and it remains a gift and we have to pay tribute and say “thank-you” to Mr. Charlie Panigoniak. I know that as people of Nunavut, we will never forget Charlie Panigoniak. Lest we forget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Main. To all of the people Nunavut, we pay tribute to Mr. Charlie Panigoniak, and we will smile when we hear our songs.

(interpretation ends) I am also very proud of you, Mr. Main, in the fact that you recognize that you can't sing.

>>*Laughter*

Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Member's Statement 325 – 5(2): Apex Youth Request Rink

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

I thought he sounded really good to me. He had a really good voice.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in admiration and appreciation of the leadership demonstrated by our Apex youth. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at the Iqaluit town council meeting, a delegation of children from Apex lobbied our city members for an outdoor skating rink to be built in their community.

Mr. Speaker, these youth are taking a proactive step towards meeting their recreational and health needs. I have mentioned before that when I see such examples of leadership and advocacy from our youth, it not only makes me proud; it gives me great hope for our future.

Mr. Speaker, my hat is off to the youth of Apex. They got together, they identified their needs, they wrote a letter stating their request, and then they followed up in person to make their case and plead their cause.

Mr. Speaker, that is how you get things done. I understand that the request for the outdoor skating rink in Apex is still under consideration. I sincerely hope that the outcome is a positive one, especially while the weather cooperates. I see skaters enjoying the rink outside of Nakashuk School in Iqaluit and I believe it is of great benefit to everyone to have the option of some fun outdoor skating.

I hope to see the same kind of fun being had in Apex in very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Member's Statement 326 – 5(2): Grand Opening of the Cape Dorset Power Plant

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of Cape Dorset. If you recall, Mr. Speaker, it is almost five years ago today that I stood in the House for the Qulliq Energy Corporation's... Cape Dorset had an extremely old power plant.

I can say now we have a new power plant, we're happy and excited about it. Even though it was completed in December 2018, the official opening will be on Thursday, March 14, at 4:00, this week in Cape Dorset. To all the people of Cape Dorset, I celebrate with you. I will be going to Cape Dorset with the minister.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, five years ago, at the time, I joked about how that power plant was older than I was, and maybe even older than the minister at the time. I can say from this point on that it's not the case anymore. I trust that the new power plant will bring great service to the community for decades to come, so I invite the people of Cape Dorset to the celebration on Thursday to commemorate the opening ceremony of the new power plant at 4:00 p.m. and it will be followed by a community feast at the Mr. Sammurtoq Pudlat School from 5:00 to 7:00 so, (interpretation) welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 327 – 5(2): Appreciation of Being Welcomed in Iqaluit

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat. If my sister is watching the proceedings, I send my regards.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that we are welcomed as if we were home, and my dear wife is giving sewing projects, and she really likes it when someone asks for her and she never refuses. We are very welcomed. Don't worry about us. When I joined cabinet, I went to see Joanasié Tinashlu in Naujaat. He told me, "This will pass. You have work to do. Just go ahead and do it." And my son-in-law, Peter Nakoolak, told me that and they welcomed me. Thank you.

Even though this session seemed long, it is suddenly over. Please have safe travels home, and we won't be seeing you for a while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser. Yes, we are happy too that we won't see you for a while too.

>>*Laughter*

Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Would you like to recognize someone, Mr. Joanasié? Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Joanasié.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize officials from the Department of Education: J.P., who works in communications; Mary Kilabuk, who works in policy; Melissa Alexander; and lastly Kuthula Matshazi. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 438 – 5(2): Improving Airline Routes and Airfares

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I keep reiterating that travel in the Baffin region is not good, especially in my constituency communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. Travel on airlines has real problems and this has been a concern by my constituents, especially for Inuit, and I have been asked to bring it up in the House.

We are all aware that in the wintertime, there's an occasional flight from here through Pangirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Clyde River and return on the same route. That is a

discounted fare for Christmas. It is especially a good time and people are extremely happy about that in the winter. The plane fills up very fast when they're aware of the routing.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister work with the airlines? Even if it's only once that they can have a special routing like that in the summertime, my constituents would be extremely happy about it. When it's not wintertime, it would be appreciated even if the routing was done once on the discounted flight, especially when a lot of people want to see their family members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Yes, the airlines set their own fares and routes. I would like to have regular meetings with them to look at such issues. Last year the Chairman of First Air, Johnny Adams, announced to all of Nunavut on special fares for the Qikiqtaaluk. They have introduced that fare by now, Ilak Fare, and it is a discounted fare. They also institute special fares during Christmas on their own accord.

My colleague, please don't wait for me. If you write to them yourself, you can talk to Johnny Adams specifically and you can communicate with him in Inuktitut and he goes around visiting Nunavut. I encourage everyone to bring this up and I support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for elaborating on that. This is especially important to my constituents, particularly for those who want to family when the weather is good in the summertime. They don't necessary want to have to go through Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet.

To see if they can travel at least once every summer, can the minister, if at all possible, write to the people of those communities or to me if he indicate on which month would be most appropriate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that our fellow Inuit visit briefly to beautiful Arctic Bay and they can see their relatives. It's especially good that way sometimes.

We have special routes. It's entirely up to the airlines on which route they want to take and we have no control over them as a government, but we can have discussions with them and discussions will be ongoing on how we can make improvements.

This year we are expecting that there's a competition right now with the airlines on the government's medical travel contract for Inuit. I look forward to that being a benefit to all Nunavummiut. We would like to see even more airlines. When there are more airlines, the fares seem to go down. I always encourage airlines to serve Nunavut in that case.

I will bring your question up and when I get a response, I'll communicate that to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the good response. Mr. Speaker, yes, that's appropriate. Even though they go through that route, a majority of the travellers don't pay their own fares, but when you pay your own fare, it's very expensive when you take that long route and you have to spend the night before you reach your destination. Some of them have to spend the night and that adds to the high cost of having to spend the night before you reach your destination and you have to spend the night in a different community.

It's good if you don't pay your own way, but when you pay your own fare, it's extremely expensive and it's impossible to utilize it. For that reason, my constituents have asked me to bring that up, even it's once a summer on a cheaper airfare to visit where they want to visit. Can he also bring that up? A lot of people can't go when they want to go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would very much like to bring that up. My constituents in the High Arctic, especially recently, wanted to go to Ottawa from Grise Fiord. The cheapest fare was \$7,000. When you're a family, especially in the High Arctic and Resolute Bay even increases the price. I try to work hard on how we can get discounts. I can bring that up and I would like to plan with the airlines.

We as a cabinet have not talked much about the pricing because there's a competition going on right now. I look forward myself to have that adjusted for all of Nunavut. With that being the case, I'm happy about this and I'll keep bringing up the high cost on travelling by air. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 439 – 5(2): Polar Bear Management

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the issue of polar bear management.

As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board held a public hearing during November of 2018 to consider the Government of Nunavut's proposed polar bear co-management plan.

It is now March of 2019. Can the minister update the Legislative Assembly on the status of the proposed new polar bear co-management plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is correct. They just had the Nunavut polar bear management hearings here. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board had meetings and had stakeholders from all over Nunavut there. We as the Department of Environment had a submission and I expect that we will have the recommendations from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board very shortly. Once we receive the recommendations, we will evaluate them and then make a decision on the recommendation on the polar bear management plan from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He responded to part of my next question.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board held a meeting in Iqaluit last week. One of the items considered by the board was a proposal submitted by the Government of Nunavut concerning changes to polar bear harvest sex-selectivity and the credit system. Can the minister describe his department's proposal and can he clarify the timeline for when the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is expected to make a decision on this matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recommendation that my department made for sex-selective harvests for polar bears to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was that the ratio be one female for one male bear. Currently right now if you shoot one female bear, you have to get two male bears. It's one to three. We have proposed to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board that it be one for one. We hope to hear from this shortly on our recommendation as to what they will recommend to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. It's clearer now.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department's business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to submit a new population estimate of the Gulf of Boothia and M'Clintock Channel polar bear populations to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board by the summer of 2019. Can the minister confirm if this work is on schedule?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge, this research project is on schedule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 440 – 5(2): Status of Housing for New Health Centre Staff

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the government is building a new health centre in Sanikiluaq and we are very pleased to see that project progress. However, I have asked for assurances that staff at the new health centre will be allocated units in the new housing complex being built nearby, and it is not yet clear to me if that will be the case.

