

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

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

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)

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

Joelie Kaerner
(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

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

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

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

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

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. 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 13:33*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Ms. Towtongie, can you lead us in opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, I received a letter from the Commissioner of Nunavut and I will read it:

Money Message

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Second Session of the fifth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020*.

Sincerely, Hon. Nelly T. Kusugak, Order of Nunavut, Commissioner of Nunavut.

(interpretation) We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Joe Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 218—5(2): Council of the Federation Literacy Awards

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to announce that the nomination period for the 2019 Council of the Federation Literacy Awards is now open! I am looking to recognize a Nunavut recipient who supports, encourages, and shares ways to strengthen literacy skills in our territory.

Every year, recipients from every jurisdiction across the country are recognized for their work to support and inspire others to develop the literacy; oral, written, or through artistic expression. Here in Nunavut, we look for individuals who focus on Inuktitut literacy development and promotion.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Nunavummiut to nominate someone who has gone above and beyond to support others to develop their literacy skills. Anyone above the age of 18 is eligible. It could be a student, a teacher, a community volunteer, an elder, or a co-worker.

Colleagues, your constituency offices have received a letter and nomination forms to promote this award in your community. The deadline for nominations is May 31. Please help in making this year's literacy award a success by recognizing a very special person for their incredible contributions to fostering and preserving our language.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 219 – 5(2): QNSWC Appointments and Reappointments

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) in November 2018 the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council undertook a public nomination process that called for interested women to apply as board members. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I want to take this opportunity to announce the appointments of:

- Anne Isnor of Cambridge Bay;
- Luann Saumik of Whale Cove;
- Lauren Pameolik of Arviat;
- Seane d'Argencourt-Printup of Iqaluit; and
- Doreen Kalluk-McDonald of Resolute Bay.

(interpretation) Additionally, Angie Curley of Arviat was re-appointed as Vice-President, and Sileema Angoyuak of Iqaluit was re-appointed as President.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) please join me in congratulating these women on their appointments, and recognizing the work of Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council in advocating for the best interests of women and girls across the territory.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 220 – 5(2): Tourism Summit and Strategy

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say “good day” to the people of the High Arctic.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation hosted the Spirit of the Arctic; a tourism summit in Iqaluit back in April to facilitate the development of a new tourism strategy. (interpretation ends)

Over one hundred and twenty delegates attended the summit including: tour operators, outfitters, community leaders, Inuit organizations, territorial and federal government departments, as well as national and international tourism organizations and businesses.

Major topics included:

- tourism market insight and marketing plan;
- marine tourism;
- sustainable expedition cruises;
- national and territorial parks;
- community based tourism for business travellers audience;
- tourism development and investment; and,
- staying true to our roots, how to maintain authenticity in our tourism.

The pre-summit training program had sixteen Nunavummiut from ten communities. This provided the basic business requirements and helped them prepare for tourists.

In addition, we signed a memorandum of understanding with two significant industry partners: the Association of Expedition Cruise Operators, and the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada.

These agreements foster closer working relationships between operators of the expedition cruise ships and Nunavut stakeholders. They also create opportunities to develop and support tourism amongst Inuit in Nunavut.

A final report on the summit is being written. A steering committee will be created and will work with the department to shape the priorities and pillars of the next *Tourism Strategy*. The department plans to table the strategy in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Minister Statements. Honourable Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Minister's Statement 221 – 5(2): Nunavut Celebrates National Nursing Week – May 6-12, 2019

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the week of May 6-12 as part of National Nursing Week, the Department of Health recognized the hard work and dedicated commitment of Nunavut's nurses.

“A Voice to Lead - Health for All” was this year's National Nursing Week theme. “A Voice to Lead” reflects the fact that every nurse has a story, and every story has the potential to improve the health system and provide individuals in communities access to quality standards of health. “Health to All” means not just the availability of health services, but an overall state of physical and mental health that enables a person to lead a healthy life.

Mr. Speaker it is important to remember the hard working nurses across our growing territory. This year the department of health used the #voicetolead, on Government of Nunavut social media sites to recognize our nurses and to thank them for their work. It was gratifying to see the many positive and uplifting public comments on the social media post for our Nunavut nurses.

Mr. Speaker, nurses in Nunavut advocate for their patients, their families, and their communities and contribute directly to the health and wellbeing of Nunavummiut. I encourage everyone to continue to take the time to offer words of thanks and encouragement to the nurses in your community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to highlight one particular nurse. Jennifer Bujold was recently awarded the Indigenous Services Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Award of Excellence in Nursing.

This annual award celebrates the dedication, initiative and excellence of nurses working with First Nations communities, Indigenous Services Canada, and Inuit communities, who work in partnership to improve the health of Canada's Indigenous peoples.

Mr. Speaker, as a community health nurse in Baker Lake, Jennifer created the Baker Lake flex schedule, which is a pilot project that has benefitted staff and patients by increasing work-life balance for nurses, and offering safer provision of care and increasing patients' satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer is currently the clinical nurse educator for the Kitikmeot region, and resides in Cambridge Bay. In this leadership role, Jennifer continues to apply her clinical expertise to promote quality, culturally safe nursing practices, continuous quality improvement initiatives, optimal health outcomes, and positive health care experiences.

Please join me in congratulating Jennifer on receiving this national award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 222 – 5(2): 2019 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I must say I am honoured to stand here to introduce this as a former first member of Qulliq Energy; I was involved in this scholarship.

I am pleased to announce the Qulliq Energy Corporation is once again offering a \$5,000 scholarship in memory of Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier. Students enrolled in a post-secondary education program for September 2019 semester are eligible, and are encouraged to apply by June 30, 2019.

The recipient will be chosen based on their exceptional academic abilities, and involvement in their community. Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier is remembered as an individual, a member of Nunavut's fundamental stages of governance. She had a vision for leadership, by Nunavummiut, and was essential in the formation of locally managed electrical utilities, now known as Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Recipients of the scholarship in Ms. Gauthier's memory have often been strong leaders in their communities. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I would like to urge students from all communities who are pursuing their goals of completing their post-secondary education, to visit QEC's website, Qulliq Energy Corporation's website.

Further information as well as application forms can be found on the community involvement page. Qulliq Energy Corporation have been a proud sponsor of Nunavut students for over a decade. With each passing year, the quality of participants has strengthened, not only in academic achievements but in their sense of community.

This gives me great hope for the future of Nunavut. Please join me in wishing all scholarship applicants the best of luck. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister for CG&S, Minister Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 223 – 5(2): Emergency Operations Centre

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A good afternoon wish to the residents of Rankin Inlet and throughout our territory of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to update my colleagues about some very important work that the Community and Government Services Emergency Management division has been involved with over the last little while.

That is the creation of an Emergency Operations Centre in Nunavut. This is the first of its kind for our territory. The Emergency Operations Centre will function as a central location for all planning and strategic processes to take place during emergencies.

This centre will be where all emergency management stakeholders gather, collect, and analyze data, in order to quickly and efficiently make decisions. We believe that the use of this centre will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the emergency management actions across the territory.

CG&S has also been proactive in emergency planning by securing heated storage space in Iqaluit and purchasing various emergency management equipment that can be deployed to municipalities in short order to assist with water, sewer, and power outages as they arise.

We anticipate that the centre will be completed and ready for use by end of August 2019. I look forward to being able to offer my colleagues a tour of the facility in the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Department of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 224 – 5(2): Inuktitut Language Learning Apps

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues, also to the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, 2019 is the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages. In honour of that, I would like to share with you how the Department of Education is expanding Inuktitut language learning.

Mr. Speaker, language learning apps allow even very young children to play with language and learn about vocabulary, writing, and other fundamental literacy skills. To

support that, my department has developed two Inuktitut language apps and it is available as free downloads for Android and Apple devices.

Mr. Speaker, our first app, *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit*, teaches common Inuktitut vocabulary for things like arctic animals, household objects, emotions, and parts of the body. This app can be used in Inuktitut syllabics, Inuktitut orthography, and Inuinnaqtun. It has been downloaded over 1,000 times (interpretation ends).

Mr. Speaker, our second app, *Titirariuqsauti* was released earlier this year. *Titirariuqsauti* teaches how to form all the syllabics in the Inuktitut syllabic chart. The user selects a syllabic and practises tracing the printing path with their finger, then they see and hear a word that includes that syllabic.

Mr. Speaker, both of these apps are user friendly and easy to navigate. They can be used in early childhood education, kindergarten to Grade 12 literacy instruction, and as a family activity at home with parents and elders.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to using mobile digital platforms for Inuktitut languages promotion and revitalization. This way my department can engage a younger generation of Nunavummiut to take their Inuktitut language learning anywhere and at their own pace.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of Nunavummiut to download these apps to their smart phone or tablets to support Inuktitut learning every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Minister Statements. (interpretation) Going back to the Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 338 – 5(2): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq Teacher Graduates

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon members.

I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Sanikiluaq graduates of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, it has been noted many times in this House that Nunavut's education system is in dire need of Nunavut-trained teaching professionals.

I am very proud of these students, Sanikiluaq residents, who have put in years of dedicated study and hard work to achieve their goal.

Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq's 2019 graduates from the Nunavut Teacher Educating Program are:

- Sarah Kudluarok Kowcharlie;
- Meena Hoyt;
- Charlotte Crow;
- Alice Kavik Sala; and,
- Leah Meeko.

These individuals are role models for our youth and our young adults who may also dream of becoming the educators for Nunavut's future.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that our Minister of Education, as well as the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College will be attending the graduation ceremonies following our spring sitting. On behalf of the graduates, I thank them for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nunavut's newest teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 339 – 5(2): Foster Care

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good day to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk as well as those in Taloyoak and to my colleagues as well.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to thank and talk about the important issue of foster care.

Mr. Speaker, every child deserves and needs a loving home in which they are well-cared for. I would like to pay tribute to the people in our communities who have taken on the responsibility of being foster parents.

Foster parents play a very important role and it is important that we, as a government, give them every possible support.

Mr. Speaker, it is not always easy to find funds to address every request that we get from our communities. However, I am certain that all of my colleagues would agree with me when I say that we need to put children first.

<<Applause

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I represent two non-decentralized communities, where jobs are scarce. I am aware of situations in my constituency where people have taken on the responsibility of being foster parents even though they are struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living in our isolated communities is very high, and we must ensure that the support we provide to the foster parents is adequate to ensure the well-being of children under their care.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will have questions for the appropriate minister on this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Member's Statement 340 – 5(2): Activities of Ilisaqsivik

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send good-day greetings to residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, as well as to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is to follow up on my statement yesterday, in which I said I would bring forward the names of the counsellors who travel to communities that are under stress, and who are tasked by Ilisaqsivik Society to attend to a community requiring assistance or counselling services after an incident.

The counsellors provide a much-needed service. Recently there were several counsellors who travelled to a community to provide assistance during a time of hardship in one of my constituency communities.

I would like to announce the names, as the counsellors tasked from Ilisaqsivik Society aren't just from Clyde River anymore. Other communities now have Inuit trained as counsellors who they can task to travel to a community in need, and Ilisaqsivik Society contracts that work out.

The two counsellors from Clyde River were: Rebecca Audlakiak-Panikpak, and Josah Iqarjialuq. Josah Iqarjialuq is a youth counsellor who works with effected youth and the life counsellors are composed of different ages. Some are elders while others are youths. Josah is generally tasked with counselling the youth that are affected so he works with them to overcome their issues.

Further, there were also two counsellors who travelled from another community, and not Clyde River. They came up from the South Baffin, as they were also tasked by Ilisaqsivik Society to assist. They are Lucassie Ikkidluaq and Mitchell Ikkidluaq. They were able to come up and provide services to the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq through Ilisaqsivik Society.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to this issue there are life counsellors in other communities because several communities have positions funded by our government. I recently met with the group who travelled to our community, and they relayed some of their concerns to me that they wanted announced.

I will be asking questions about this matter when the appropriate time has arrived for questions. I will have queries to the Minister of Family Services regarding the life counsellors, as apparently, they are not allowed to work with the department.

This is extremely disconcerting, in light of the tremendous work we still require.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent from my colleagues to conclude my statement.

