



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 53

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Pages 3542 – 3593

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.

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 Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

Hon. David Joanasiq
(South Baffin)

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

Joelie Kaernerik
(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*

Cathy Towtongie
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Charlie Audlakiak

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3542
Speaker's Statement	3542
Ministers' Statements	3542
Members' Statements	3548
Returns to Oral Questions	3552
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	3553
Oral Questions.....	3553
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	3577
Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.....	3577
Tabling of Documents	3579
Notices of Motions	3580
Motions.....	3581
First Reading of Bills	3581
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	3582
Report of the Committee of the Whole	3592
Third Reading of Bills.....	3592
Orders of the Day	3592

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, June 4, 20193542

B.

Ministers' Statements

246 – 5(2): Smart Cities Challenge (Kusugak)3542
247 – 5(2): NHC/NAC Housing Project (Netser)3543
248 – 5(2): 2019 Inuktitut Titiqqiriniq Conferences (Joanasie)3544
249 – 5(2): Meliadine Mine – Commercial Production (Akeegok).....3545
250 – 5(2): Support for NAC Nursing Students (Hickes)3546
251 – 5(2): Director of Forfeiture under the Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act (Akeegok)3546
252 – 5(2): Official Openings of the Cape Dorset and Grise Fiord Power Plants (Sheutiapik).3547

C.

Members' Statements

378 – 5(2): 2019 Qikiqtarjuaq High School Graduates (Keyootak).....3548
379 – 5(2): Inuit Employment in Government Contracts (Kaerner)3548
380 – 5(2): Inuit Employment in Government Contracts (Main).....3549
381 – 5(2): 2019 Igloodik High School Graduates (Quassa)3550
382 – 5(2): Housing for Staff at Sanikiluaq's New Health Centre (Rumbolt)3550
383 – 5(2): Addressing the High Cost of Living (Qirngnuq)3551
384 – 5(2): 2019 Arctic Bay High School Graduates (Akeegok).....3552

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 485 – 5(2): Regulatory Approvals (Kusugak).....3552

E.

Oral Questions

519 – 5(2): Ensuring Contractors Support Local Economies (Kaernerk)	3553
520 – 5(2): Ensuring Contractors Support Local Economies (Main).....	3556
521 – 5(2): Oversight on Contracts by NNI Secretariat (Quassa).....	3558
522 – 5(2): Flight Schedules for Uqqummiut (Keyootak)	3561
523 – 5(2): Municipal Bylaws (Angnakak).....	3562
524 – 5(2): Housing for Staff at Sanikiluaq’s New Health Centre (Rumbolt)	3563
525 – 5(2): Tenant Engagement Campaign (Akoak).....	3564
526 – 5(2): Addressing High Cost of Food (Nakashuk).....	3565
527 – 5(2): Airport Infrastructure (Qirngnuq).....	3567
528 – 5(2): Procurement Practices (Lightstone).....	3569
529 – 5(2): Oversight of Emergency Medical Equipment (Angnakak)	3571
530 – 5(2): Training Plans in Government Contracts (Main)	3572
531 – 5(2): Disposing of Dangerous Goods (Kaernerk).....	3573
532 – 5(2): Problems with Obtaining Driver’s Licences (Main).....	3575

F.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 012 – 5(2): Bill 1, Corrections Act (Main)	3578
Committee Report 013 – 5(2): Report on the Review of the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017- 2018 Annual Reports of the Representative for Children and Youth (Main).....	3578

G.

Tabling of Documents

177 – 5(2): MOU 2017 GN-Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (Akeeagok).....	3579
178 – 5(2): MOU 2019 GN-Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Akeeagok)	3579
179 – 5(2): 2018 Annual Report – URRC (Savikataaq).....	3579

180 – 5(2): Correspondence Regarding Procurement Practices (Lightstone)	3580
181 – 5(2): Constituency Concerns from Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq (Keyootak)	3580
182 – 5(2): 2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners (Speaker)	3580

H.

Motions

039 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period (Lightstone)	3569
040 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice (Main)	3581
040 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment (Main)	3581

I.

Committee Motions

006 – 5(2): Bill 1, Corrections Act, Clause 18 Amendment (Main)	3585
007 – 5(2): Bill 1, Corrections Act, Clause 70.1 Amendment (Main)	3590

J.

Bills

Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – First Reading	3581
Bill 01 – Corrections Act – Consideration in Committee	3582
Bill 01 – Corrections Act – Third Reading	3592

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, June 4, 2019**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, 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 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): I ask Member Keyootak to say the opening prayer, please.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member Keyootak, for saying the opening prayer. To the people of Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings, please feel welcome.

Speaker's Statement

I wish to inform my colleagues and everyone following the proceedings that yesterday I said that the Order of Nunavut ceremony would be held tonight. However, it has been postponed until tomorrow. We will have the ceremony at 6 p.m. in the evening. That's for your information.

Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister

of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 246 – 5(2):
Smart Cities Challenge**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker and the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in the last session I gave a statement congratulating the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and its partners on being a finalist in the Smart Cities Challenge. Today I am pleased to rise in this House again to announce that their submission has won the challenge.

Out of 20 groups competing for the prize, it will be one of four organizations to receive funding over the next five years to deliver programming that uses data and technology to improve the lives of citizens.

On May 14 the federal government announced that the Nunavut Association of Municipalities will receive \$10 million over five years for its proposal called Community, Connectivity, and Digital Access for Suicide Prevention in Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

The initiative will create a network of physical and digital spaces for Nunavummiut to connect and share knowledge with each other. The goal is to use technology to reduce the risk of suicide in Nunavut through a decentralized and community-based digital health and wellness platform.