Can the minister clarify the status of the new housing complex that is being built near the new health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question from the member from Sanikiluaq. The Nunavut Housing Corporation did look at the need in Sanikiluaq and due to no new PYs having been approved, it was determined with Finance that no new staff housing would be built at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. New PYs was not the issue in my community for needing new staff housing. The new health centre is going to be located quite a ways away from the old health centre where the current residence is located. This means that with staff living so far away, they're going to be required to travel to the health centre in

the dead of winter during blizzards to attend the callout. This is going to put people's lives in jeopardy.

Can the minister clarify why they are not building new staff housing near the health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The health centre staff currently have housing and vehicles to travel to work should there be a callout. Finance, health and housing officials are discussing this matter before us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You can have all the vehicles in the world, but if it's a blizzard, you're not going to get to the health centre unless they invest in bulldozers, Mr. Speaker. Again, I will ask the minister to reconsider and make it a priority that they do build staff housing for the new health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly feel for the member, but we are certainly discussing that and it's not settled yet, but once we have the final decision, we will certainly let the member from Sanikiluaq know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 441 – 5(2): Beer and Wine Stores

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Rankin Inlet North and Lisa Kresky. (interpretation ends) She's a teacher, gymnastic, and they will be performing at the World Gymnaestrada in Austria with 18 young people. Good morning, Lisa. There will be 99 countries competing.

Also good morning to Chesterfield Inlet. The family of Arthur Kattagatsiak, we feel for you.

My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

As the minister will recall, plebiscites were held in the communities of Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay on May 1, 2017 concerning the opening of beer and wine stores. In these two communities a majority of votes cast were in favour of opening beer and wine stores.

Can the minister clarify what the government's timetable is for opening stores in either or both of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member bringing this issue forward. Residents of those communities did bring forward a vote on a plebiscite to encourage the opening of a beer and wine store. Just in the past year we made changes to our regulations to allow that to occur in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

With the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store, it was a three-year pilot. We're still accumulating data. It has been about a year and a half now since that has been opened. I do look forward to the day where we can put a business case forward to Finance to expand our beer and wine store inventory to Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in the sitting, the minister announced the establishment of a working group to monitor and evaluate the impact that the beer and wine store in Iqaluit is having. My question is: what steps is the government taking to help the communities of Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, and this is a deterrent for bootlegging, get ready for easier access to alcohol? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly the point of these stores being able to retail lower alcohol content beverages, such as beer and wine, and it's to at least make an impact on the bootlegging side as well as to deter people from drinking hard alcohol or binge drinking.

With the committee that we set up, it takes a look at the information and then as we do our communications strategy on when we have a timeline set up of when we're going to open up the store, it will be part of the whole process. We did it here and we will do it again in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay when the time comes to make sure that the public, that the residents of those communities and outlying communities understand when and how this is all going to go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that different jurisdictions in the country have different approaches to the sale of alcohol and cannabis. Is the government considering allowing the sale of cannabis at its beer and wine stores? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That issue has been brought up a couple of times where I believe it's an economic development opportunity for people or businesses in the community. I don't foresee us as government selling cannabis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 442 – 5(2): Legal Services Board

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning, my colleagues and the people of Gjoa Haven and my family.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

During last Wednesday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister tabled the government's response to the report of our standing committee concerning the televised hearing that we held last year on the Legal Services Board.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that were raised during the televised hearing was the status of the Legal Services Board's office in my community of Gjoa Haven.

Can the minister confirm how many of the Legal Services Board's positions in its Gjoa Haven office are currently filled and how many are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Currently in Gjoa Haven we have... . Sorry. I'm just trying to find my exact numbers for Mr. Akoak.

We have three positions in Gjoa Haven and those are administrative employees at the legal office in Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's response that the minister tabled in the Legislative Assembly last week indicates that it "...commits to re-engaging in discussions with the Legal Services Board to determine how best to utilize the Gjoa Haven office." Can the minister clarify how and when these discussions will take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. The Department of Justice will be working with the Legal Services Board to address these issues for the Gjoa Haven office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the recommendations that were made by the standing committee was the importance of ensuring that the senior staff of public organizations such as the Nunavut Legal Services Board actually live in Nunavut; should live in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, as of today, who is the chief executive officer of the Legal Services Board and where does he or she live? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail of information for the member, but I can find out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 443 – 5(2): Departmental Grants and Contributions Programs

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment. I want to revisit the issue of the department's grants and contributions programs.

As the minister is aware, his department administers a number of programs that provide support to harvesters, including the Disaster Compensation Program, the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, the Wildlife Damage Prevention Program, and the Support for Active Harvesters Program.

However, it appears that the department continues to lapse significant amounts of funding in these areas. Can the minister describe what factors account for this problem? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of these hunter support programs are demand-driven and in some years when the demand is high, then the budget is completely used up. Other times when the demand is low, then obviously there are lapsed funds.

Mr. Speaker, we are working on the guidelines for the wildlife damage compensation to make it simpler and easier for applications to apply because these programs are for Nunavummiut to use and if they're not being fully utilized, then we want to make sure that they are adapted so that they can benefit Nunavummiut for them to use the programs when they need them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have access to resources and the privilege of speaking directly to ministers and senior officials about the government's initiatives.

However, when it comes to programs for hunters, we need to do more than just make documents and policies available on the Internet.

Can the minister describe how his department promotes awareness of its hunter support programs? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The conservation office or wildlife office is one of the key foundations for the environment's program. We have one in each community unless the position is vacant. If anyone has any questions on any of the programs or anything about the Department of Environment, they can go see their local conservation officer and ask questions, sit down and have a coffee with them, just have a conversation. They're there to give the information out to our stakeholders, our hunters, our trappers, and if anyone has any questions on anything to do with environment, go see the wildlife office and go sit down and just have a chat with the officer that is there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Last week I raised the idea of the Department of Environment hosting an annual meeting at which all of Nunavut's hunters and trappers organizations are represented.

I believe that in the same way that the annual general meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities provides an excellent opportunity for ministers and officials to talk directly with mayors and senior administrative officers about the government's programs and services for municipalities, a meeting like this at which HTOs and local conservation officers are represented would also provide an excellent opportunity for the department to explain its programs for hunters and other stakeholders. This in turn would help HTOs and conservation officers to promote the programs at the local level and help with applications and paperwork.

Will the minister commit to holding such a meeting during the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When there's a common issue in Nunavut and consultations are needed for all of Nunavut, then we generally have consultation meetings with all the HTO members.

For something like the hunter support programs, I think it would be cheaper and easier just to have the conservation officer go to the HTO meeting and explain to them what programs are available, the criteria for each program, and the eligibilities to the program. What I can do is I can commit to the department having the conservation officers go to the HTO meeting and explain what hunter support programs are available and how to access these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 444 – 5(2): RCMP Response Time

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this morning is directed to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a concern in terms of an emergency. I'm asking for one of my constituents. When there's an emergency, they have to phone here. I guess this is for police. In terms of trying to get a response to an emergency situation, trying to phone to Iqaluit, I first want to ask the minister: when people are in an emergency situation, I would like to please have the minister speak where the phones can be answered in the communities outside of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. Recently the RCMP appointed a new commanding officer and sitting with the commanding officer, I raised concerns and one of the top concerns was when Inuit call the RCMP station and if it's after hours, the call will go to a number here in Iqaluit. I have raised the concern that we need bilingual firsthand, first contact people so that Inuit who are not bilingual will be able to speak to someone in their language. I totally agree with what you're saying and hopefully in the future we can get this dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is urgent. When you phone, constituents have spoken about an emergency and they phoned to Iqaluit and then

there's an interrogation or question session once they phone here. A person is not speaking Inuktitut, 20 minutes of interviewing, when this is an emergency situation, and then another 20 minutes. Now this has turned into 40 minutes in an emergency. You would think the emergency is there when you're in a small community.

I would like the minister to say here that they are working on this, but I think this is an urgent matter. Will you be sitting with the commanding officer soon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. As I stated earlier, the commanding officer with the Department of Justice is working on issues and one of the top priorities is ensuring that our firsthand contact will be able to speak the language and if that person is not able to speak the language, we try to find someone very quickly to come and translate for our elders that are calling that need emergencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking major dollars here when it comes to communications and the issue of cellphones in communities now, I'm not complaining about the police; I'm complaining about the urgent nature of an emergency call. I wonder how many calls are late when an emergency is required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I'll give an example. If I can't speak English, I'm an Inuktitut-speaking individual, I phone the RCMP and I have a crisis. If it's during working hours, there will be someone who answers the phone that can speak English and Inuktitut. If it's after hours and the individual who answers the phone is not bilingual, we try to find someone as soon as we can to help the individual who is calling for an emergency situation so that we can address the situation as soon as we can for the safety of the individual.