Mr. Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. (interpretation) Please proceed, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as well as to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, this continues to spark deep concern amongst the non-governmental and public sector life counsellors as the government counsellors have absolutely no collaboration with Ilisaqsivik Society counsellors who are tasked to travel to communities under the society's mandate.

They are entirely all Inuit counsellors that travel to the communities to assist the families. Several communities already have life-skills counsellors under the GN, nonetheless, the government counsellors have no relationship with the society's counsellors and thereby no cooperative work.

The government counsellors and the Ilisaqsivik Society counsellors that are tasked to travel, in my view, should be closely collaborating with their each other. They are both working towards counselling Inuit with the proper life skills and due to the importance of this subject, there ought to be cooperation.

Why is the government trying to skirt its duties? Are they trying to do different things? What obstacles are faced by Family Services in trying to cooperate with Indigenous counsellors? I believe we need to seriously debate this issue as we all state that suicide is preventable and that we have to stop this act.

We all make statements as MLAs about the need to have better cooperation to provide better services for our constituents, and many of us are passionate in expressing our concerns. All workers within a sector should be working together, and when the left doesn't know what the right is doing, then people fall through the cracks.

We must try to resolve these issues, and when the appropriate time for questions arrives, I will have questions for the Minister of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Member's Statement 341 – 5(2): Congratulations to Grizzlies Soccer Team

Ms. Kamingoak: Koana, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and pride to rise in the House today to congratulate the Kugluktuk Grizzlies soccer teams on their repeat success at the junior super-soccer tournament held in Yellowknife this year.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, under the guidance of coaches Liam Savoie and Joey Philips, our grade 6 and 7 boys' soccer teams played some great games and won the championship back-to-back.

I would like to recognize our players: Captain Jonathon Ihumataq, Mason Klengenberg, Skylor Tiktaalik, Zak Nivingalok, Nolan Norberg, Dan Aqaana, Andre Ihumataq, Nolan Fossey, Gary Nivingalok, Nolan Demerol, Josh Olsen, Edgar Dupont, Paul MacDonald, Kaylie Klenengberg and Spencer Ilruk.

Mr. Speaker, while I am certain that wearing that gold medal feels good, I am confident that taking part in this amazing tournament with over a hundred teams and a thousand athletes is an experience these players will remember for a long time.

I congratulate the Kugluktuk Grizzlies on their achievements, not only for winning the super-soccer titles, but also for being active, for playing a great sport and for striving to be the best they can be. Go Grizzlies! Koana, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 342 – 5(2): Recognition of Akittiq Angutirjuaq and Joyce Alariaq-Atagutaaluk

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Igloodik and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to also congratulate with you, the Feeding Nunavut Program and I'm sure that's very well recognized in the communities. Feeding Nunavut recognized two people from my community, Akittiq Angutirjuaq and Joyce Alariaq Ataguttaaluk.

These two individuals have helped our community tremendously in feeding the needy residents. They provide different types of services including voluntary work for fellow residents, and obviously there are other Inuit throughout our communities in Nunavut.

I wanted to recognize them for their initiatives, for not only providing food, but also providing books and toys during the Christmas season for the families suffering from poverty, with books and toys being most of the gifts.

I wanted to mention "Feeding Nunavut" as they are also proud of providing this vital service, and they received Aeroplan points to provide more assistance to their fellow residents. They have provided an essential service that provides tangible benefits so these Aeroplan points are for the two founders to take a well-deserved rest for their immense service to our community that provides much needed assistance.

Let's recognize Akittiq Angutirjuaq and Joyce Alariaq Atugutaluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker: Member's Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 343 – 5(2): Inuit Employment Levels in Nunavut Mines

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to my colleagues. I still had 22 seconds, so Mr. Speaker; I rise today to speak to the potential employment opportunities within the mining sector, as these are jobs that one would really love to have especially to Nunavut residents.

Let me first start by speaking to these issues. One must be ambitious to apply, we face food insecurity and lack of employment opportunities, which is causing many people despondency where they lose the will to live and this is happening to Nunavummiut.

The lack of opportunity is killing our people as they have no prospects for employment, even as they apply, manifests itself in physical ailments, mental and physical challenges caused by the lack of housing. We have 15,000 recipients, Mr. Speaker, 15,000 Nunavummiut on Income Assistance or (interpretation ends) welfare or social assistance (interpretation) nonetheless, even though this is inappropriate in light of the development of mines within Nunavut.

There are now four operating mines in Nunavut, with mines in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq as well as here in the Baffin region. There are still too few Nunavummiut employed at these mines currently. Not enough Nunavut residents are working, and all we see are jets that pass through Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet that are bringing southern workers from (interpretation ends) southern Canada (interpretation) via these planes.

There are still not enough residents of Nunavut who are working at these mines. I am disgusted by this lack of action! (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker, our government's investment in mine training to date is pathetic. It is absolutely pathetic! Our government talks a big talk about mining being a pillar of our economy, well walk the walk and put some money into getting our residents trained up, getting them educated, so that they can get the jobs.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the mining companies want our residents to work. The barrier is education and training. Our government needs to seriously rethink what they are doing in terms of the amount of dollars that they are putting into mine training. At the appropriate time I will be asking questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation on this topic.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Member's Statement 344 – 5(2): The Grizzlies Movie

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I'd like to recognize the tremendous efforts of two inspirational women, who have used their artistic talent to bring the international spotlight to Nunavut.

I recently had the opportunity to watch the Grizzlies, which tells the story of how lacrosse positively influenced school attendance and helped reduce the rate of teen suicides in the community.

The film was an emotional rollercoaster which had the audience in tears while also incorporating Inuit humour to bring laughs. Nearly every character in the film is based on a real person. Nearly every scene has something that actually happened. This movie touches on many of the social issues in Nunavut, including suicide, domestic violence and food and security.

The Grizzlies movie was nearly ten years in the making, and would not have been accomplished without the work of two Inuit producers as part of the key creative team.

Ms. Stacy Aglok MacDonald is originally from Kugluktuk, where the true story took place and Alethia Arnaquq-Baril is from Iqaluit, where the film was shot.

The project itself was a strong contributor to our economy in a sustainable way. The production hired Inuit from many communities and had trainees in every department bring them new and transferable skills. All the while, the story itself celebrates Inuit youth as a strong, resilient capable people they are.

The film is still playing at the Astro theatre today, and I encourage all members to watch it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakasuk.

Member's Statement 345 – 5(2): Alcohol Awareness in Pangnirtung

Ms. Nakasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good afternoon to my colleagues and to the residents of Pangnirtung as well.

I want to speak to this issue, which I originally brought up last year during the hardships endured by the community of Pangnirtung, and when we faced stressful situations much like my colleague alluded to about needing life-skills counselling related to suicides.

As well, it relates to difficulties communities face, which I have referenced in the past, regarding the fact that Pangnirtung is a “dry” community, and this law was passed via plebiscite whereby the residents wanted a “dry” community. Nonetheless, we still see cases that are problematic all caused by alcohol abuse.

It is very noticeable within one's community when it occurs. Many residents of Pangnirtung have deliberated on ways to resolve this challenge, with many meetings held since the last year. The Pangnirtung Hamlet Council, as well as employees of the GN responsible for mental health, nurses, and the *Pujualussakut* society that deals with healing, have met to try to resolve this matter collaboratively.

To date, a number of events have been scheduled to deal with this matter and I am quite proud of this initiative. For the first time they held a local phone-in show to discuss the impacts of alcohol on one's body, one's mental situation, as well as alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

Many Inuit have gone on record as saying that we shouldn't just accept the substances that can become addictions, such as alcohol, cannabis and medications. As Inuit, we have to repatriate control over our own lives.

>>Applause

We are very appreciative as residents of Pangnirtung for the support. I would like to thank the employees who work at the Department of Finance and the (interpretation ends) Liquor Commission's "Let's Be Aware" (interpretation) campaign that provides the materials and posters on the impacts of alcohol on one's life.

My apologies, I ask for a unanimous consent to conclude my statement Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? I do not hear any. Please proceed with your statement Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Pangnirtung some of us are affected deeply by this issue. We do not want to see our siblings and our relatives being defeated by this.

I apologize.

We try very hard in Pangnirtung when it comes to alcohol. There are plans being put together to hold public meetings. There are many people that are trying to quit alcohol. They have to be recognized. People who want to improve their lives need to be recognized.

We should provide more opportunities for men and boys. Pujualussukut is working on that. I would like to recognize people of Pangnirtung for acknowledging this issue. They have held public meetings for residents on issues that the government does not deal with.

I would like to recognize people in the community of Pangnirtung that are tired of being beaten by this. I would like to show my recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Honourable David Joanasie.

Member's Statement 346 – 5(2): Cape Dorset's New Power Plant

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset. Today I stand during our winter session regarding the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I spoke and said that we are opening a new power plant in Cape Dorset in the early part of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation as we were able to go to Cape Dorset last Friday. Thanks also to attendees: vice-Chairman, Simeonie Akpalialuk; President and CEO of Qulliq Energy Cooperation, Bruno Pereira; and, Acting President, Jamie Flaherty.

People of Kimmirut were also involved to the opening. During our winter session, we were prepared to go there, but due to weather issues, we did not make it into the community. We had a great ceremony this past Friday. Thank you Qulliq and to everyone in Cape Dorset that came to the opening. We know that the residents of Cape Dorset will be affected by this power generation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Member's Statements. Member for Iqaluit- Sinaa, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik.

Member's Statement 347 – 5(2): 2019 Toonik Tyme Organizers

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here too in Iqaluit, all of us face many challenges as well, and recently last month, we held our annual spring celebration where we had a very successful Toonik Tyme event. We thank the volunteers involved with\, 123Go! at Toonik Tyme. Matthew and Pitseolak Alainga have been very active, as has Adamee Itorcheak. They are the 123Go! committee that we want to thank in terms of Toonik Tyme. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Speaker: Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I previously mentioned in my member's statement, I would like to recognize Ms. Stacey Aglok MacDonald, who is not only a producer in the film, The Grizzlies, but she is also from Kugluktuk. She was also a student of the high school just before the Grizzlies Team was formed.

Another aspect that I would like to recognize Ms. Aglok MacDonald for is her role in the Inuktitut comedy series Qanurli, where she was a writer, producer, and director. Stacey, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

I would also like to recognize Ms. Alethea Arnaquq-Baril. Alethea was born and raised here in Iqaluit.

Alethea Arnaquq-Baril was born and raised in Iqaluit. She began her film career as producer in the documentary James Houston: The Most Interesting Group of People You'll Ever Meet, and as a co-producer of The Experimental Eskimos. Althea directed her first full-length film, Tunniit: Retracing the Lines of Inuit Tattoos in 2010 which was a personal documentary about her journey to explore the lost tradition of Inuit facial tattoos.

Alethea was named by the Toronto International Film Festival as one of Canada's most important woman filmmakers in 2017.

I thank you both for everything that you guys have done. Once again, Alethea, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please feel welcome here in your Chambers. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I recognized the two pages from my community, but today I would like to recognize their chaperone, who is sitting behind me today.

Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned her name on many occasions in this House on her successes over the years in the sport of badminton, where she served on, not only Sanikiluaq's badminton team, but on Team Nunavut. I ask members to please join me in welcoming Myna Mannuk to the Gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very honoured to recognize two of the producers of the amazing movie, *The Grizzlies*, which is based on a true story from Kugluktuk. Stacey Aglok MacDonald is from my hometown of Kugluktuk and Alethea Arnaquq-Baril is from Iqaluit.

I get all emotional because I was part of the *Grizzlies* and I can't thank you enough for putting it out there.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that our government of Nunavut will consider showing the *Grizzlies* movie to all of our high schools across Nunavut. Not because it's a powerful story but because it shows what our home-grown and talented Nunavummiut like Stacey and Alethea can do with the right amount of drive and determination. Welcome to the Assembly.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): How uplifting that is. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The person I wish to recognize isn't sitting there anymore, but I want to recognize as we take pride in our pages that provide services to the members during our sittings.

I want to recognize this young person acting as a page, as he is my grandson. His name is Wayne Terrance Seetee Quassa. I wanted to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. (interpretation) To all visitors in the Assembly, I want to welcome you to the House.

Item 6: Oral Questions

(interpretation ends) Continuing on with our agenda. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 465 – 5(2): Immunization for School Children

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everyone. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as I am sure my colleagues would have heard the news; there have been some frightening outbreaks of communicable diseases across Canada, including measles, which can be prevented through immunization.

Can the minister provide an update on what changes, if any, have been made to Nunavut's immunization requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Health, Minister Hicke.

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As most people in Canada have been immunized against the measles, it's surprising that it has reared its ugly head again. We will continue to follow the best practices with immunization of all of our population and I do strongly encourage anyone who's watching, anyone who has family members, to make sure you check your immunization schedule to make sure you've participated.

Specifically, with the member's question, I'm not aware of any changes. We will continue with our immunization program as it has been going. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both the province of Ontario and the province of New Brunswick have mandatory immunization requirements for children in their school systems.

When we last met in February, the minister indicated that he or his department officials would be working with their counterparts in the Department of Education with respect to the mandatory immunization for children attending school.

Can the minister clearly describe what steps have been taken to address the issue of mandatory immunization for Nunavut school children to prevent the spread and outbreak of such communicable diseases as measles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With children as they go into the school system, there are conditions where they have to be met when they check with the...the term escapes me, but when they are preparing to go into kindergarten, there's an assessment and testing that's done at that point.

I believe the line of questioning that the member is referring to is more directed at the daycare system. If I recall the line of questioning properly, and there are not negotiations because we will recognize the need for it, but to make sure that we're following along with human rights and other activities; to make sure that immunizations are for one, that they are available, but at the same time, to make sure that we're following the letter of the law to make sure when we mandate something, that we're not infringing upon peoples human rights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, question. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just reading back of the blues that we had between us and I think it's mandatory for daycares but it isn't mandatory in Nunavut for school children and that is what I'm concerned about.

Mr. Speaker, I note that Nunavut's recommended childhood immunization schedule which is published on the Department of Health website, includes over 10 different vaccines which can be given to Nunavut children from birth until they are in grade 9, and I'm very pleased that we have such prevention protocols in place.

Can the minister confirm that his department has been working with the public health workers across Nunavut to ensure that all of our children have their up to date immunizations, and if they don't, that catch up immunization programs have been initiated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for that question. It's a very good one, and the fact that as we've transitioned from an electronic health record system from a paper base record system, this is something that we've recognized to make sure that the follow-up on the immunization schedule is very important and that it is adhered to.

So, it is an ongoing process where we are working with the community health centres to track people's and their children's immunization schedules. It is an ongoing effort right now that we are working with our chief medical officer of public health to make sure that immunizations are followed according to the registry. Thank you.

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

Question 466 – 5(2): Decreasing Funding For Mine Training

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. (interpretation ends)

In my member's statement, Mr. Speaker, I used the word "pathetic" and I stand by that word. I'm very frustrated by the amount of the lack of action on part of our government in terms of getting our residents employed within the mining sector. I'm sure the Minister of Economic Development would agree with me that we do need more Nunavummiut working in mining.

The industry, Mr. Speaker, is on an upswing across our territory but as indicated by the response to written question from the Department of Economic Development, the department's spending on mine training is on a downswing, so that's a hard thing to understand. You have an industry that's taking off, and we have a government that's spending less on that sector, on getting people employed in that sector. Over the past three years, I'll just refer to this response to written question: \$657,000 in 2016-17, \$355,000 on mine training in 2017-18 and \$282,000 2018-19.

Can the minister please explain why the department is not ramping up their spending in the area of mine training? (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker and the member for his question. (interpretation ends)

For the money that's dedicated to mine training that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation controls, it does seem to be that it's on a downturn, but

there are a number of other agencies, including the mining companies, that have agreements with the Inuit Organizations that deal with their mine training also.

Overall, I don't think there has been necessarily a downturn in the training. What has happened and is continuing about which I'm very happy, is that my department's progress, along with some of my colleagues from Family Services and Arctic College, in terms of how do we go to the next level.

I think those are the discussions that we have been having as a government. How can we make this into an institution so that all the monies that are geared toward mine training are identified and used so we can benefit as many Nunavummiut as possible?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister did indicate that there is a downturn in the amount of spending in this area. For the current fiscal year and years to come, will the Department of Economic Development be investing significantly more in this area? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) At this point, we do have a budget process that we go through and we tend to go through it on an annual basis and bring it to this House. That's always on-going, in terms of where do we find investments and go forward.

I think for this year a lot of good progress has taken place where at least three of the government departments and agencies have looked and said "OK, we know we have this amount of money, and we need to better co-ordinate or figure out how to expend this in a way that's going to benefit more and have discussions with the mining companies and Inuit organizations and any other stakeholders, such as the mining associations, in terms of how can we leverage more on this." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a response but I would like to thank him anyways. (interpretation ends)

I was asking about whether there would be a significant improvement and I will note, Mr. Speaker, that I have advocated during the budgeting process for more investment in this area. But, I can't compel the government to spend money. I do feel it would be a very smart investment in terms of the future of Nunavut.

My last question is regarding page three of the response to written question, with regards to the relationship between Economic Development and Transportation and Nunavut

Arctic College. The response to this question is, Mr. Speaker, “the department has initiated discussion with Nunavut Arctic College to participate as a new stakeholder going forward for students interested in pursuing further education and training in the resource sector.” This indicates to me, Mr. Speaker, that there hasn’t been a real working relationship with the college when it comes to mine training to date for the department. Can the minister indicate if I’m correct or not? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) There has been on-going work related to this. When it came to mine training there were attempts to try it as a society, which then became the training agency.

We’re trying different ways and what this paragraph under four is looking at is whether Nunavut Arctic College can become the agency to do the actual training. In the past it has been done by other agencies or other organizations or even some of them at the hamlet level.

Those trainings have been done.

The response to the written question is... the response I provided is... the initial discussion is whether the Arctic College would be the best fit in terms of doing the formal training when it comes to mine training.

Thank you for allowing me to clarify that with your written question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 467 – 5(2): Support for Community Initiatives

Mr. Quassa (interpretation) I will be speaking in English, as I was taught to speak English. (interpretation ends)

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

Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the Ministers’ Statement regarding her departments support for a damp shelter in Iqaluit. I noted that it was a local community group which started this initiative, and then the department stepped in to provide a building, funding and resources.

Can the minister clarify how her department made the decision to support this Iqaluit based initiative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing that question.

Last year when we presented this report on the founding of the damp shelter that would offer shelter to people under the influence of alcohol that would use that shelter.

(interpretation ends) That is what really started this process of having a damp shelter. To have our patients at the hospital be safe. There was a gap in the system. Our shelters are not what is considered damp. We saw a need in the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that Iqaluit is not the only community which faces issues of homelessness, substance abuse, and the need for a safe warm shelter. These are issues facing all communities across Nunavut both big and small, they are all facing the dire situation.

We all know that it is important that our government work with all of the Nunavut communities to find innovative solutions not only here in Iqaluit, but in all of the communities.

Can the minister clarify what steps her department has taken to provide buildings, funding, resources, or other support services for initiatives to address homelessness in Nunavut's other communities, including specifically my constituency, in the community of Igloodik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question.

Yes it is based here in Iqaluit, but I can say that the people the utilize the damp shelter are from all over Nunavut. There are some from Iqaluit, Sanikiluaq, Hall Beach, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung, and Cape Dorset. It is utilized by other Nunavut communities. It is not only for people from Iqaluit.

And again, I'm very pleased that the community of Pangnirtung are starting their own shelter, and much like residents did here in Iqaluit, we are able to proceed to the next stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All too often, it appears that the community of Iqaluit gets so much support, that the needs and challenges of Nunavut's other communities are left by the side of the trail.

I do recognize that small pockets of government funding are available to community groups who, on top of all the work that they do to help others, are required to prepare and submit proposals, hoping to get some support from the government.

Will the minister commit to taking the proactive step of reaching out to the communities, outside of Iqaluit, which desperately need shelters for homeless, and provide them with similar levels of support as her department has provided for Iqaluit? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, as sometimes I have no idea of the types of questions I will be queried upon and I worry sometimes.

However, when members query me on issues, I take pleasure in that as we are all committed to improving the quality of life by resolving these issues that impact our lives. Just last year, we held a meeting in Rankin Inlet regarding (interpretation ends) Poverty Reduction (interpretation) and the factors therein.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to our next roundtable because each community was represented last year and all those who participated were to go back to their community and take stock of what's needed in the community and what potential infrastructure exists so we can refurbish.

Cambridge Bay is a great example. I think people are going to get sick of me using that because they took what they know. You understand your community and what your needs are, and they took stock of what's under-utilized and those are the kinds of partnership that I hope to continue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 468 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Acting Minister of Justice.

As the minister is aware, the minimum wage in Nunavut is prescribed in the *Labour Standards Act*. It currently stands at \$13.00 an hour, and has not been increased since April of 2016, which is over three years ago.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue during the recent winter sitting, the minister told the House that the department would, and I quote “hopefully have something to present to Cabinet by the spring on this issue”.

Mr. Speaker, spring is here, and summer is just around the corner. When will the government approve an increase to the minimum wage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker: Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question.

Yes, we are still preparing the details on the proposed submission and during this spring session, we have several questions we want to consult Nunavummiut on related to the increase, where the Minister would review the submission and provide a decision. It is still being prepared but the work is ongoing. I will inform my ministerial colleague as she is committed to this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Consulting with the communities could take months and minimum wage hasn't been increased in a long time. I think they should put it as a priority.

Although Nunavut has the highest cost of living in the country, our minimum wage has fallen behind those of several other jurisdictions. When I raised this issue during our recent winter sitting, the minister agreed with my position that Nunavut should have the highest minimum wage in the country.

Can the minister confirm what rate the new minimum wage will be set at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has not had, in terms of the actual amount, what the actual rates going to be. But, from the briefings that I got related to this, it is still an ambition that Nunavut should be the highest for our country.

However, as I stated, the department is going to do some online surveys which will help the government, in terms of making that decision. At this point there is no government decision in terms of what the rates going to be, or even what we're proposing at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can inform us today when he expects to have this review complete and when an announcement will be made on the changes to the minimum wage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our current minister, who's absent right now but is still pursuing this, and I would respect her of having this brought forward to Cabinet.

We are waiting for her, in terms for a decision on this. When this comes and as Cabinet, we'll help make that decision. But at this point I don't have a firm timeline nor do I want to commit. As the Speaker stated that I am acting, so in terms of a decision like this, I think the minister will be in a good position to make that decision. I thank the member for continually raising this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Member for Uqsuqtuuq, Mr. Akoak.

Question 469 – 5(2): Solid Waste Management

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the minister of Community and Government Services. As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions during our recent winter sitting about the important issue of solid-waste management.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, I asked him about the status of solid-waste management feasibility study for Gjoa Haven that his department had commissioned in the summer of 2018. The timeline for this study indicated that the final report would be completed by January 2019.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm if the report has been completed and provided to the municipality of Gjoa Haven for review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for asking that question. It's true, what you're saying that there is a study on the solid-waste site in Gjoa Haven right now.

Once the study is completed, we do a re-study to ensure that nothing was missed and that is happening now. And after the study is done, we review the report to make sure nothing was missed. Once that is completed, the community representatives will be met with to explain the next steps following the study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Over the past year, the Department of Community and Government Services has commissioned a number of studies concerning solid-waste management in a number of different communities and Mr. Speaker, I applaud the minister for undertaking this work. However, as the minister also heard yesterday from my colleague from Hudson Bay, the results of these studies are not always being shared with members of the Legislative Assembly and municipalities in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to tabling a report in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current spring sitting that provides a summary of the status of these studies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I stated earlier, these studies and reviews of solid-waste sites in all of Nunavut are being worked on and they cannot all be done at the same time. They are being done and the things that are being discovered, we review. We also look to see what else should be included and what has been included, and how it should be dealt with following what has been found in the studies.

All these need to be compiled and that is being worked on. There are a lot of documents so hopefully before the end of this spring session, but I don't know if I can present it before the end of this session. It has to be translated into Inuktitut as well. I'm not looking for excuses not to table it. These are actual things that have to be done regarding anything that is found.