In speaking with our new commanding officer and the Department of Justice, we are working very hard to come up with a plan so that someone who calls after hours will be a bilingual person. I assure you this is a grave concern for me as the Minister of Justice and I reiterated to the commanding officer over and over regarding the MLA's concerns, the community members' concerns, and the elders' concerns that the first point of contact should be a bilingual person. Hopefully within the next sitting, I'll be able to tell you that yes, we have someone that's hired that's going to be able to speak bilingual to emergency calls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 445 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Programs in Baker Lake

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, the beautiful community of Baker Lake is growing and the need for programs and opportunities for residents to take advantage of potential employment are greatly needed.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of programs and courses will be delivered in Baker Lake in the near future? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a few students who utilize the Nunavut Arctic College programs, but there are adult education centres and usually the communities are asked what types of programs they would like to see in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. With the recent massive fire in Baker Lake, some hard lessons were learned. In dealing with the freeze-up following this tragedy, it became very clear that the community of Baker Lake needs more trained tradespeople.

Can the minister clarify what steps are taken, starting at the community learning centre, to encourage and recruit young adults to enter into trades training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have staff at local housing programs. They take the courses. We also provide plumber courses in Rankin Inlet at the trades school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I had always understood that courses would be delivered at the community learning centre based on the needs and interests expressed by the community.

For example, plumbing courses, can the minister indicate whether there are any plans to deliver courses on proposal writing or office administration procedures in Baker Lake and, if not, will he commit to directing his staff to ensure that these courses are delivered in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to carpentry or electrical or plumbing courses, the courses are provided with the help of the Department of Family Services. Once their credits are enough, they go to the trades school to be provided an eight-week course. I'm not sure who provides the training, but we do have programs available. They can approach the social service worker and they will be provided the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 446 – 5(2): Respecting Inuit Culture, Youth and Families

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be speaking English, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2019 the federal government introduced Bill 92, which I have in my hand, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families*.

Can the Premier advise this House whether the Government of Nunavut has a position on Bill C-92 and, if it does, what is it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this bill is still in the process of being passed, we're looking at the situation, but the member would be better suited to ask the questions to the Minister of Family Services as this file is under Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We ask questions as members to our Premier because he is the spokesperson for the entire government. When the federal government enacts legislation, the Premier must speak and not just refer it to someone else.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the preamble of Bill C-92 states, "Parliament affirms the right to self-determination of Indigenous peoples, including the inherent right of self government, which includes jurisdiction in relation to child and family services."

Since 1999, the Government of Nunavut has advocated its support for Inuit Societal Values.

Can the Premier confirm that he recognizes the inherent right of indigenous peoples to make decisions about their own children according to their own cultural and societal values? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bill is still before the Senate and the family services department will probably be making a submission to the bill to get our views known.

Mr. Speaker, the member asked if we believe that Inuit have the right to make their own determination. Mr. Speaker, if the member looks over on this side, the whole of cabinet is all Inuit. We are all Inuit. Everyone on cabinet is an Inuk. I think that's a pretty good show that we are an Inuit government and we are governing on behalf of Nunavummiut, which most of them are Inuit, and I am proud to say that we have an all-Inuit cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also proud that our House is mostly made up of Inuit. I'm not saying that I'm not proud of it.

Mr. Speaker, if the federal legislation, Bill C-92, receives assent, it would give indigenous peoples the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination and work with provincial and territorial governments to take over jurisdiction for child and family services.

(interpretation ends) Currently the territorial government has jurisdiction over child and family services.

Can the Premier advise this House whether he has had any discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated with respect to self-determination and, if so, would he be prepared to negotiate the transfer of jurisdiction of Nunavut's child and family services to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in order to ensure that Inuit societal values are truly respected when it comes to services for Inuit children, youth and families?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is in the process of becoming a bill, but it's not enacted yet; it hasn't passed yet. We have an opportunity to make some comments towards the bill and I stated to the member that the Department of Family Services will be making a submission.

In terms of the Nunavut self-government, the NTI board did pass a motion last fall. They passed a motion to study it, so I'm not sure if even they know exactly what it means yet, and after the study comes out and NTI approaches us and we can talk, but I can't comment on a hypothetical situation here. We will wait for the facts to come out and reality to set in, and then we will tackle the issue as it comes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 447 – 5(2): Pangnirtung School Bus

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. To the people of Pangnirtung, I say “good morning” to you.

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

The community of Pangnirtung, for almost a year now, has a school bus that is currently unusable and is sitting idle in a compound. The bus was burned and has since been refurbished, but it is still not usable due to the strong smell remaining after the fire.

Can the minister indicate whether he is aware of the bus situation in Pangnirtung and whether any consideration has been given to getting a new bus for the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. After the bus in Pangnirtung was set on fire, I'm aware that they needed to repair it. The DEA has been informed at a later date the need for a special needs bus. We're aware of that, but I'm not aware of whether we have received correspondence from the district education authority. I would have to look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, minister. I recognize that it is up to the community to submit its request for a new school bus or for new busing services. Is this in the plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the district education authority wants to put in a request, they can write correspondence asking for a new bus. If we get many requests, we would have to prioritize them. We review the number of students and the distance to the schools where the students have to walk. There are

different considerations and they have to have properly qualified drivers. If there's a request from Pangnirtung, we would review it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 448 – 5(2): Ministerial Handbook

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier.

Yesterday the Premier, as Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, received a number of questions on a recent CBC article on the ministerial home travel benefit. At that time I asked the Premier why the ministerial handbook that governs the rules and policies of which ministerial benefits and specifically why the handbook is not on the GN website as all other handbooks that lay out employee benefits such as the senior management handbook and excluded employee handbooks.

The Premier response was that it wasn't necessary as benefits are tabled in the Assembly in the report titled "Report on the Payment on Indemnities, Allowances, Benefits, and Expenses to the Members of the Legislative Assembly." Mr. Speaker, upon review of the report, there was no mention of reimbursements or expenses paid on behalf of ministers, such as ministerial home travel. I would like to ask to the Premier: what other ministerial benefits are not included in this report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Chairman said yesterday, he asked the same question for six minutes and he got the same answer for six minutes, and I think he will get the same.

In terms of saying why aren't the benefits tabled, I'm going to be tabling documents today and one of them is the allowances and it says here, "Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policy for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018," and home travel is part of this, so I'm not sure where the member is getting his information because this is not a new process, Mr. Speaker. It's done every year. I'm not sure where the member is getting his misinformation saying that home travel is not tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that clarification. Unfortunately my misinformation is coming from the lack of actual knowledge around the policies and procedures surrounding ministerial benefits. As we referenced the CBC article that highlighted the issue, the CBC article also states that the handbook is labelled as confidential and privileged and is not publicly available on the government's website, which was subsequently obtained through an access to information request.

I would like to ask the Premier again: in the spirit of transparency and increased government accountability, will the Premier commit to making this ministerial handbook public and posting it on the government's website? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member said it's from his misinformation that he didn't have the knowledge that ministerial home travel is not tabled, but I don't know if he checked all the tabled documents back to 1999 or not, but it would have been tabled every single year. Like I stated, this is not a new process. This is a process that we do and we tabled all the expenses of all the ministers.

As I stated to the member yesterday in Committee of the Whole, once the new updated ministerial manual is approved, I committed to giving every one of the MLAs a copy and once the MLAs get a copy, they're free to do whatever they wish to do with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the fact that the minister will be sharing with us the updated ministerial handbook, but I hope that it will include or highlight the changes and what specific changes are being made. I would like to ask one further question to the Premier, if the Premier will be sharing that ministerial handbook with his own constituents, and further if the Premier believes that his constituents have a right to know how these public funds are being spent on ministerial benefits and extended benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that tabled documents are online and if anyone in Nunavut wants to look up the tabled documents, they're on the Legislative Assembly's website and all the tabled documents, if I'm not mistaken. If any member of any constituency has any concerns about any public funds that are being used, then they're free to bring it up with their MLA and the MLA can bring it up. All of our benefits are tabled. That's public information.

If the member wants to find out how much any one of us ministers had for home travel or if any member wants to find out how much the MLAs make, whether MLAs get a housing allowance, what their northern allowance is, their place of residence, all that is public information. This is a public government and all the public funds that we expend on behalf of Nunavummiut are public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Mr. Main.

Motion 033 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Amittuq, that the time for question period be extended by a further 30 minutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and therefore question period will be extended for an additional 30 minutes starting now.

Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Question 449 – 5(2): Inuit Labour Content to Build Public Housing

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

I'm aware that in my community of Arviat there are many unemployed people and it was recently announced that the housing corporation will be constructing 20 units. They will be constructing four five-plexes and I'm happy because we are very much aware of the lack of housing.

My first question is: within that construction contract... (interpretation ends) When it comes to setting the Inuit labour content percentage for contracts such as this one, what is the process that the Nunavut Housing Corporation follows? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We receive regular updates throughout the building contracts to monitor the performance. Currently with the new contract, the Nunavut Housing Corporation now requires 30 percent Inuit labour. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my understanding, when buildings are constructed in Arviat, they usually have 50 percent or more Inuit labour. I don't quite understand why it's at 30 percent. Also, the jobs are a great benefit to my constituents. Can the minister take a look at this again? The contract has not been awarded yet. Can the minister revisit the 30 percent Inuit labour content? Perhaps they can increase it to 80 percent, if it was up to me, but if he can revisit it and make adjustments to give more opportunities to Inuit for jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank him for the question. We all want to see 100 percent Inuit labour content and not only in the construction of houses. We want to see all Inuit in all contracts. I have seen when they construct houses in Coral Harbour that they were all Inuit at times and that's good to see. The money that would have been sent outside of the community stayed in the community. It's very good to see when they have all-Inuit labour. I'm imagining it and yes, I would like to see such a scenario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister seems to support my idea. Perhaps he will revisit the 30 percent to increase it. It's good news. Thank you.

This will be my final question. (interpretation ends) It used to be that the housing corporation would have separate contracts for the material, separate contracts for the labour, and that was something that really benefited smaller, local contractors. I know they have gone away from that in recent years, but when it comes to using methods such as labour-only contracts, is that something that the Nunavut Housing Corporation still has on the table or still can use for these types of public housing builds? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) We like to see that too. When I became a minister, I was told my by uncle, "We are watching you." The ministers seem just become part of the government staff and that looks no good. I'm sure you are told things like that and I was told, "Don't just become a government worker and be run by government staff." That was good to hear.

(interpretation ends) Certainly we can look at that program. Recently the Nunavut Housing Corporation received a clean audit, I believe, for the first time since the Nunavut Housing Trust fiasco that happened years before. I think, going down the road, we can certainly look at the labour-only content and I would like to see that happen again to Nunavummiut because that was really beneficial for the smaller contractor, which we are here for. It's for the people of Nunavut, not the southern contractors. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 450 – 5(2): Men's Shelters

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

Mr. Speaker, there is a safe shelter in Kugaaruk and having such a facility is good for the community as well as the neighbouring communities of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. It is my understanding that this shelter is only open to women.

Can the minister clarify how many safe shelters in Nunavut are open to men?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that right now there are two men's shelters, here in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we all know that partners don't always agree with each other. In many cases, after a dispute, it is the man who is asked to leave the home, even when he has no place to go.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, when I was having an argument with my wife, I didn't even know I had won.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on her department's plan to provide shelter services for men across Nunavut's communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) I just want to remind the member that it's not necessarily the man who has to leave the house. It depends on who has a lease agreement for the unit that they are staying. I just wanted to remind that.

Right now unfortunately I don't have a strategy for gender-based housing to house men in Nunavut for homelessness. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that funding is always an issue even when there are good programs and services that could be provided.

Will the minister commit to reviewing the need and options for safe shelters for men in Nunavut and table the results of her review in the House for the information of members and the public? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Two homeless surveys were done and those are not due until the end of April. Once we have that, it will be a tool to assist us in planning for it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 451 – 5(2): Respite Care for Children with Disabilities

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

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the minister's announcement at the beginning of this sitting that under the department's newly enhanced Medical Travel Policy, guardians may now bring their infant when escorting their other child on medical travel. I would like to thank the minister and his staff for listening to the concerns that were raised on this issue. Even though I'm very happy with the minister's announcement, I think we can still do better. Families with children who are disabled often find it very difficult and frustrating to ensure that they and their children can live full and enriching lives.

Can the minister clarify how his department's staff work with staff in other departments such as Education or Community and Government Services to ensure that a child with a disability is appropriately accommodated in a school setting, in a recreational setting, and in Nunavut public facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing forward that question. Mr. Speaker, it's a case-by-case basis. There's no one-size-fits-all, especially when you're talking about youth with disabilities or family members on how they're impacted.

Health's role is to make sure that the equipment such as wheelchairs and things of that nature are provided. There are discussions with Family Services if necessary, the Department of Education if necessary, even with the housing corporation if necessary to make sure the needs can be met.

There's no established protocol that I'm aware of. It's case by case, as needs are identified, we all work together to make sure that our kids can live a great life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Caring for a child with a disability can get stressful for family members. In these cases, families truly demonstrate great strength and patience. Can the minister describe what kinds of respite services are available to families who are struggling to keep their energy levels up while caring for a disabled family member, and clarify how these respite services can be applied for? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With coordination, again it depends on the circumstance, whether it be through the Department of Health or through the Department of Family Services. If the member has a specific case that she's alluding to or talking about, I would be more than happy to sit down with herself and the Minister of Family Services and see where we could coordinate to make sure the resources are in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that at times when the schools do not have enough school staff to provide support for students with disabilities, they send the children home.

Will the minister commit to securing additional funding for children with disabilities to enable parents to engage the services of a caregiver who can provide additional support so that the child can stay at school and interact with their peers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make sure my officials coordinate with the Minister of Education's officials to see how often an issue like that comes about and what we can do to mitigate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 452 – 5(2): Staffing Government Liaison Officer Positions

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

My question is this; prior to winter sitting travel, I happened to notice that there was a GLO advertisement for the position advertised. Question to the Premier is this: when they

are advertised, are there any merits for local, long-time residents who are applying for these positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member wasn't specific on what job advertisement he was talking about, but I assume it's a government job. With any government job, we follow the priority hire, which is Nunavut Inuit first in terms of priority 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I made it very clear. I saw a government liaison officer advertisement prior to the winter sitting. My first follow-up question to that is, it has been made to me and notified to me by my constituents that there are casuals that are working from time to time and they can also apply. I understand that. Is there any consideration when all applicants have put in their application that they are not defeated? As my colleague from Arviat North-Whale Cove indicates, it could have some nepotism. When casuals versus applicants who are not casuals, the question is this: when their applications are all reviewed, are those taken into consideration so that there is no nepotism for casuals that are currently employed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There should be no nepotism. We're all aware that it happens at times, but when a job ad is put out, I'll take the one for the GLO position that the member is talking about, there will be qualifications that have to be met, there will be minimum qualifications, and then you get screened in, and we will follow our Priority Hiring Policy, which is Nunavut Inuit first.

When people screen in to the interview, if they pass the interview, then there will be a selection process. We don't exclude casuals, if that's what the member is implying. All the applications are looked at and the best suitable candidate is picked, to the best of our ability, providing they have passed the interview and a good reference check. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This will be my final question. Those people who hold jobs, sometimes one person holds more than one position and people are aware of that. Some people get selected when they are already working outside the government.

Jobs are very hard to get in general. Can this be considered some more? When you're selecting government liaison officer positions, especially for that position, in Baker Lake

when there's a mine nearby and driver's licences are very important, and when many people need licences, there are no jobs outside of work... . Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GLO positions are full time, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 to 5:00. If anyone wants to work outside of hours, they have to ask and seek approval before they work outside of their current employment, whether they're trying to have their own business.

(interpretation ends) The GLO positions are full-time positions and if anyone wants any outside employment who works for the GN have to notify and they have to get permission. (interpretation) The GLOs work full time Monday to Friday, so I'm not sure what he means by outside of work. They work Monday to Friday throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 453 – 5(2): Year of Indigenous Languages

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Languages. I'll probably be told to redirect my question.

Now within Nunavut, indeed with both this being the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and the new national legislation contemplated and in face of Inuktitut being a distinctively unique language in the world.

And further, our Premier also announced this morning that he believes fully in Nunavut due to the foundation being based on Inuit culture, language here as if to strengthen it now like we did when we fought to create Nunavut?

Let me ask the minister: with your role in this portfolio of our government, will you be sending out language directives especially perhaps new initiatives based on this being an acknowledged year, and to recognize the fact that indigenous languages are internationally recognized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. 2019 is indeed the International Year of Indigenous Languages as I announced earlier yesterday. To celebrate this fact, we are preparing the next major conference to look at the increased usage of our language and ways to preserve it through dialogues such as those begun with the conference, with Inuit leaders of the Inuit organizations as well.