We have to meet with the hamlet and tell them what we found and what else needs to be done. So, I would have no trouble presenting them to my colleagues here but I know we will not be able to table them this spring session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During the recent winter sitting, I asked the minister to provide the House with an estimate of what it would cost to modernize the solid-waste management facilities in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, in his reply to me, he indicated that the department was waiting for the feasibility studies to be completed. As was noted yesterday, the capital city recently received millions of dollars of funding to modernize its facilities.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister update us today on the approximate cost of addressing this issue for Nunavut's other 24 communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague. I appreciate your question but I think you kind of answered it yourself in that, once all the feasibility studies are done in all the waste-management sites across Nunavut, will we only then know how much it's going to cost to fix them all, and put them into standards.

The city of Iqaluit has their own contribution agreements with the federal government on funding, so it's separate from us, the other communities. Being a tax-based community, they do that separately from us. In terms of answering the question of how much is it going to cost, as you said, once we have all those communities' studies done and reviewed them with the municipalities, and we do the checks and balances to make sure that all of the scenarios are covered, and costs associated with those are tallied, only then will we be able to come up with a final figure of how much it's going to cost to fix the solid-waste facilities across Nunavut.

We are on that venture, we are walking that path and I hope sooner than later that we will begin, if not to all of them, at least most of them, start putting prices on them and start acting on those results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towntongie.

Question 470 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut – Agnico-Eagle Mines Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. They concern issues that I first raised during last fall's, six months ago, sitting of the Legislative Assembly regarding the memorandum of understanding that was signed in 2017 between the government of Nunavut and Agnico-Eagle mines in Tasiujaq.

As the minister is aware, the memorandum of understanding sets out a number of priority areas regarding cooperation between the two parties, including the issue of housing construction.

(interpretation ends) Six months ago, I was told that some discussions between the government and Agnico-Eagle had taken place. Could the minister update the House today on what specific actions, I am talking about actions, have been agreed to between the two parties in the area of housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that fine question. Yes, this is detailed in the Memorandum we signed with Agnico-Eagle Mines, and we anticipate progress over this spring where we will table the agreement into the House as to what we plan to undertake here with the company.

Yes, we've made some requests to the company, outlining the work with them for housing, but nothing has been settled yet and we're continuing our discussions with the company, especially at the executive level with the President over this winter.

We discussed the issues and actions the parties need to implement to abide by the memorandum, and our officials are working on the details of the agreement. But, up to date, as to the type of agreement will result is a matter of conjecture as we haven't reached that yet.

Nothing has been presented to me yet about this agreement on the housing matter, so I can't really provide any details at this time to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The memorandum of understanding between the government of Nunavut and Agnico-Eagle Mines also identifies training as a priority area for cooperation.

Now, mines have a lifespan. They have a start date as well as an end date. It's too late now, if we are going to wait for something like that and many residents, as the minister will appreciate, my constituents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet are eager to undertake training so they can successfully take on skilled jobs at the mines.

Can the minister update the House today on what specific actions have been agreed to between the two parties in the area of training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you as well for asking your question.

Yes, the training, as I elaborated on earlier; if a mining company wishes to undertake training of potential employees and if any student wants to take the training, then yes, please fill out an application form.

Around 2017-18, currently in the Kitikmeot region, there were 11 people taking the drilling assistants course, and there are different courses in play here.

In the Kivalliq, the Hamlet of Arviat is preparing a course on pre-employment courses, and currently they have 30 students enrolled, and there were 140 applicants who applied

for this course. 29 students successfully passed this course, and some are already placed in jobs at the Meadowbank mine.

As well, for the Baffin region, we had 247 students who undertook literacy training via the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. There are just some of the courses we have approved listed in my briefing note, and with respect to the actual training courses listed, they continue to change, for example, under this new agreement, we included a review phase.

Additionally, the Kivalliq Inuit Association has an IIBA agreement, which also has a training component detailed out. I cannot speak to that as it is outside the government purview as they are independent. However, I can only speak to the memorandum between the mining company and this government and I plan to table it in the House before the end of our sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to speak in English, I apologize I forgot to welcome people from Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, good afternoon. (interpretation ends)

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Nunavut and the Agnico Eagle Mines was signed on September 20, 2017, just two years ago. The agreement provides for an oversight committee to identify priorities and consider implementation plans to actually implement the plans. Can the minister assure the house that he will be tabling the actual implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding before the end of our current sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am committing that we will be tabling the Memorandum of Understanding between Agnico Eagle Mines and our government. At this point, I cannot commit in terms of what the oversight committee has reported to date. I need to look at that and I need to go through that before I can make such commitments.

But what I have committed and I hope that I will do it is putting that overarching MOU. As you mentioned, there is a steering committee and oversight that's at a working level. That's specifically in that Memorandum of Understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 471 – 5(2): Ilisqisvik and Family Services

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions will be directed to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier during my members' statement, that counselling services are provided in the event of a sudden death, where residents want assistance from counsellors who are directed by Ilisaqsivik in Clyde River, they provide a lot of help. Also, Mr. Speaker, we know that Family Services has counsellors probably in every community,

I'm not sure if it's in every community, but there are social workers who work for the government in the communities. I met with people who came to Qikiqtarjuaq to provide assistance when there was a sudden death.

They reported on what they do people from Ilisaqsivik. They do not work with social workers when they're in the communities even though they deal with the same issues. They have to provide life counselling for social workers and work with Ilisaqsivik counsellors.

Can the minister clarify how close the Ilisaqsivik people work together with government social workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank you for asking that question.

We are all undergoing stressful situations as Nunavummiut and it's no wonder we require assistance. Nonetheless, I haven't heard from an organization state that they won't be part of this initiative. It would be unfortunate if what we hear is truthful. I will have this looked into by my officials in my offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary question, do you have a question? Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, even though I was not told directly that the social workers will be involved, however even when Ilisaqsivik staff go to communities, the government social workers are never available and they don't know that the counsellors are going to the community and sometimes they're not even in the community.

Ilisaqsivik staff and social workers; don't they work together? When Ilisaqsivik staff are going to provide counselling in other communities, don't the social workers check with Ilisaqsivik to see if they need help? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

When there's trauma in a community, Family Services is not the only department that coordinates, there's several departments. Obviously there has to be better communications between our department because I do believe Quality of Life does a lot of coordination of these kinds of activities. (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Final supplementary question, do you have a question, Mr. Keyootak?

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister for her response.

This is serious. When there is a sudden death, everybody is affected even though if it happens in faraway communities, we are all affected. With that being the case, we all want to provide help to the government, as regular MLAs. And, other organizations want to provide help on how we can lessen this issue. We have to work together on what's the best avenue to work on this and for the government and the Ilisaqsivik counsellors to work together.

We ask our Ilisaqsivik staff to provide help from people who can provide counselling even younger people or adults can provide counselling.

Can the minister indicate on whether the Ilisaqsivik staff and government social workers to work more closely together in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I wholeheartedly agree, all of us, even I have been affected and I think that this is well put together. Let us keep reminding our staff that we have to work together.

If there is an emergency situation and somebody is going to the community they will inform me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 472 – 5(2): Foster Care

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, when a child is taken into a care a social worker manages the process to ensure that they are placed with the extended family or with a foster family. Can the minister clarify what process is followed to ensure that the foster parents and social

workers have the same understanding of the process and expectations when they take a foster child into care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your question too. Also I want to start off by thanking people who undertake the fostering of children as they provide an invaluable service to our department looking after the children. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker, there are several avenues when it comes to foster parent. We have yes, the extended family members who sometimes usually are for immediate risk. At that point, it is departmental records checks, and safety checks from home studies, and a brief visit of the home. This is what happens for immediate high risk. Then of course if it is more than 72 hours there is much more. That is for the safety of the child.

Criminal records check including vulnerable sectors check. Foster parents have to go through an application process. Foster home care agreements are signed, oath of confidentiality, and of course the home study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary to questions, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She happened to answer the question I was going to make my supplementary question, so for that answer I thank her and she also responded to my first question. I will ask my second question as a supplementary question now. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker I am aware of at least two foster families in the constituency of Netsilik who have requested additional support in providing care they have been asked to give.

Mr. Speaker, when a child is put to foster care, a government purchase order is made available to provide for the child's need. It is my understanding that the foster parents are entitled to \$50 a day for providing foster care; which would come to \$250 for a week if the foster parent does not have a job, and has other children to care for, this \$250 does not go very far. When the social worker takes money out of foster care payments to purchase supplies for the child instead, it does not leave foster parents with very much at all.

Will the minister commit to reviewing the foster parenting process to allocate a better incentive and better support to foster parents who provide much needed care for children in need? (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and as well for your question. (interpretation ends)

During our last sitting, it was recognized that we have increased income support but did not do so with foster parenting. As part of the strategic plan, I planned to do that, and I promised last sitting to increase foster parenting, and to work on increasing it for the next fiscal year.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. MLA Kugluktuk, member, Kamingoak.

Question 473 – 5(2): New School Space for Kugluktuk

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister should be well aware of the high utilization rates at the Kugluktuk High School because it has been well over 100 percent utilization for several years now. The lack of adequate school space is an issue of growing concern.

Can the minister provide an update on what consideration has been given to building a new school infrastructure in Kugluktuk, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) and thank you MLA Kamingoak for her question.

Mr. Speaker, my department proposed \$33 million in our capital budget for 2020-2021 and along with that, we did submit five different projects for preplanning consideration for the 2020-21 fiscal year and the Kugluktuk High School addition was one of them. But at this point, three projects have been waiting for completion of business cases out of those, and so we're trying to move forward on the preplanning of the five projects that we're working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary addition, Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the upcoming school year, the utilization rate at the Kugluktuk High School will be at 115 percent. The government has indicated that once the school utilization rate exceeds 85 percent then the need for additional school space will be addressed in the capital planning final process. Despite Kugluktuk's high school utilization rates being consistently over 100 percent, it appears that the department's way of addressing the situation is to relocate one of the grade six classes to the elementary school. This does seem like effective capital planning.

Can the minister explain how his department's way of moving classes of students from school to school is used to address overcrowding issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The school utilization we factor in, depending on the teaching space at the school, and looking at the space and the number of students that are enrolled in that school. In different schools, let's say for example in Kugluktuk, there are two schools and one school has a higher utilization rate, which we try to work with the school teams in both to see if the catchment areas, maybe grade levels can be moved in between schools to alleviate the over-crowding in one of the schools.

These are temporary measures that we try to accommodate in our capital planning process and we always need more given that we have 44 schools right now and we want to continue to expand and build new schools where needed. It's an ongoing, regular annual cycle that we take into account the condition of the schools as well as how much it's being utilized given the space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): This is now your second and final question supplementing your original question. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker, and I know the minister elaborated on this a little bit, but I'm going to ask again. Mr. Speaker, the need for additional school infrastructure in Kugluktuk has been very clear for some time and should not be ignored. Will the minister commit to including a new school infrastructure for Kugluktuk in his department's next capital plan? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The capital planning process is set that we will deal with in the fall. The pre-planning envelope through Community and Government Services, we try to send out at least a handful of different projects because we have so many schools to deal with that either need major renovations, either additions or build a new school. So looking at all the needs across the territory, we'll take into account the needs of Kugluktuk's school space and all the other communities in Nunavut.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 474 – 5(2): Staff Condominium Program

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, with 14 seconds to spare.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. My questions are regarding the Staff Condominium Program. I'd like to begin by thanking the minister for taking this initiative, because I

believe that home ownership is one aspect which will alleviate our housing shortage and reduce our reliance on public and staff housing.

Mr. Speaker, it has been quite some time since the government has given an update on the status of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Condominium Program. I would like to ask the minister today if you would be kind enough to give us an update on status of those 60 condominium units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. George Hickes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to people of my constituencies, Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

I feel for you, member for Pangnirtung. When you lose a relative suddenly because of alcohol, keep talking about it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. The current update for the 60 units that have been bought, by the way Mr. Speaker, I'm a strong proponent of the homeownership program and we expect to have a great report by this fall sitting on the review of the homeownership program, we hope to have the 60 units occupied by the end of October. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: You first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to, first of all, thank the minister for his response and I really do hope that the commitment to tabling that Homeownership Review will be completed and accomplished by the fall sitting.