However, *Uqausivut 2.0* is the result, as it provides a forum and avenue for government to prepare plans for language preservation based on its' legislative requirements. This is where we have tried to lay out the priorities and services, our operations and linguistic events we are looking at to see if we can increase the usage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. Indeed, language recognition is actually very important and essential not just this year as it has been a tenet of the creation of Nunavut and we need to keep fighting to ensure we keep our language as we should never lose it. This is the topic many of our colleagues raise when expressing language concerns.

Now within this government, I imagine you have concurred with the assessment that Inuktitut should be used within the upper echelons of government as it should be the working language. Let me now ask: as the responsible minister within this government, will there be more Inuktitut language classes for non-Inuktitut speaking employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Aggu for the question. Within the bounds of *Uqausivut 2.0*, we have four main priorities we wish to pursue: within the schools, within departmental operations, within (interpretation ends) services and programs, (interpretation) including working with the private sector to look at language revitalization and preservation. Within government, we have priorities that are identified within the document where employees can't speak Inuktitut, they will have access to language (interpretation ends) training programs (interpretation) that shall also be made available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To reiterate, language preservation is very important, as we all know in this House that there is new legislation amending the existing education legislation which will no longer legally require the department to institute bilingual education with Inuktitut especially as we try to strengthen Inuktitut in our schools.

I strongly urge this minister to push harder to implement this. I used to be quite proud of his continual efforts to speak Inuktitut as regular members and that he continues to express himself in Inuktitut showcasing his own strength and I strongly believe he does indeed in his ministerial role.

Now for my last comment I want to state that all non-Inuktitut members of the public service should be strongly encouraged by this minister as an advocate of the language to

take this linguistic training, as they are in Nunavut so this must be mandatory and a compulsory requirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The members of the public service are encouraged to use this opportunity for language training and it would be much better where it is self-led. Within our schools we have also tried to encourage our students to be conscious about speaking and enhancing their levels as their grades get harder and to have correspondingly harder levels of Inuktitut.

That's an example I'm just using here, however we want to work with all the departments within our government and our regions to develop training plans appropriate for each region that they will implement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 454 – 5(2): Construction of New Correctional Facility – Inuit Labour

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Save the worst for last.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Justice regarding her statement of March 5 and the subject she announced.

This correctional facility, the facility to be constructed here in Iqaluit is to commence construction later this month as she announced. It is about the percentage of Inuit employment which is the target which we have debated previously in this House.

My first question is: can the minister please identify exactly what the (interpretation ends) Inuit labour content (interpretation) percentage will be within the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Mr. Main, for your question. The Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre was awarded to Pilitak Enterprises Ltd. on December 11, 2018. We were able to agree to maintain an Inuit employment force of 20 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for indicating that. It states here the work is planned to commence in the upcoming months.

Now I wonder which communities will receive the upcoming employment opportunities as advertisements. Since this is a Hall Beach company (interpretation ends) Pilitak Enterprise (interpretation) stems from the Amittuq perhaps only the Inuit from Hall Beach and Igloolik will hear about this opportunity and not just the ones here in Iqaluit?

Wouldn't they want to possibly bring in workers from throughout Canada, from Nunavut outside of Iqaluit as workers outside of Iqaluit have to be included as this company is from outside at least in my perception, but I could be wrong as I am only assuming that.

Can the minister clarify if any or all communities will be targeted for those positions in the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, the member, for his question. As I stated earlier, Pilitak Enterprise Ltd. was awarded the contract and the 20 percent Inuit employment that we have agreed upon, hopefully they will find these residents from other communities rather than just Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I'm hopeful too, but I'm not the minister in charge of this department, so I don't have a lot of authority here. Will the minister commit to working with this contractor under the terms of the contract that has been signed to ensure that job advertisements are posted in the surrounding communities outside of Iqaluit in this region? Will the minister commit to doing this, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Main, for your question. Like you, I'm very passionate about having our Inuit working on construction projects such as a huge one like this and yes, I can commit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, please note that the extended time for question period has expired and it can't be extended further. Therefore we will proceed with the orders of the day.

Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 7: Written Questions**Written Question 028 – 5(2): Graduation Statistics**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question directed to the Department of Education regarding graduation statistics in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my written questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read, but I am willing to read them out if necessary.

>>*Laughter*

No problem there.

1. For the following academic years, broken down by community and school, how many students who completed their grade 12 education graduated with a Nunavut Secondary School Graduation Diploma:
 - a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16

2. For the following academic years, broken down by community and school, how many students who completed their grade 12 education graduated without being awarded a Nunavut Secondary School Graduation Diploma:
 - a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16

3. For the following academic years, broken down by grades 10, 11, and 12, how many students received higher than a 50 percent score in their departmental exams:
 - a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16

4. For the following academic years, broken down by grades 10, 11, and 12, how many students who received less than 50 percent score in their departmental exams received credit for the course:
 - a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16

5. For the following academic years, broken down by grades 10, 11, and 12, how many students were assessed as being proficient in the Inuit language:
 - a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16

6. For the following academic years, how many grade 12 secondary school graduates were assessed as being bilingual:
 - a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I believe the member is seeking unanimous consent to have his questions entered into the record as read. Are there any nays? There are no nays. The questions will be entered into the record as read.

Thank you. Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Written Question 029 – 5(2): Recipients of Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My written questions this time around are for the Minister of Family Services and they request further information on the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students.

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

1. For the following academic years, how many students receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were enrolled in an accredited post-secondary university program:
 - a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16

2. For the following academic years, broken down by type of program (diploma, certificate, or degree), how many students receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were enrolled in an accredited post-secondary college program:
 - a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17

- c. 2015-16
3. For the following academic years, how many students receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were enrolled in an accredited post-secondary trades training program:
- a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16
4. For the following academic years, how many students receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were enrolled in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program:
- a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16
5. For the following academic years, how many students receiving Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students were not enrolled in any of the programs listed in questions 1, 2, 3, and 4 above:
- a. 2017-18
 - b. 2016-17
 - c. 2015-16
6. What types of issues are Family Services staff encountering with administering the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students under the current electronic system and database?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to have his questions entered into the record as read. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Your questions will be entered into the record as read.

Thank you. Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Written Question 030 – 5(2): Mine Training

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My written questions today are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and they relate to mine training opportunities for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are about a medium-level of detail, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. For the following fiscal years, how much funding from Nunavut Arctic College's budget was allocated to mine training activities and/or programs:
 - a. 2016-17;
 - b. 2017-18; and
 - c. 2018-19 to date?
2. For the following fiscal years, what mine training programs and/or mining-targeted courses did Nunavut Arctic College deliver?
 - a. 2016-17;
 - b. 2017-18; and
 - c. 2018-19 to date?
3. For the mine training programs and/or mining-targeted courses identified in the answer to Question 2 above, in which communities were the programs and courses delivered?
4. For the mine training programs and/or mining-targeted courses identified in the answer to Question 2 above, how many students participated in the programs and courses delivered?
5. For each of the mine training programs and/or mining-targeted courses identified in the answer to Question 2 above, what was the duration of the program or course delivered?
6. For each of the mine training programs and/or mining-targeted courses identified in the answer to Question 2 above, what was the industry involvement?
7. For each of the mine training programs and/or mining-targeted courses identified in the answer to Question 2 above, what was the funding source?
8. Were job guarantees and/or industry support offered for any of the mine training programs and/or mining-targeted courses identified in the answer to Question 2 above? If so, which ones?
9. What mining-related resources and/or curriculum does Nunavut Arctic College currently have access to?
10. Does Nunavut Arctic College currently have a working relationship, memorandum of understanding, or contract with any mining-related external training organizations or schools? If so, which ones?
11. What specific actions has Nunavut Arctic College undertaken to build relationships with active mines in the territory and within Nunavut's mining sector?

12. How will the new memorandum of understanding with Memorial University of Newfoundland contribute to Nunavut Arctic College's ability to deliver mine-related training?
13. Has Nunavut Arctic College consulted with the mining sector to determine what programs are needed? If so, will these programs be included in the 10-year strategic plan?
14. How will Nunavut Arctic College ensure that its 10-year strategic plan addresses the needs of Nunavut's mining sector?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent once again to have his questions entered into the record as read. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Your questions will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Written Question 031 – 5(2): Mine Training

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my final one. (interpretation ends) My written questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they also relate to mine training opportunities for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are about medium to low/high level of detail, so I ask that they be entered into record as read.