I'd like to follow up with a supplementary question by asking: of those sixty units, today how many have been or are sitting vacant? What I would like to ask is: how many have been allocated and how many have actually been sold? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) Currently, there are 13 units that are occupied in building 5196 and 5198 on the Plateau. The Condominium Corporation number has been issued, which will allow all buyers of units in building 5196 and 5198 to finalize their transactions on or before June 30.

There were some issues with shifting on some of our buildings and I understand by next month there will be a tender issued and by the end of the month or by the end of October, we hope to have everything settled and all the units being moved into by our employees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that 13 of the units are being occupied and that the closing date is set for June 30. I'm sure that all of the applicants are delighted to hear that.

I would like to ask if the government has any plans to expand the eligibility criteria to allow non-GN staff to apply to purchase these condominium units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) Again, I said earlier that we are doing a comprehensive review on the Homeownership Program, and by the fall sitting we will have a good package to give to the floor here. Recently I was up in Cambridge Bay and I thought what a great place to have another condo program with all the activity going on up there with the CHARS station.

I think there's a great opportunity to build something up there to alleviate the severe chronic housing shortages that we have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Question Period or Oral Question period is now over. Next item on my list is Item 7: Written Questions. Item 8: Returns to Written Questions. Item 9: Replies to Opening Address. Item 10: Petitions. Item 11: Responses to Petitions. Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13: Tabling of Documents. Minister Akeeagok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 163 – 5(2): Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am tabling today the 2018 Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act 1990. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Mr. Main.

Tabled Document 164 – 5(2): 2019-2020 Letter of Expectation for the Executive Council of Nunavut

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker, as chairperson of the regular members' caucus, I am very pleased to table today in all official languages, the first ever letter of expectation to the Premier of Nunavut.

As you will recall, when all members of the Legislative Assembly held our retreat in Pond Inlet following the 2017 general election, we made the decision not to undertake a formal midterm review of the executive council.

As we now approach the midpoint of our term of office, the letter of expectation, Mr. Speaker, that the regular members' caucus has presented to the Premier articulates our expectations for all Cabinet ministers and makes it clear that their performance will be evaluated on an ongoing basis for the remainder for this Assembly. I'm very confident, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier and his colleagues will review this document with care.

>> *applause*

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickeys.

Bill 24 – Write-off of Debts Act, No. 1, 2019-2020 – First Reading

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable member from Arviat South, that Bill 24 *Write Off of Debts Act* 2018-19 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion, all those in favour?

Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills.

Minister of Finance, Minister Hickeys.

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – First Reading

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable member for Arviat South that Bill 25, an *Act to Amend the Income Tax Act* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion, all those in favour?

Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills; Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefit Act – First Reading

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

I move, seconded by honourable member of Arviat South, Joe Savikataaq, that Bill 27, an *Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act*, be read for the first time.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion, all those in favour?

Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters; Bills 22 and 23 with Mr. Rumbolt in the chair.

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

(interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms...

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order please. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 22 and 23. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we want to proceed with Bill 22 and review it. Also, the issue of Finances and Bill 23 will also be under review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we will first deal with Bill 22?

Some members: Agreed.

Bill 22 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020 – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. George Hickee: With the committee's indulgence, yes.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have 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 Hickey, if you could please introduce your officials and then continue on to your opening comments. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To your right we have Assistant Deputy Minister Dan Carlson and to your left Deputy Minister Jeff Chown.

I'd like to thank Chair and committee members, and all members, I appear before you today to present Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020*.

Through this bill the government is seeking to increase its overall operations and maintenance appropriation by \$3.6 million in 2019-2020. Mr. Chair, we will use these new funds to create a new program, the Nunavut Carbon Rebate. Before taking questions I would like to take a few minutes to explain why we want to create this program and how it will work.

As you all know, climate change is a serious global concern. Human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels like gas and diesel, is causing our planet to overheat. The Arctic experiences this change faster than elsewhere on the planet.

In 2017, the Government of Nunavut signed on to the Pan-Canadian Framework, a national agreement amongst provinces, territories, and the federal government that talks about the importance of reducing fossil fuel use. One way to do this is through carbon pricing, making the cost of greenhouse gases slightly more expensive so that individuals and businesses have a reason to reduce their use.

The Government of Nunavut have always agreed with the importance of fighting climate change, but also argued that carbon pricing will not be as effective in the north because of the unique challenges we face. We also argued that our households and industry, especially mining, have few alternatives to burning fuel.

The Government of Canada listened to our arguments, and last year agreed to exempt the fuel Qulliq Energy Corporation uses to generate electricity as well as aviation fuel from the carbon price. The federal government has also put in place special calculations for the mining sector, which means they will pay significantly less than the full amount.

Mr. Chairmen and colleagues, with these exemptions in place, the federal government will begin charging a carbon price here in Nunavut on July 1, 2019.

As a result, the price of gas, diesel and home heating fuel that our Petroleum Products Division sells will increase by about \$.05 a litre.

For vehicle owners, each tank of gas will cost another few dollars to fill up at the pump. Filling a 5-gallon jerry can will cost an extra \$0.95. For those who own their own homes, the price of home heating fuel will increase based on their use.

Because of the exemptions we argued for, the price of electricity will not increase. The prices of other goods and services should not increase noticeably, because aviation is exempt.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, the point of the federal government's carbon price is to get Canadians thinking about way to reduce their fuel uses and to encourage them to make decisions over time that will lead to lower emissions.

We also want these adjustments to happen here in Nunavut. However, we know that Nunavummiut do not face the same options as southern Canadians. Because our options are limited, it will be harder for us to change our habits. It will take longer for our economy to adjust.

Because of this, Mr. Chairman, our government intends to launch a new Nunavut Carbon Rebate.

Through this program, our Petroleum Products Division will only pass along half the federal carbon tax to Nunavummiut.

This means that Nunavummiut will only directly pay an extra 2.5 cents per litre this July, and not the full 5 cents.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, the Department of Finance, working closely with PPD behind the scenes, will pay the other half using this new appropriation we are seeking through Bill 22.

In some ways, our plan is similar to the Nunavut Electrical Subsidy Program, where the Department of Finance already works with Qulliq Energy Corporation to subsidize the price of electricity for households and businesses.

Through the Nunavut Carbon Rebate, our government will immediately reduce the impact of the federal carbon price on our households and businesses at the pump.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, we want to encourage Nunavummiut to do what they can to reduce their emissions, and so are not rebating the full amount.

Instead, our government intends to use the carbon revenues we do not immediately give back through this rebate to fund other important initiatives. Most significantly, I am proposing to make a number of changes to our *Income Tax Act* separately through Bill

26, which I just read for the first-time short time ago. We will discuss these proposals at another time.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Carbon Rebate is simple, but significant. We expect this will cost our government about \$36 million in 2019-2020. Before we can offer this program we require this Assembly's approval.

As the federal carbon tax increases steadily over the next few years, our rebate will also increase so that Nunavummiut only pay half the full amount.

This means the cost of this program will also increase steadily. In total, Mr. Chairman, we expect this program will cost nearly \$36 million over this and the next three fiscal years. This is significant.

Mr. Chairman, our goal is to help slow the impact of the federal carbon tax on Nunavummiut, not to subsidize it entirely or permanently. Starting in 2023-24, we will slowly reduce the amount of our rebate over several years. In effect, Nunavummiut will face the same overall adjustment as other Canadians to the federal carbon tax, but over a period that is twice as long.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, through the Nunavut Carbon Rebate our government is trying to balance legitimate efforts to fight climate change while also trying to help Nunavummiut adjust to Canada's carbon tax, recognizing we have fewer opportunities.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, this concludes my opening comments and I'd be pleased to take any questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I will ask members to go to page 4 on their Bill 22 and I'll open the floor for any general comments if anybody has. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. I appreciate this chance. The issue of carbon tax will affect many things and cause some increases for fuel and diesel. For business owners and people that have their own homes, they will be affected by this. \$3.6 million that has been spoken to, will definitely assist hunters and homeowners. I just wanted to mention I support this Bill and I support the implementation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are there anymore general comments? If not, again we are on page 4 of Bill 22 Supplementary Appropriations, Operations and Maintenance Number 1, 2019-20, Finance not Previously Authorized \$3,600,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

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

When is the minister going to introduce the carbon program that we're talking about? When is the implementation date? Thank you.

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

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

The implementation date will be the same as the implementation of the carbon tax, July 1. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You mentioned in your comments here there are exemptions for power generation and as well aviation fuel but it's my understanding that there's some lack of clarity around the aviation fuel exemption. If the minister could provide some information in terms of the current situation; because the airlines as I understand, they do fuel up from their southern bases, say Ottawa or Winnipeg or wherever, and I'm interested to hear whether that exemption will apply across the board for our northern airlines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that request for clarification. I just recently had to clarify to myself after discussions this morning.

The way it's understood is that any aviation fuel that's used to fly to Nunavut or within Nunavut or flying outside of Nunavut to our entry points say for example, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Yellowknife, I guess would flow to first before Alberta, are exempt also from the aviation carbon tax so anything that's coming to or from or within Nunavut is exempt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

The department is proposing to cover, I guess, half the cost of the carbon tax but the other half will still be borne by Nunavummiut. Does the department have plans to communicate the fact that the Nunavut government did not create the carbon tax, like it's something that's being imposed on us from a federal level? Does the department have any plans to communicate that to our residents?

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

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

It's very important to make sure that we communicate clearly to all of our residents on how we're going to be dealing with the carbon tax and what the route of it is and what the purpose of it is as well as I think it's an important message.

So, there's a communications strategy that's ready to go, basically we do have to wait until these appropriations and any further programs are approved by this House before we can initiate, but we are ready to go with the communications plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Just a final question for clarity. I mean you're calling this the Nunavut Carbon Rebate. So, if people see that word rebate, they're going to think "oh, it's income tax and maybe there's an application form on some website that I have to fill out".

So, just to clarify, that this rebate program will be applied in a way that doesn't involve any paperwork for Nunavummiut. It's something that would be applied at the pump basically, and there's no application form or process or paperwork associated with that for the general public. That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate again, the member raising that. Again, it's important for everyone listening out there. The only paperwork that will be initiated by this program is within PPD, Department of Finance and CRA Canada.

This is an immediate \$0.025 off the top rate of the pump. So, nobody has to fill out any forms. We wanted a very simple process to be able to put money, or to keep money, in our residents' pockets. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and welcome to the House. I have a couple of questions. I don't think anybody likes any tax added to anything. We already, I think, have the highest costs of everything in Nunavut.

And especially being a homeowner, I think this is going to especially add a lot of stress to the high bills we have already. And there is you say, a rebate for when we go and get gas and stuff at the pumps.

Is the government going to give homeowners any rebates for the extra costs of diesel? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the immediate at the pump rebate of the \$0.025 per litre, we also have other measures in the Bill I just read for the first time, a short while ago, that members will be able to discuss different tax incentives that will put money back in people's pockets or keep it in people's pockets. So, there are other initiatives that have no bearing on this program that will alleviate some of those pressures. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you look at those other rebates that you talk about and you say we are going to discuss them here, but just in general, are there going to be or will there be kind of limits, if you only make this amount, or that amount you can access it?

You know, like there's a lot of that in the government already. If you want to access any rebate, you have to make quite a small income in order to be able to access any help. So, with this one, how are you going to be looking at this rebate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And that's a very important initiative. We want to make sure we are covering all demographics. There's going to be an increased cost to everyone at some point.

Some people are going to be impacted higher, and typically those would be the higher income earners; homeowners and people that are making more money or spending more money and not subsidized. You know, you get someone in a very low income as in public housing electricity subsidized; their rent is subsidized, so they have less of an impact by the carbon tax.

So, we want to make sure we did it fairly, so all demographics, both low income and high income will be, as you'll see when you look at the Bill that was first read just an hour ago, you'll see that there are measures taken into place to accommodate both low income and high income earners. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that.

When we talk about homeowners, I'm a homeowner, and there's no way I'm leaving a window open in the middle of winter because it's too hot. It costs so much to own a home here. Yet, the purpose of this tax is to try and make us more efficient. But, as homeowners we are trying everything to be efficient already.

We have lightbulbs that are efficient, we turn down our heat really low in the middle of the night, we've bought a woodstove to try and help us with the heating of the house.

With this tax, the purpose is to try and reduce our use of fossil fuel. There's only so much reducing you can do, when we have the kind of climate that we have here in Nunavut.

I think, and I'd like to suggest, if you are going to be collecting this money and it will be coming back to the Government of Nunavut, that things like subsidies on windmills, or solar panels, or something like that for homeowners that take this seriously.

I know you're talking about income tax and that as well, and that will be helpful, but I think to make us even more efficient in how we heat our homes or provide the electrical and all of that, it would be good to have some of those kinds of incentives. I wonder where you stand on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hicke.

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've been very open with everyone in the public and as well as this room that I'm very interested in hearing people's ideas on how to make sure that the money we're collecting through the federal government is allocated to the people who are impacted, or people are taking measures to reduce their dependence on fossil fuel.

It sounds like your household has been practising the main 'low-hanging fruit' I call it. Not everyone does, so I appreciate some of the ideas you put out there for people out in the public, so that they can take steps to reduce their usage.

At the same time, I'm very open to any ideas from anyone across the territory or anywhere on how we can work towards reducing our fossil fuel dependence on different programs.

This is just the phase one of the 20 dollars per tonne of greenhouse gases that are being emitted, and it will be increasing throughout the program. This is the first stage, we wanted to make sure that our residents were going to be impacted first or thought of first.

Going forward we're open to any and all ideas on how to reimburse or to reallocate these revenues to additional programs. Going forward, that's definitely our plan. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hicke. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for his response. I guess another big area that I find very expensive that I would hope that you would also look at while I have you here, is to look at purchasing windows.

The windows cost so much and I think it's really important that we have the right kind of windows in all of our homes because it's going to assist in the heating and retaining heat and using the sun and all of that. That's one area I hope that you would be able to look at of helping people when they buy windows that you could maybe subsidize a certain part

of it so that people are getting the kind of windows they really should be putting in their homes. That's just a suggestion.

My question is, when we talk about fuel for our homes, how much more, like we talk about gas being 5 cents more: is that the same for all fuel across the board? Is it going to be \$0.05 more, is that the same for all fuel across the board?

Is it going to be \$0.05 per litre more, or are they all different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, just to give an example, there are differing amounts from propane down to kerosene. When we're looking at home heating fuels approximately \$0.055 per litre we're looking at. So again, we are looking at covering half of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. My other question is, there's a phasing out period, but you mentioned in your opening comments. Just for the public who's listening, can you just go over the phasing out period, the percentage? And from what year to what year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, basically in fiscal year 2023-24, we are going to start phasing out that 50 percent subsidy over a five-year period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that I saw; it was a couple of weeks ago, could have been, but time flies. In the news, it was about some of the provinces are really standing up against the federal government.

They don't want to have this, and I think Quebec was a big voice there. They don't want anything to do with this kind of carbon tax. And they're going to the courts. So, that hasn't happened yet I don't think, but let's say tomorrow they came out with I guess we're not supposed to be hypothetical here, but I really am interested.

If one or two provinces were able to win in the court, I don't know what kind of impact that would have across Canada but, what's your thinking on this? Do you think it would have a big impact here? Would we then maybe think twice before going forward, or what? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we're not looking at joining any of the legal battles that are ongoing with other jurisdictions. We want to make sure that, one, our resources are allocated properly.

We are following very closely the proceedings that are ongoing at that level, but with that being said, typically what would happen in a case like that, and I can't speak to this example specifically, because it's hypothetical, but typically what would happen if one jurisdiction in Canada gets a benefit from the federal government, all jurisdictions get it. So, if something were to happen along those lines, it would default to us as well, typically. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to talk a little bit about your communication plan. I think it's vital that people understand what kind of impact this is going to have on them.

I wonder why, with July 1 being around the corner, why you haven't gone forward and gone to communities or met with people or used different ways of communicating what's going to happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have been very presumptive to go out with a communications plan before it's approved in the House here, and I would have been getting my knuckles rapped the other way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mister Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to welcome the minister and his officials. I want to clearly understand this issue which I want to ask about, regarding the 2.5 percent or rather the \$0.025 rebate from the \$0.05 rate.

What will the PPD do to ensure they don't lose any funds over this rebate, if they are going to use that within our Nunavut territory? I would like to understand how they will administer that, hence my question on the matter, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Is it not going to affect the PPD department?

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I sincerely appreciate that question. Just to make a very simple visualization I guess, if I may. With the 5 cents on a litre of gasoline as an example, PPD would be responsible for paying that 5 cents to the federal government.

They have charged the 2 and half cents at the pump and the Department of Finance, through this appropriation, provides the other 2 and half cents and submits it to the CRA on a quarterly basis. Then basically at the same time, we get it back through the Department of Finance and that is what helps fund this program and any other programs that would be associated with the carbon tax.

I hope that is a very simple, PPD to CRA, and back to Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 16:30 Yes, looking at numbers, I am not very familiar with numbers it kind of floats around in my head, I really do not...

My second question is, would the aviation fuel in the Nunavut territory, I do not think it is going to really affect the pilots or the airlines. As well over in the NWT, I think that is how I understand it.

Considering if that...and for charter services, I think it is going to use up a lot of money especially when it comes to charter service because any groups or companies especially flying through air. Perhaps, maybe minister could clarify more on that area? That is my question Mr. Chairman, I hope I am understandable.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the aviation fuel exemption, it covers all aviation fuel, whether that be a personal pilot, commercial use or in charter use. It would not impact any of the pricing from aviation fuel. I hope that is clear, Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Did you have any more question Mr. Qirngnuq? Go ahead please.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As well, that got 5-gallons is going to add 95 cents a litre and it is going to increase so much. Considering it, especially for low incomes, because they are going to pay more now, and we discussed this amongst our,...so, maybe perhaps our MLA colleagues are considering this as well. Perhaps we can approach the federal government, or was it not thought about in the near future so Mr. Chairman that is my question, thank you.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify that the 95-cent example was used before the carbon rebate so it would be half of that for a jerry can. It is not a dramatic increase. That being said, going forward, like I mentioned earlier, I am open and

we are all open to any initiative that people suggest on how to lessen the burden of the carbon tax on specific groups or societies or demographics. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not have to ask question if I did not... It is not a question, but here perhaps this is for individuals or homeowners especially. Once the cost of the fuel is going up, perhaps in the near future for consideration I elaborate on it because the heating fuel helps a lot for...the Styrofoam also can help for homeowners if they perhaps. For the heating fuel maybe perhaps the heating fuel could decrease a bit. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for your comment. Moving on. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Probably one question if I need to.

In your statement you mentioned, like all of us I guess, you want to encourage Nunavummiut to do what they can do to reduce emissions. What are some of the initiatives or ideas that you might want to give to Nunavummiut to help out in reducing emissions? I know in Nunavut we don't have that much but I think anything little helps. Would you have any suggestions in your communiqué or as this July 1 passes by will there be any suggestions to Nunavummiut, what initiatives they can do? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question, Mr. Quassa. I think Ms. Angnakak alluded to a few of them earlier, on you know turning your thermostat down in the evening, using energy efficient bulbs, making sure your windows are closed, and using your air exchange system properly.

People are looking at carpooling, if you're a number of people going to the same place you can travel together or walk. There's also low idling. I know a number of businesses have put signs out front 'no idling zone' type of thing so you don't leave your vehicle running for half an hour at a time. Making sure that you take proper maintenance of your vehicles, changing air filters, making sure your changing you oil increases your efficiency of fuel. Those are just some ideas that come to my mind off the top of my head.

I do appreciate the question because I think that would be a very important part of our communications strategy so that people know what steps they can take to reduce their impact. Thank you.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of people out there also have cabins in other communities and they use some of these products. People with cabins are starting to increase and I'm pretty sure they are going to be affected too. What's observation on this? Especially people who have cabins? Just a thought.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not specific to outdoors or cabins, same thing with this price reduction at the pump will help off-set some of that challenge.

That being said, some of initiatives through the other Bill that I read earlier today on the amendments to the *Income Tax Act* will benefit people as well too, to help offset further the carbon tax impact. We don't have anything at this time. That's not to say that something down the road that could be figured out on how to implement something for subsistence harvesters or other initiatives. That will be taken a look at down the road. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. If there's no other questions we will move on. We are doing *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance No. 1, 2019-2020, Finance, Not Previously Authorized, \$3.6 million dollars. Agreed?*

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page two. *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance No. 1, 2019-2020. Schedule 1, \$600,000, agreed?*

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 2. *Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance, No. 1 – 2019-20. Schedule 1 – Operations and Maintenance, Operations and Maintenance Appropriation - \$3, 600,000. Agreed?*

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to Bill 22, in your Legislative binders. Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act, No. 1 – 2019-20. 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: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule – Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020. Vote 1, Operations and Maintenance, Total Appropriation, \$3, 600,000, agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 5, agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that Bill 22 as a whole?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree pursuant to Rule 62 (2), that Bill 22 can be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now to give Minister Hickes the opportunity if he has any closing comments, Minister Hickes?

Hon. George Hickes: I'll keep them very short Mr. Chairman. I thank you and thank the members for the support of this Bill, and I look very much forward to further initiatives to help reduce the impact of the carbon tax on Nunavummiut.

I'd like to thank my team behind the scenes, as this seems like a very simple piece of paper or Bill, but a lot of work has gone into it and a lot of different ideas were bantered about and I look forward to further initiatives with ideas coming from the public, from my colleagues here at the Assembly, and across the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, we also thank you and your staff for your efforts on this Bill. Before we move on, we're going to take a very brief break to get ready for the next Bill. Thank you.

>>*Meeting adjourned at 16:48 and resumed at 16:49:27*

Chairman: Okay, I'd like to call the committee meeting back to order, please. Before we get started, I'll ask Minister Hickes if he has different officials he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I would like to swap out one of my assistants please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Do members agree to enter a different witness into the chambers?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witness out and escort the additional witness in please.

>>*Sargent-At-Arms escorting witnesses*

Chairman: Thank you. We are doing Bill 23. I will now ask Minister Hickes if he could please introduce his witnesses and continue on into his opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act 2, 2019-2020 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No stranger to this House, Mr. Aaron Devereaux, Assistant Deputy Minister with Community and Government Services and still with me, Deputy Minister, Jeff Chown from the Department of Finance.

I like to thank the Chair and Members again, I appear before you today to present Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act 2, 2019/2020*.

Through it, we are seeking approval to carry over \$116 Million in Capital Appropriations from fiscal year 2018/2019 to 2019/2020.

This is required because of departments did not fully spend the Capital funds appropriated to them in 2018/2019. The departments require the Assembly's renewed authority to spend in 2019/2020 so they can continue to advance their projects.

Mr. Chairman and Members, this is very important to note that the Assembly has already approved these projects through Capital Plans. This is almost important to emphasize that

we are not seeking new money, instead we are simply requesting approval to continue to move these projects forward in 2019/2020.

Through Bill 23, we are seeking to carry over funds for 138 projects. Internally, we consider carry over requests in two groups. The first group includes 109 projects, where the Government of Nunavut has already made financial or contractual commitments to continue. We refer these as FAM compliant, Financial Administration Manual compliant. Bill 23 seeks approval of \$108.43 million to allow the Government of Nunavut to continue these ongoing projects in 2019/2020 to meet our commitments.

The second group includes 29 projects, the Assembly has approved but the Government of Nunavut has not yet reached the stage where there are legal commitments to proceed. We refer to these as non-Financial Administration Manual compliant. Bill 23 seeks approval of \$7.64 million to enable the Government of Nunavut to move these projects beyond initial stages.

Mr. Chairman and Member of the Assembly does not approve these appropriations, previously approved Capital funding would lapse and the Government of Nunavut would either cancel the projects or defer working on them until appropriations are again available.

We always expect some level of carry overs because real-life project management does not always cash flows spreadsheets. As we improve our planning in casual management of the project level, we can expect the overall amount of carry-overs to decline somewhat over time, as they have done.

Mr. Chair, I would like to note that as about \$17 Million of our requests relates to the somewhat unique Kivalliq Energy Management project. Our core carry over amount this year is about \$98.9 Million. This is significantly lower than few years ago when carry overs were closer to \$150 Million.

The total capital of carry-overs are broken down as follows: \$60.1 million to the Department of Community and Government Services for 53 projects, covering a range of Municipal and Community Infrastructure projects as well as the Kivalliq Energy Management Project.