1. For the following fiscal years, how much funding from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's budget was allocated to mine training activities and/or programs
 - a. 2016-17;
 - b. 2017-18; and
 - c. 2018-19 to date?
2. For the following fiscal years, what mine training programs and/or mining-targeted courses did Department of Economic Development and Transportation support?
 - a. 2016-17;
 - b. 2017-18; and
 - c. 2018-19 to date?
3. Since 2016, what specific needs have been communicated in meetings or by other means to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation from mining industry partners?

4. How does the Department of Economic Development and Transportation work with Nunavut Arctic College to specifically address mine training needs?
5. What lessons has the Department of Economic Development and Transportation learned from its involvement with the Kivalliq Mine Training Society?
6. How would a sector council approach, similar to the Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium, benefit the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in its efforts to address the need for mining sector driven training?
7. In terms of employment potential, which ten specific professions are the most important for developing Nunavut's mining-related labour pool?
8. What are the specific educational requirements for each of the ten professions identified in the answer to Question 7 above?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to have his questions entered into the record as read. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Your questions will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 144 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the *Annual Report for Nunavut Arctic College* for the year 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 145 – 5(2): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report – January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Tabled Document 146 – 5(2): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report – January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am tabling the *Environmental Rights Act* Annual Report for the periods January 1, 2017

to December 31, 2017 and January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 147 – 5(2): Grants and Contributions Annual Report 2017-2018

Tabled Document 148 – 5(2): Letters of Expectation for Crown Corporations

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table today. I'm tabling the 2017-18 *Grants and Contributions Annual Report*. In addition to that, I'm tabling the Letters of Expectation 2019-2020 for the Crown corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Savikataaq.

Tabled Document 149 – 5(2): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am tabling today the Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending 31st 2018. Mr. Speaker, home travel is in here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Tabled Document 150 – 5(2): NHC Annual Report 2017-2018

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to table today the 2017-18 *Annual Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to let my hon. colleagues know that for the first year in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's history, we have achieved an unqualified audit report. This represents the hard work of our staff and local housing organizations, partners, and demonstrates their continued commitment to accountability and transparency.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Tabled Document 151 – 5(2): Correspondence from Marjorie Autut to the Office of Patient Relations

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a biography my constituent from Chesterfield Inlet and the letter from the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Tabled Document 152 – 5(2): Correspondence Concerning Housing and Homelessness Issues in Taloyoak

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a collection of letters from the Municipality of Taloyoak and the local housing organization concerning housing and homelessness issues in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 153 – 5(2): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements**Tabled Document 154 – 5(2): Report of the Integrity Commissioner Concerning Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet**

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have a document to table.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) I wish to table a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements and a report submitted to me under section 44 of the *Integrity Act*. (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, 20, and 21 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

However, before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will now take a break and resume at two o'clock. We will now take a lunch break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 12:40 and Committee resumed at 14:00*

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

Chairman: Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 13, 20, and 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The committee is that we wish to review Bills 13, 21, and 20. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first start with Bill 13?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 13 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2017-2018 – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. George Hickes: If the committee will indulge, yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, I have assistant Deputy Minister Dan Carlson, and to my right, Deputy Minister of Finance Jeff Chown. I will take this moment just to apologize for Mr. Chown's attire. His only saving grace is that it's sealskin, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman and members, I am here to present Bill 13, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2017-2018*. Bill 13 authorizes the write-off and write-down of certain government assets as follows:

- \$1,437,993 for the write-down of 24 housing units that were damaged by fire and mould and will require extensive repairs;
- \$131,237 for the write-off of three burnt and demolished units.

- \$1,764,114 for the write-off in property tax arrears and accumulated interest charges for the Jericho diamond mine site.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take any questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 13, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2017-2018*.

(interpretation) The standing committee does not object to the purpose of the bill, which the sponsoring minister described clearly in his opening comments.

(interpretation ends) During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of the bill, members raised a number of questions concerning the extent to which the government makes every reasonable effort to collect property taxes owed by commercial entities, including mines that are currently operating in Nunavut. Members also noted ongoing concerns regarding the process by which the Nunavut Housing Corporation appropriates and expends funds in relation to the replacement of units that have been destroyed by fire.

(interpretation) The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 13 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I will now ask the committee if they have general comments to the bill. If not, we will now go clause by clause. Go to Bill 13 in your legislative binder.

I'll remind members, if you have any general questions towards the bill, I'll give you an opportunity to do that now. Mr. Main, you wanted to ask a question? Go ahead, please.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The debt owed by the Jericho diamond mine in the Kitikmeot, we were told by the report from the finance department... . We were given a very clear letter as to the background of this debt. I would like to know if the other mines in Nunavut owe money too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only account is the Baffinland, which is under court discussions with the QIA and Baffinland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it's under the courts, I'm sure the minister is unable to comment on it. When can we expect it to be completed? Do you have any idea of when the court case will be completed on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't been updated on any expected timeline. It's before the courts. It will go through its due process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fire damaged and mould damaged units, do you know how many units within Nunavut have become unusable because of mould? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would vary. I don't have an up-to-date number, but it would fluctuate and hopefully going down as mitigation measures are taken by the Nunavut Housing Corporation to deal with mould issues across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Any other questions? If not, we will go clause by clause. Bill 13, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2017-2018*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Part 1 Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Part 1. Asset Write-offs. Jericho Mine Property Taxes. Total. \$1,764,114. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Part 2 Schedule on page 2. Asset Write-off. Nunavut Housing Corporation Housing Units. Total. \$1,569,230. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 13 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 13 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes, any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have many closing comments, just to acknowledge the work that the committee did. I know it may appear that we pushed this stuff through quickly, but I can assure everyone and I'm sure all members of the committee will attest that there was great dialogue behind the scenes as well as, I would say, extensive information provided by the department to members of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. We will now move on to Bill 21. Minister Hickes, I think you've got the same officials that you had there before, so we will skip that part. If you could proceed on to your opening comments, please. Minister Hickes.

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm here to present Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*.

Revolving funds are separate pots of public money the GN uses to support specific types of operations, those that involve regularly buying and selling products. Because these funds sit outside the GN's main fund, we set out in law how they can be used and how large they can be.

Bill 21 amends the *Revolving Funds Act* to increase the authorized limit of the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund from \$200 million to \$250 million.

Mr. Chairman and members, the Petroleum Products Division of Community and Government Services uses this fund to buy and sell fuel. Since the last limit increase in 2008, territory-wide demand for bulk petroleum products has increased by 18.5 percent. Increasing the authorized limit will help accommodate continued sales growth and oil price volatility.

Mr. Chairman and members, the bill also amends the Act to increase the limit of the Public Stores Revolving Fund from \$1,175,000 to \$2 million. Community and Government Services uses this fund to buy the equipment and supplies GN departments need to operate. Community and Government Services then sells these to other client departments.

This will be the first increase to this fund's limit since before 1999. Increasing the authorized limit will help accommodate increases in purchasing equipment and supplies needed to support day-to-day GN operations.

Mr. Chairman and members, I would be pleased to take any questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Main, please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 21, *An Act Amend the Revolving Funds Act*.

The standing committee does not object to the purpose of the bill, which the sponsoring minister described clearly in his opening comments.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of the bill, members raised a number of questions concerning the operations of the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee notes that the Minister of Community and Government Services publicly informed the Legislative Assembly at its recent sitting of March 4, 2019 that the "Iqaluit Lease and Operation Agreement with Uqsuq Corporation expired on November 30" of last year.

The standing committee further notes that the February 2019 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette* published an amendment to the *Contract of Indemnification Exemption Regulations* made under the *Financial Administration Act* in relation to the operation of the bulk fuel storage facility and pipeline distribution system in Iqaluit. The standing committee sought and received clarification from the sponsoring minister regarding the rationale for this.