\$17.79 Million to the Department of Education for 32 projects, including Kugaaruk; new school, Igloodik; new high school, Cambridge Bay; elementary school foundation; and, Rankin Inlet Maani Uluujuq High School doors, windows and siding, and repairs, and renovations to several schools.

\$12.21 million to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to continue 15 projects, including the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet marine infrastructure projects, Cambridge Bay airport improvements and a number of other airport improvement projects.

\$7.4 million to the Department of Justice for the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre, the CRC fire system upgrade, and the Public Trustee Client Records Management System.

\$7.39 million dollars to the Department of Health, for 6 projects including Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset health centre replacements, the repair and renovation of several health facilities.

\$5.6 million dollars to the Nunavut Arctic College through the Department of Finance to continue 15 projects including community learning centres in Iqaluit, Whale Cove, and Grise Fiord, a new student's records system, Q-units levelling study, the Kitikmeot campus development project, an on-going lifecycle, and 4 other minor projects.

\$3.3 million dollars to the Department of Family Services for its client information system and adult group home in Rankin Inlet and 3 minor capital projects.

\$2.04 million dollars to the Department of Environment for the Resolute Bay wildlife office replacement, Gjoa Haven and Cape Dorset wildlife office renovations, and the Katannilik Territorial Park project.

And \$250,000 to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for small capital.

Mr. Chairman and members, I am available to address questions about the supplementary appropriation or capital estimates process generally, however I do encourage members to save their questions on specific projects for the responsible ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Before we move on, I just want to remind members that all this capital money has been approved in previous budgets. It's just that they have to get permission to carry it over to another year. It's not like it is new money that's being approved here. I will now move on to general comments. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page three, top bullet, it speaks about Nunavut Arctic College and continuing 15 projects including community learning centres.

Chesterfield Inlet has not been mentioned, so I'm curious to know whether there is a schedule of which each community learning centres are identified as needing renovations? If there is, is there a five year capital plan? Is there a schedule?

To my knowledge, the Chesterfield Inlet community learning centre is very, very crowded. That's a general comment, something that I've observed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Any more comments? If not, we will move on. I now ask members to go to page four of the document and we will be breaking this down. There

are several pages, about 15 pages to this document and we will break it down accordingly as we move along.

We are going to start with *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital), No. 2, 2019-2020*. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs capital, not previously authorized, \$250,000. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) My question isn't about this page specifically; it's to the minister's opening comments if that's alright?

On the second page of his opening comments the minister mentioned "as we improve our planning and cash flow management at the project level, we can expect the overall amount of carry-overs to decline somewhat over time." Specifically, I'm interested in what's being done to improve planning and cash flow management. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a nutshell, just a couple of things. One is the pre-planning dollars that Community and Government Services has accessed to the last few fiscal years. It allows the scope and the definition of a project to be better detailed so that there is a lot less volatility when you go to market or go to tender for a project.

We get better planning in that regard too on construction projects in different regions or communities, and able to make adjustments, such as recently in Cape Dorset. There are a number of different projects scheduled to go on at the same time so we took the opportunity to accelerate a project in Sanikiluaq and now we're continuing with the project in Cape Dorset.

It allows a little bit more real-time adjustments to be made, as well with the pre-planning dollars to have more accurate numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Ideally, we would be seeing less and less of these carry-over amounts through better planning and the minister does mention that in his opening comments where the high score or the highwater mark was \$150 million a few years ago. I mean, we're still in the \$100 million range and that's half of our annual capital budget.

So, looking at it from a high-level perspective, each year when we appropriate, ballpark, \$200 million for capital, we're only capable of spending half of that in the fiscal year for which is ear-marked. It's concerning that things seem to be so, I guess loosey goosey, or maybe that's the wrong term, but there seems to be so much need for these continual

carry-over and carry-over. I mean, there's one item in this Bill we already know that it will not be spent in this fiscal year.

We already know that it cannot be spent in this fiscal year. It will be spent in 2020/2021. So, it's concerning. When we look at the number of projects, put aside the dollar value, 138 projects; I'm interested in what the trend is in terms of the number of projects that are subject to these carry-overs each year. Is this a ball park, a number that stable? Is it a number that's higher than previous years? Is it a number that's lower in terms of the number of projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, the partners here are looking up the exact information on them. I do believe that it's been trending down along with the dollar amount.

That being said, I will take this opportunity to comment on the member's initial comment. I believe it's nearly impossible to not have capital carry-overs. Especially in Nunavut because of our short building season, multi-year projects, monies allocated for planning and then, sealift materials and then the construction side.

Our projects are more complicated than most other jurisdictions. If we're short something, we can't run down to Rona and grab a new beam or something. That being said, I do strongly believe that we are going in the right direction. You know, a number of years back when we were looking at these capital carry-overs, I wouldn't use the member's term "loosey-goosey", but it's a lot tighter now than it used to be.

By an extreme amount, where because of the planning, the scope of the work is more detailed, so I don't think we have any historical trends and I would have to get back and maybe speak to the member or respond in writing with some historical data on trends.

That could also be provided to the committee, but anecdotally, I will say that the trend is going down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Okay, we were on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Total department. \$250,000. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next we will be doing pages 5 and 6 for the Department of Finance. Are there any questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Could I get some more information on just, not to go into too much detail, just about the residence repairs for the Iqaluit Student Resident Repairs amount? Are those the ones above the current Arctic College now? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just says the Iqaluit Student R Repairs. There are three units that had some damage to the units that were due to a leak that occurred in one unit and there's another damaged by the resident that needs to be repaired.

I don't have an exact location of where they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. This is in the book that we have, it says Iqaluit Student Residence repairs, a little over \$1,000,000. So, that's quite a significant amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak, and to correct you, the amount is \$58,000. You're reading the line below it.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Was there a question in that, Ms. Angnakak or? No, it was just a comment? Okay. Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While on this Q-unit item, we've heard for quite a while now and we are aware that ever since they had a levelling issue with the building that needed adjusting.

That's been ongoing for quite a while, and there's about a million dollars that wasn't used last year, \$946,000 that wasn't utilized. Hopefully that won't be the same case next year and it's been quite a few years that this has been dealt with. They said they were going to do the project last year.

And even to date, we still see that number. I wanted to comment on that. My colleague indicated that we will be approving something that won't be spent this year. Hopefully they can complete the work in the upcoming year. The Q-units levelling study, I wanted to comment on that, Mr. Chairman.

We've been hearing it for quite a long time that they'll be dealing with it. They don't necessarily have to keep doing it; it's not much of a question but more of a comment. I wanted to point that out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. And Mr. Hickes, I do believe you wanted to comment on that, or is it okay? Please go ahead Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there have been delays in the tender process, as bids are coming in well over the approved budget, so it has created some delays.

We do recognize that it's still occurring on the 7 to 10 millimeter per year range, so it's something we do recognize we have to deal with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is: the Kitikmeot campus facility development, \$1,176,000. Is this a new facility or a mining facility? What are we talking about here? I need some clarification on the Kitikmeot campus facility development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. This is a new facility that's being built. It's a multi-year project so as the planning and everything for the facility is phasing in, this is just that there wasn't all the money expended in this fiscal year, so it's carrying over to the next to continue the construction and everything else on that project. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towntongie, you have no more questions? Anybody else with a question on pages 5 or 6? If not, we are doing Finance, Total department. \$5, 564,000. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving to page 7, Justice, Not Previously Authorized. First we will do the Directorate. Total Directorate. \$150,000. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving down to Corrections, Total Corrections. \$7, 251,000. Are there any questions? Do members agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$7,401,000. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on. Next section will cover pages 8 and 9. Education. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Ms. Angnakak

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments you made reference to Education. There are 32 projects and some of those are for siding, new siding for schools and you say like Kugluktuk and that. But one thing I don't see in here is the Aqsarniit Middle School siding project and these funds were under the department's on-going lifecycle funds and they were allocated for the Aqsarniit Middle School siding project for the 2016-2017 capital year.

I live across from that school and I can tell you that siding has never been changed, nothing's been done on it, it's not a completed project and yet I don't see it in here and the numbers have just sort of disappeared. Now we're in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. So, why are the funds not included as another capital carry-over in the current supplementary Bill? I guess furthermore, if you can tell me what the current status is of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only thing I can say is if it was on the on-going life cycle part of the budget line they might have spread it out over a couple of different years where they didn't need to carry it over, but it's not in a carry-over request in the list that we have right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. It may be a question more appropriate to the Minister of Education at another time. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Well, we are talking about capital projects here and it was in the last... of May 2017. It just seems like things go, all the sudden they are not there anymore, things that we have approved. It makes me wonder, where is the oversight? Are there other projects that we've approved and we've forgotten about that haven't been done?

To me, it's quite concerning. I'd appreciate if I can get something back from either the minister, it doesn't have to be today, or somebody go and find out what happened to that money. And, what is the current status of that project? If you can do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see the Minister of Education paying attention very closely here so I'm assuming he got the message. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Did you have another question, Ms. Angnakak?

Ms. Angnakak: No.

Chairman: Ok. Moving on. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want clarification; I have a question regarding Taloyoak Netsilik School. A \$132,000 power generator; can he explain what this is for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The carry-over amount is part of the new generator back-up system. The oil tank has been supplied and the continuing design is in progress.

Also, there's an alarm contract that was associated with that and that has been awarded. The contract is in progress and expected to be completed early this fiscal year. It's on track. Basically, they have got the oil tanks. The supply and design is just being finalized for the back-up generator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for the response. I also want see where this is at, also another project, Kugaaruk school, the new school.

The modular classrooms of \$213,000 I wonder too, so my constituents can hear, what is happening with this project. Can the minister clarify, Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, with regards to the new school construction, the carry-over is to finish the completion, which we are anticipating late summer of this year to be completed.

The \$213,000 for the modular class rooms is for the clean-up of the modular classrooms that have been used on an emergency basis since the school fire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the modular classrooms, what is happening to those units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they are finished being used, repurposing options will be explored. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With Chesterfield Inlet, while the minister of education is listening, has been requesting an industrial tech workshop renovation with on-going life cycles repair. I am not seeing Chesterfield Inlets so I am putting it forward so it will be recorded.

My main question is IT infrastructure of \$305,000. What school is that going to? I would assume we need a lot of IT infrastructure in all the schools across Nunavut, and I find that cost to be a little bit low. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This covers 44 schools. Out of those, there are about 4,000 internet capable devices; computers, tablets, different routers, printers, etcetera, just through an on-going life-cycle replacement. With regards to why it is specifically being carried over, there have been some issues around supplying some of the material and shipping to some of the communities that have contributed to some of the delay.

To make sure that those needs are being met in the schools we have requested to carry this money over so that we can still ship those items to the schools. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Are there any more questions on page 8 or 9? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am just curious, maybe this a question that the minister cannot answer, maybe it is something better for the department of education.

Why does the department of education have so many projects carried over? I know they have a number of schools, but Arviat Levi Angmak flooring for example, that have been carried forward before I believe, and here we are again.

There seems to be a systematic inability to execute on time with these capital projects. I don't if it is because of the school year; is it because of staffing challenges within the department specific to department of education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just going to say very briefly that there are a number of different reasons why projects can be delayed; availability of contractors, supply issues, shipping issues, but with regards specifically to the Department of Education. If the Chairman will allow, I will ask Mr. Devereaux to elaborate just on the complexity, and one of the number of different projects that they have on-going. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Devereaux

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you Mr. Chairman and I thank the member for the question. I think the majority, when you see the Department of Education's lists of projects and the capital carry-over Bill, a lot of them are life-cycle projects, smaller projects, and I think it is a fair comment to say that we have been focusing over the last three to four years on an improved planning of project and scope definition to get better costing to try to minimize the capital carry-overs and we have really focused on the bigger, major capital projects.

I think what it's highlighting for us is on the smaller life-cycle projects that are \$400,000 and \$800,000, that we probably do need to do a better job of properly planning those out.

A lot of the ones reflected for the Department of Education tend to be those smaller ones. I think we're always going to be seeing some carry-overs on small capital projects due to the nature of those projects and whether it's sealift delays or contractor availability, but I do take the member's question and from the CGS perspective of project delivery I think we do recognize where we need to improve upon planning of the smaller projects.