The standing committee also emphasizes its strong support for the tabling of an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the operations of the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee also emphasizes its support for effective measures to control costs associated with the government's purchase of computers and other information technology.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recommends the passage of the bill to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Does the committee have any general comments or questions they may pose to this Act? Mr. Main, please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it comes to tabling an annual report for the PPD, when we were considering this bill, there was some interesting information that came to light and much of that information could have been provided in an annual report. In terms of CGS tabling an annual report for the operations of the Petroleum Products Division, what is the current position? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, there weren't any objections from Community and Government Services. I believe they're just looking at what material to include in that report and share with members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At what point can we expect a report of this type tabled in the Legislative Assembly? I know that they're looking at it, but "looking at it" could take a year; it could take three years. I'm just looking for a specific timeline. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Community and Government Services is hoping to table it in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm curious as to what the long delay would be because we were provided copies of what I'm told is an internal report, so I don't want to discuss the details of it, but for 2016-17, it appears to be largely complete, a 50-page annual report. In terms of a clarification from CGS and what explains the lag, is it issues with translation? I would just like a bit of clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, when the member is referring to CGS, it's Community and Government Services. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the information that was provided to members of the standing committee, it's a matter of coordinating that information into an annual report structure. With the year-end just looming March 31, it takes any department for any annual report a little bit of time to make sure all that information is together, then it has to be proofread, then it has to be translated, then it has to be

proofread again. It is a time-consuming process. It's not a matter of simply pushing a button and printing it. To make sure that the report and the numbers are accurate for year-end, March 31, this upcoming fall to me is not an unreasonable delay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Will this be an annual occurrence or is this a one-off report that we're getting from the Petroleum Products Division of Community and Government Services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all reports and annual reports of that nature that aren't legislatively required, there's a value of how many people use that information of what information it entails. I can't say it's going to go on in perpetuity or forever, but I can say that as long as the information is of value to the public, I would like to say that Community and Government Services would continue to publish it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can't make my mind up until I see what type of report we get, but I think this is a pretty important file when you consider things like environmental liabilities, fuel spills, the need to manage these products. Evaporation, I understand, is a major consideration in terms of managing the inventory of fuel. That's just an opinion. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I have no more questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, minister and your officials. My question relates to the debt ceiling for the purchasing of bulk fuels for Nunavut. My question: is there an increase in fuel consumption in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, the revolving fund has no impact on the debt cap itself. With regard to usage, our population is growing, more and more fuel is getting used, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's understandable. My colleague mentioned it earlier, but in terms of the mines that are currently operating in the territory, there's an increase over the past three years. Considering the amount, will that be adequate or do we have to make separate deals with mine companies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the forecast of what we're anticipating, this would be sufficient to meet the needs of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to continue with my colleague Mr. Main's questions about annual reporting. It's my understanding that regular members have been expressing their concerns over the lack of tabling annual reports of the Petroleum Products Revolving Funds. I'm curious: now that the government has finally decided to amend the *Revolving Funds Act*, why has the government not taken this opportunity to incorporate the legislated requirement to table such annual reports? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to making a legislated requirement for an annual report, it's not up to me. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't specifically ask the minister as to why the government didn't take this opportunity to incorporate the legislated requirement for tabling the annual reports. I will ask again: why did the government not take this opportunity to incorporate this legislated requirement into the *Revolving Funds Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I alluded to earlier in one of my earlier comments, the desire for information changes, it hasn't been requested previously to have this report tabled. The information that was provided to previous Assemblies was sufficient to their needs and wants.

With regard to a legislatively required report, I don't believe this would meet the threshold. The department has committed to tabling an annual report. I feel that's sufficient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what necessitates the threshold for a requirement of an annual report, but considering the revolving funds were sitting at [\$200] million and now the government is requesting to increase that fund to \$250 million, I think that's a considerable amount of funds. I definitely would consider the necessity to incorporate the legislated requirement to table the annual reports and provide the public with updates on how the fund had operated throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a legislated requirement for Community and Government Service itself to table an annual report, of which the Petroleum Products Division is incorporated into it. That is an annually tabled, legislatively required report.

This is, in my opinion, recognition of the members and the committee's desire to have more information that the department has been so willing to accommodate by carving out and creating a separate annual report just for that division. I feel, legislatively, the requirement is being met through the annual report. This is simply like a sub-report or a divisional report of Community and Government Services, and again, I believe this is more than sufficient. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of curiosity, does the current legislation require Petroleum Products to report spills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Environment's Act, yes, they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where is it that these fuel spills are reported? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Department of Environment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I do believe there are phone numbers and websites you can contact if you know of a spill that happened anywhere in the territory as well. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase my question. When it comes to the Petroleum Products Division and when they may come across an incident where fuel is spilt and it leads to an environmental liability, is that information provided to the public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer this question to the Minister of Environment, if the Chair would allow. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, are you prepared to answer the question? Please go ahead.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the oil spill line, anyone can report an oil spill anywhere at any time. It's a 24-hour oil spill line and anyone can report the spills, not necessarily even the one who caused the spill, just someone who comes across the spill. Anyone can report the oil spill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. I think part of his question was: when a spill is reported, is it reported to the public that there was a spill? I think that was his question. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the severity. If a whole bulk fuel tank is leaking and spilling all over town, absolutely. If someone finds that there are five gallons spilt over by the road, then that might not be as critical. It's a case by case. It depends on what is spilt and the quantity that's spilt and where it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll continue along the same theme of reported spills. It's my knowledge that to date I haven't heard or seen of any public reporting of Petroleum Products Division fuel spills. Out of curiosity, I would like to know how many fuel spills are annually and specifically how many large spills there are annually. I'm going along the lines of the need for the public reporting, including the annual report, and I believe that finding out the number of fuel spills would definitely add to the need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. I think your questions are going beyond the scope of this bill. The number of fuel spills and that throughout the territory, I don't think they're prepared to answer that kind of question at this venue. You can do it other ways, whether you want to do a written question or whether it's in the House. Do you have a different question that you would like to ask, Mr. Lightstone?

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually the minister did include some information on fuel spills in the letter, so the minister does have that type of information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. I'll say it again. It's still beyond the scope of this bill, about the number of spills and that, and if you've got the information in your hand, then I think you have the information. Mr. Lightstone, if you want to continue. No? Fine. Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, minister and staff. I'm hoping that you will allow this question. It's in line with the carbon tax. I'm just wondering if it will affect the cost of fuel in Nunavut and how high would the cost go. Is it going to affect Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Your question has to do with the purchasing of fuel, so I will allow it. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, when we purchase fuel, the carbon tax isn't charged to us. We turn around and as we have used the federal fall back, any additional carbon tax pricing would come from the sale of it, so it wouldn't impact the revolving fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For people like me and Nunavummiut, it sounds good as long as it doesn't affect the cost of fuel that they are buying for their house or any of their machines. That's the only question I had. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think that was just a comment. Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the increase in the funds, we have noticed that some of the communities, whether they have jet-A fuel, sometimes they run out or run very low. That happens in Igloolik and Hall Beach. The plane has to go fuel up in the other community. Would that include the capacity built up in the communities so that the supply doesn't run low? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The level of storage infrastructure in each community is done through the capital planning process through Community and Government Services. It has no bearing on the amount of fuel we buy other than limitations on storage capacity. Any questions on capacity within a community such as Igloolik where, as the member suggests, there are shortfalls that are identified, it would be dealt with through the Community and Government Services' capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. No other names on my list. We will now move on to the clause by clause. Go to your legislative binders. Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 21 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes, closing comments?

Hon. George Hickes: Again thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I know we did provide quite a level of detail to the committee addressing their questions and concerns. I thank the committee members for their due diligence in this. I realize we came very close to the capacity last year, so this is a much-needed increase in the revolving funds' purchasing capacity as well as to assist all government departments in their day-to-day operations. I thank the Chairman and members. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for answering the questions here today. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. We will take a brief break while we get ready for Bill 20. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:34 and resumed at 14:50*

Bill 20 – Interim Language of Instruction Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Welcome back, members. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We will now start with Bill 20 and I will ask Minister Joanasie: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and good afternoon. Yes, if the committee will allow. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Does the committee agree for the witnesses to go into the witness... ? Let's try that again.

>>*Laughter*

Does the committee agree for the witnesses to enter the Chamber?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Joanasié, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then proceed to your opening comments. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister of Education Louise Flaherty and to my left is Mr. Thomas Ahlfors, who is with the Department of Justice.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, good day, as well as the committee. I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss with you Bill 20, the proposed *Interim Language of Instruction Act*.

First, Bill 20 seeks to temporarily delay the July 1, 2019 coming-into-force implementation deadline as it relates to section 8 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and Part 4 of the *Education Act* for grades 4 to 12 until a decision has been made on the amending bill to the Acts.

However, the implementation of bilingual education for kindergarten to grade 3 will remain in force.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, although my department is actively taking steps to amend these deadlines and address the delivery of bilingual education, it is likely that the amending bill will still be under review by the July 1, 2019 deadline.

On a related note, Bill 20 will provide continuity to the current education system, keeping us in compliance with our own laws, and provide Nunavummiut and Members of the Legislative Assembly sufficient time to consider and debate the proposed amendments to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

(interpretation) Most importantly, the proposed *Interim Language of Instruction Act* has a clear end date. If the amended bill to the *Education Act* is defeated, the implementation deadline will come into force immediately following the day the bill is removed from the order paper.