We are absolutely taxed in terms of the availability of our project resources to undertake that, and our limited project resources we focus on the larger major capital projects. We have a better bang for the buck to ensure stronger planning and cash flow management. I think it is a fair comment to say on the smaller ones we could improve upon planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) In terms of contractor availability, looking at Education for example; I think it might be a possible side effect from the changes that have happened within the Housing Corporation over the past number of years where we've seen a hollowing out of the small community-based contractors that used to get those housing build contracts. They've gone now to supply, ship, and erect, which are different, difficult contracts for a small contractor to take on.

In terms of the local contractor availability, if there's any information to share in terms of what is the situation across Nunavut in terms of trying to get the contractors to do this work? Is it just a case of where we don't have enough contractors? I'm trying to keep it within the scope of this bill, but as it pertains to capital carry-overs and would a healthier contractor base assist the government in reducing the amount of carry overs in future years? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does vary community to community, even region to region. But at the same time some of these smaller bids, when they come in, because a lot of the larger companies don't feel it's worth their time, they inflate their

bids. And then it puts delays in the project that comes in over budget. So, then it creates that backlog, then the situation gets even worse. Sometimes the scope of the work has to change because it's been delayed for a year or two, it's gotten more worse than it was.

It's kind of a domino effect where we have to work with our local contractors to make sure that they put in appropriate bids for the scope of work that's being done and work with them to help develop their capacity through other initiatives, through our economic development department on any small business opportunities there; work with CGS, work with the departments themselves to build that capacity.

I've always championed apprenticeship across this territory and the more longer-term work that can be achieved in a community, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy where you just keep getting those apprentices with the hours and then you create more journey people. It goes on and on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our constituents are currently watching the televised show and there's the high school in Igloodik, the new high school. I remember it was going to be officially opened on June 26, but I would like to hear from you personally why the monies have been set aside and they were approved last year to have that high school completed.

Are those monies going to be used this year so that the students can start utilizing it in the fall when the school year begins? I don't want to see it here again because of a delay of some sort. Could you tell us why this was delayed? This project should have been done last year and now we see it again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Minister Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Forgive my smile, we were commenting while the minister was asking his question that he didn't want to see this here again next year and neither do we.

There has been, as a lot of people in Igloodik are aware, there has been an issue with the foundation, with the pad of that school. With any type of deficiency we work with the contractor to come to a resolution on who is responsibility it is and it has taken a little while. But we are anticipating the work to be completed this year, with the completion date of this fall for that school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In here it says Kugluktuk Jimmy Hikok siding project for \$218,000 dollars. Just for the record, can you clarify that because the school has beautiful siding, I'm assuming your touching it up, or? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, from the information that I have, is that the carry-over is because it's been a part of a multi-year project. That is, the work is almost completed and they're looking at resuming and finalizing the completion this summer. It's been on-going, just to deal with any final deficiencies to the work that's been done already. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Again, I have no more names on my list. We are on page nine for the Department of Education. Total department \$17,790,000 dollars. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now move to page 10. Department of Health, Capital. Not Previously Authorized, \$7,385,000 dollars. Are there any questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I want just ask about a project that I don't see on here, and that's the Martha Talirug Elders' Centre in Baker Lake. That underwent, well it was supposed to go through some renovations and I know that there was funding approved for it, so perhaps if the minister can give us an update on where are you with that, and why don't we see anything on here for that project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regards to that facility in Baker Lake, at this time basically everything is on hold with the elders' strategy that we've got coming out in the very near future on how we're going to be looking at elder care across the territory.

And, looking at the code requirements to bring that facility up to long-term care facility codes definitely does not fit within the budget that was previously allocated. So, if there is no carry over associated with previously approved dollars then those dollars would have lapsed. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the community is quite concerned to hear that. Is that something that you have told the new Speaker, the MLA and the community? Are you communicating that back? I guess people are wondering where that project is at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last session, yes, I did elaborate it would be very difficult to bring that building up to code for long-term care. That being said, there is still analysis being done.

There was a fuel spill underneath the building last year that we had to wait until the spring run off to do our air quality assessments and any other testing that would have to be done to make that into a residence, or even a long-term office space.

That being said, it has been fairly recent occurrences, but at the same time, I have been very clear that there are challenges with that facility. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: I was just thinking. I will say no because I am going to go off on a thing so, I will keep it to an oral question instead. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any other questions on page 10? If not, Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department \$7,385,000 agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Thank you. Going to page 11. Department of Environment. Capital, Not Previously Authorized. \$2,039,000. Any question on that one? If not, do members agree to \$2,039,000?

Some members: Agreed.

Thank you. The next section covers pages 12, 13, and 14 and is Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Are there any question on these three pages? Mr. Main.

>>*laughter*

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my first question is about this largest item here, the Kivalliq Energy Management Program. It is \$17 million dollars. In terms of an update, how much of this funding can we expect to see carried over in the next fiscal year? I am wondering, it is a large project. It is quite complex. Does the Department of CGS plan to fully expend this amount in this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to get the appropriate level of detail, I will ask Mr. Devereaux to respond to this question please.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Devereaux please go ahead.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank the member for the question. This capital carryover is recognition, it is a non-cash appropriation. The Kivalliq Energy Management Project was an undertaking where we identified approximately \$25 million

dollars' worth of energy upgrades to some of our older building that had a very strong payback.

We entered into a contract with an energy management who financed those capital implementation measures. All this is doing is recognizing that over the course of eight to ten years of the payback period, and the payback will come from the actual energy saving realized.

This is just recognizing, in essence, that debt over the course of the next eight to ten years. It shows up here as a capital carry-over just because of that onetime recognition. It is somewhat comparable to the Iqaluit Airport Project where another party undertook the capital and there was a need to identify it on the finance records. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. ((interpretation ends) Thank you for the explanation.

My next question is, there are a large number of projects under solid-waste facilities; I wish we can just call them "dumps", but I realize that it is not the proper term, dump.

There are a number of projects under water infrastructure and waste water treatment. I guess not looking at any particular project, just when we look at those, I believe they were bundles, bundled projects. Are they on track or has there been something delaying these water and solid-waste facility projects that we should know about? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of these projects were basically multi-year projects so it was anticipated to have some carry over, especially as a bulk of them were covered under Building Canada Fund, which does put its own little timeline challenges in place with how the funding agreements, when they're signed off on.

There's not always recognition from the federal government on our sealift supply season so it can put some challenges in place for delivery. This isn't considered a delay; it's just the nature of the beast in this case, if I may put it that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 14 there's an item under Petroleum Products Division, \$6.7 million dollars for code compliance, (interpretation) I would like to know if that's a safety issue.

When they're not up to code? When we're told that we're not up to code and there's \$6.7 million dollars set aside, do you believe that this is going to be done this year, or can it become a safety issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just again to get the level of detail, I'll ask Mr. Devereaux to respond please.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Devereaux, please go ahead.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. A number of years back a variety of Environmental Protection Orders came forward from the federal jurisdiction authority and they recognize that we're a large portfolio owner of petroleum tank farms across the territory and they also acknowledge that some of the existing facilities required some upgrades that had a safety nature to them.

There's nothing outstanding from our perspective that is an imminent risk that requires us to do something today. We undertook a plan with the federal jurisdiction having authority to, over a period of four or five years, to tackle a lot of these code issues.

Some of them are mechanical alarms, some of its single-walled pipes to be double-walled pipes and we've completed a number of communities in terms of those Environmental Protection Orders and completed the upgrades. Within the five-year capital plan there is funding each year so we can try to address all of them.

We did have some carry overs, when we get into planning some of the Environmental Protection Order scope items for a few of the communities, we recognize that the scope is probably bigger than originally thought.

And at the same time, if we're going to go in and do some of these upgrades that are required from the Environmental Protection Order we might also want to do some other life cycle type... and that kind of put a pause on us well maybe we have to push this into the following year and seek some additional life cycle money to expand those projects.

So that's an update on them. There's none of these that are of a safety risk that if we don't do them tomorrow, that we're at a high risk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. Just a very quick comment- I don't often see Chesterfield Inlet on any plan or capital estimates, but I'm very pleased to see Chesterfield Inlet arena upgrades for this year and I assume that after the summer planning and re-designing, it will completed by 2021. I'm really pleased to see that and I know Chesterfield Inlet is listening, so there you go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie, for your comments. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding Taloyoak's solid waste renovation project totalling \$87,000. This is good to see this project albeit it isn't a large project, nonetheless, it may still have another year required to complete it. I would like to speak to this matter about Taloyoak's sewage lagoon, as I don't see any funds set aside for this, and this winter, we saw the digital version.

It was shown on Facebook that their lagoon is leaking to their lakes and they have no berm around their sewage lagoon. Therefore, perhaps I will raise that on Oral Questions. I just wanted to elaborate on that, I don't see it in the plan regarding Taloyoak's sewage lagoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think that was just a comment. Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see in here Kugluktuk Water Treatment Plant for \$303,000 dollars. Can you elaborate on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just when the new treatment plan came online there were some issues, deficiencies that were noted, some filters that needed to be changed. This is just to finalize the commission of that facility. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. Will that work be completed by next year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work is anticipated to be completed by this fall, yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Sorry, I didn't hear what you said; I was listening to somebody else in my ear. Minister Hickes, if you could repeat what you said please.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's anticipated to be completed by this fall, yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We are now to the grand total on page 14 for Community and Government Services. Total department- \$60,096,000 dollars. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 15, Economic Development and Transportation. Are there any questions? If not, total department- \$12,210,000 dollars. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now the Department of Family Services on page 16, not previously authorized. Are there any questions? If not, total department- \$3, 329,000 dollars. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Going back to page two, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 2, 2019-2020*, schedule-1 capital. Capital appropriation. \$116,064,000 dollars. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies for interrupting, I just wanted to make a final comment. I just wanted to thank the minister and his officials for appearing before us today, and for all the effort put into producing these documents.

I would also like to extend the appreciation to the Expenditure Management of the Department of Finance and the Capital Planning Division of the Department of Community and Government Services for the drafting and review of all the substantiation sheets required to put this bill together. I understand it is quite a heavy work load and I just want to ensure that credit is given where the credit is due. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. We are on total capital appropriation, \$116,064,000 dollars. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to Bill 23 in your legislative binders please. Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020*. 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: Go to schedule on page 2. Schedule supplementary amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 2020, vote to capital total supplementary appropriation \$116,064,000, agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members' agree to Bill 23 as a whole?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members' agree pursuant to rule 62 (2) that Bill 23 can be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now I will ask Minister Hickes if you have any closing comments? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know much of what I can say after Mr. Lightstone made his comments. They are very much appreciated. There is a lot of work that goes into providing this level of detail. For these fine gentlemen to try and ingrain that knowledge into me, so I give them all the credit in the world.

I would like to thank the members' for their diligence on this. It is previously appropriated funds and we are carrying it over, and I appreciate the due diligence by the committee members' and the chairs' discretion. I just want to thank everyone, Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes, and on behalf of the committee I thank you and your staff for being here and presenting this to us today. With that, Sargent-at-Arms, if you can please escort the witnesses out. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wish to report progress at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debateable. All those favor of the motion.

>>*Members in favor*

Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you too. Motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

>>*Break at 17:47:38 and meeting resumed at 17:49:39*

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Speaker: Item 20, Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Motion 035 – 5(2): Report of the Committee of the Whole Approval

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 22 and 23 and would like to report that Bills 22 and 23 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.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor, is there a seconder? Minister Kusugak.

The motion is in order, all those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 22 – Supplementary Appropriations (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable member for Arviat South, that Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriations, Operations and Maintenance Act, No. 1 – 2019-20 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is in order, all those in favour? Opposed? The motion has carried and Bill 22 is ready for Assent. Third reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriations Capital Act, No. 2, 2019-2020 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable member for Arviat South, that Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation – Capital Act No. 2 – 2019-20 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is in order, all those in favour? Opposed? The motion has carried and Bill 23 is ready for Assent. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remind members that there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanook boardroom. *Orders of the Day* for May 30:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 24
 - Bill 26 and

- Bill 27

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*

Mr. Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 30, at 1:30pm.
(interpretation) Sargent-At-Arms.

>>*Meeting adjourned at 17:53*