(interpretation ends) Furthermore, the proposed *Interim Language of Instruction Act* does not seek to prevent Inuit language instruction in any grade or affect the operation of section 8 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* or Part 4 of the *Education Act* with respect to the delivery of bilingual education for kindergarten to grade 3 during its interim duration.

To conclude, we communicated with our key partners, such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities, and the Office of the Languages Commissioner, of our intention to introduce this legislation and we informed them of the next steps in regard to this proposed bill.

I will be happy to provide further information and answers to any of my colleagues' questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanase. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some very brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 20, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*.

(interpretation) The sponsoring minister described the bill very clearly in his opening comments. This bill provides for a temporary delay of the July 1, 2019 deadline for the delivery of bilingual education in all grades. (interpretation ends) I note that the bill specifically ensures that nothing in the Act prevents ongoing Inuit language instruction in any grade. I further note that the bill includes a clause which prevents it from being a permanent piece of legislation.

Members anticipate that the government will be bringing forward a bill in the spring sitting to propose amendments to the current *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Passing Bill 20 now would ensure that the government is not in violation of existing legislation while the amending Act is being given full scrutiny and consideration. Members look forward to discussing language use in our schools and related issues at that time.

The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 20 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I will now open up the floor to any comments or questions to the bill. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I read a letter that was written by the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs dated February 26, which was last month. I would like to ask

the minister a question whether they have met with the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs since February 26. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did receive this letter too and it was addressed to all MLAs. We have not met with the coalition. However, we did reply to this letter that the member brings up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to read in Inuktitut. (interpretation) I was concerned. We think that the bill does not protect Inuit language rights. I would like the minister to clarify if that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask her which bill she is referring to, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was in Inuktitut, but in English it states, "It is our view that the Act does not sufficiently safeguard statutory Inuit language rights." I would like clarification on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part 3 of Bill 20 provides that nothing in this Act is to be interpreted as preventing Inuit language instruction in any grade, so that is still in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with the letter from the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, their concern was "deferred coming-into-force date," and it means the "earlier of"; "someday in the future" means a date in the future which is not yet known but which would come to pass. I would like a clarification on that from the minister, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Act to Amend the Education Act and Inuit Language Protection Act*, which we haven't brought forward yet, would propose either a timeline, and whether or not it's a hard deadline or not, those are yet to

come into the House. I don't know if that is a sufficient response to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does leave an impact. First of all, let me say that it has been ten years since the government has been asked to follow the Act. When the *Education Act* was passed in 2007 or 2008, according to the correspondence, it indicated that fact in the correspondence. It has been ten years. If the bill is passed, it would mean to Nunavummiut that it won't matter if the government doesn't provide instruction in Inuktitut. Well, that's what it means. From grade 4 to grade 12, it doesn't matter anymore. Even if we are in Nunavut, it doesn't matter if Inuktitut language instruction isn't being delivered.

It's clearly stated that Inuktitut language instruction will not be stopped, which I believe, but the wording in the Act and what we're dealing with right now, it states that it's okay for us to state to Nunavummiut that it's okay if the Government of Nunavut doesn't provide Inuktitut language instruction. I find that appalling based on the reason why we created Nunavut.

If the (interpretation ends) *Education Act* (interpretation) isn't passed, although we want it to pass... It's obvious that we will be dealing with it in the spring. If it is the case that it isn't passed, I would like Nunavummiut to know about the question I'm going to ask. If the (interpretation ends) *Education Act* (interpretation) isn't passed, then what? It states what the consequences will be, but for clarify, I'm asking the minister: what will happen then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we approve Bill 20 today and then if the *Act to Amend the Education Act* isn't passed, then the bill would come into effect on July 1, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions or comments? If not, we will go clause by clause, so please go to your legislative binder. Bill 20. Clause 1. Agreed? Sorry. I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's try this again. Bill 20, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 20 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 20 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié, any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee for the questions and I would like to thank the staff that are here with me at the witness table but also in the gallery. The *Act to Amend the Education Act and Inuit Language Protection Act* is still ongoing. I know there will be much debate about that. This is just a temporary measure until we deal with that bill. Thank you, everyone, and have a good day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. This concludes the business of this House and the committee. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 13, 20, and 21 and would like to report that Bills 13, 20, and 21 are immediately ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) That's okay, Mr. Rumbolt. It has been a long three weeks. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. Let's try to get it right for the last day.

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 13, 20, and 21 and would like to report that Bills 13, 20, and 21 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Main. 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. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

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

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 13 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act– Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 21 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Bill 20 – Interim Language of Instruction Act– Third Reading

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aivilik, that Bill 20, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried and Bill 20 is now ready for assent.

Clerk, can you please determine if the Commissioner of Nunavut is ready to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner (Ms. Nellie Kusugak)(interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. Welcome to the House.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 13, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2017-2018*;
- Bill 15, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 16, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2018-2019*;
- Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*;
- Bill 20, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*; and
- Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*.

I celebrate with you as you end your session. Although the land remains cold, the sky grows brighter by the day. This morning I saw a male eider duck and it brought me back to my childhood. I was pleased to remember that.

I also thank the interpreters.

I wish all members a safe trip back to their communities and families. Your families that have been missing you will now see you again, so I join in their joy. I look forward to seeing all of you again during the upcoming spring sitting.

I very much thank Nunavummiut whom you work very hard on their behalf. Thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

Speaker's Statement

Speaker (interpretation): Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to make a statement.

As Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, I am very honoured to take this opportunity to announce this year's recipient of the Order of Nunavut.

On January 1, 2010 *The Order of Nunavut Act* came into force.

The objective of the order is to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the territory.

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

As of today, a total of 17 individuals have received the Order of Nunavut.

They have been recognized for their achievements and contributions in a variety of fields, including public service, the arts, education, language promotion, spiritual leadership, and economic development.

I am very pleased to announce that the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council has recommended that Zacharias Kunuk be this year's recipient of the order.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) Zacharias Kunuk is an internationally renowned artist whose creative vision has brought Inuit culture and language to a global audience.

He is a filmmaker and co-founder of Igloolik Isuma Productions whose 2001 film, *Atanarjuat: the Fast Runner*, was honoured at the 54th Cannes Film Festival.

Mr. Kunuk is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals, and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

(interpretation) The investiture ceremony for Mr. Kunuk will be held during the upcoming spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

The ceremony will be held here in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and will be televised live across the territory.

(interpretation ends) Her Honour Commissioner Nellie Kusugak will preside over the investiture ceremony in her capacity as Chancellor of the Order, and I look forward to all Members of the Legislative Assembly joining us on the occasion.

(interpretation) We will now return to the business of the House. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 28:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I wish to take this opportunity to make a statement and I know that we have been meeting for a very long time, but we would be remiss if I didn't thank those who are deserving of our gratitude.

First of all, let me thank our legislative staff. Our proceedings would not be able to proceed without Mr. Quirke and Mr. Innuksuk.

>>*Applause*

We wouldn't be able to do this without their help. Thank you.

Let me also thank the ministers' assistants who are behind the scenes. I know that if it weren't for their good work, the ministers would not look good.

>>*Applause*

We thank the assistants who work behind the scenes.

Also, all Nunavummiut are not able to speak Inuktitut nor are they all able to speak English and they all are not able to speak Inuinnaqtun. Let me state the names of the interpreters who have allowed the participation of all Nunavummiut. For Inuinnaqtun, Attima, Henry, James, and Allen, thank you.

>>*Applause*

Also, for Inuktitut, Abraham, Blandina, Andrew, Philip, and Veronica, we thank you.

>>*Applause*

Also, Sergeant-at-Arms, thank you for taking care of us for the entire session.

>>*Applause*

As well, since the beginning of the session, we've had different pages serving us. There were two pages from my community. If it weren't for our pages, our proceedings would definitely be delayed. They pass along messages back and forth for us and when we get thirsty, they fetch us water. Let me thank Kim Qavavau, who is down there.

>>*Applause*

Ika Vincent, who is here.

>>*Applause*

As well as Alexis Vincent-Wolfe. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

As we prepare to go to our home communities, I hope that we have safe travels and last but not least, our biggest gratitude to our spouses, who have provided continuous support to us.

>>*Applause*

To our relatives whom we miss dearly, our children and grandchildren, as well as the residents of our communities, thank you for your continued support to us. Please be aware that we want to work hard in representing you. Have safe travels home and we will see you all in the spring, but this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 28, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:27*