This will help our youth to embrace the future with confidence, knowing that they will have the coping skills and tools to build a personal sense of belonging, meaning, purpose, and hope through their participation in the program's activities.

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities submitted its proposal jointly with the Pinnguaq Association, the Embrace Life Council, and the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and its partners on the work they have done on this initiative to date.

I look forward to hearing more about the results of the program as it unfolds over the next five years, and wish all the very best in this effort to make positive changes for Nunavummiut.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 247 – 5(2):
NHC/NAC Housing Project**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat. Today I am especially homesick, and today is a wonderful spring day. Nonetheless, to our elder in Naujaat who always advises that this too will pass and since you have work to do, just patiently wait out your

session. I thank you, Joanasié, for always providing that advice.

I'm able to rise today as both the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation as well as the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and I am quite proud to be able to speak to this issue.

Within the *Turaaqtavut* mandate we agreed that within our communities, our beneficiary youth have to be taught our cultural knowledge and to no longer depend on western education principles, as they tend to also take the positions that Nunavummiut should eventually fill. We agreed to that principle and to work towards implementing that.

I rise today to announce that the housing corporation has a three-bedroom unit that they have provided for use by Arctic College. Arctic College will renovate the building using local trade students, and as I stated just now, we want to provide training to our youth.

When workers are just imported from the south, the optics are not visually appealing when capable and willing Inuit wanting to work have that job taken away from them. (interpretation ends) Hear, hear?

Some Members: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): We as the housing corporation are appreciative, or rather Arctic College appreciates the generosity of the housing corporation for donating the unit that will allow an opportunity for students to rebuild the unit in Rankin Inlet.

Further, the (interpretation ends) blueprint for action (interpretation) outlines that as its purpose, which is (interpretation ends) workforce development. (interpretation) Let us develop our local capacities and train our youth as there are many jobs available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in my other language I'm going to say it in the English version, so bear with me if I read intermittently.

Mr. Speaker, in our *Turaaqtavut* mandate it says, "Putting our communities first by offering local skills and trades training that will reduce our dependence on imported labour and support employment for people with disabilities" as well as training our workforce so that we can become less dependent on the workforce that our people are able to do. Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker, I am able to rise today as both Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation as well as the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

A house draws its strength from four walls working together. Nunavut Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation are taking heart to that, and the minister is working very cooperatively between the two departments.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation identified a three-bedroom home in Rankin Inlet needing repairs. Trade students in the college's Kivalliq Campus need hands-on learning. Separate they are two problems, but together they form one solution. The

housing corporation is making this unit available to the college. The students will have the opportunity to practise their skills on the job. Kangiqlinirmiut will have a functional housing unit which is really needed. Everybody wins.

We do this in the spirit of *Sanaqatigiinniq/Ikajuqtigiingniq*. In working together for a common cause, we are addressing a key issue in the blueprint for action. That is workforce development. There are many homes in need of maintenance. There are many Nunavummiut in need of careers. If we consider these two problems together, we may also find the solutions. This is a great solution, I believe.

I call on all Nunavummiut to ask themselves: is a career in the trades right for you? To those who believe it is so, I invite you to join in working together with us for a common cause. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 248 – 5(2): 2019 Inuklut Titiqqiriniq Conferences

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the Department of Education hosted training events for educators in each region of Nunavut to develop a deeper understanding of the Inuklut Titiqqiriniq balanced literacy program.

Inuktut Titiqqiriniq is a comprehensive balanced literacy program specifically designed to improve Inuktut literacy for Nunavut students. It does this by combining reading, writing, and word study with high-quality Inuktut literacy resources for students and educators.

Mr. Speaker, these Inuktut resources can be found in every school in the territory. To date my department has produced over 600 Inuktut books and teacher resources and over 250 in Inuinnaqtun.

During this training, educators from across Nunavut were given guidance on how to provide effective instruction to students using these Inuktut resources. A wide variety of topics were covered, such as multi-dialect instruction, monitoring progress, holistic literacy, and phonics.

Mr. Speaker, improving literacy skills among students in all of Nunavut's official languages is a priority for my department and for this government. Programs like Inuktut Titiqqiriniq align with the objective set out in *Turaaqtavut* to not only prepare students to positively contribute to their communities but to assist in strengthening Inuktut and Inuit identity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 249 – 5(2):
Meliadine Mine – Commercial
Production**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mining industry represents a key pillar of Nunavut's economic development. Our department is committed to supporting the mining industry and ensuring that Nunavummiut are able to benefit from this activity.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the significant contribution Agnico Eagle Mines has made in Nunavut. Through mining, Nunavummiut have benefited from training and well-paying jobs. I would like to congratulate Agnico Eagle on beginning commercial production at the company's second gold mine in Nunavut. It is a proud achievement that I recognize today.

>> *Applause*

At a construction cost of almost \$900 million, Agnico Eagle has wisely invested in Nunavut. Over 350 of the 900 workers employed at Meliadine will be beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, with this new mine near Rankin Inlet, I can report that members and businesses in our communities are deeply involved in the mining sector and will be for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hickee.

**Minister's Statement 250 – 5(2):
Support for NAC Nursing
Students**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year we are honoured to present the Queen Elizabeth II scholarship awards to top nursing students attending Nunavut Arctic College. Mr. Speaker, these awards are part of the Department of Health's continued efforts to promote and financially support the training of more Nunavummiut nurses.

We are so grateful for the vital role that Nunavut Arctic College plays in providing training opportunities for Nunavummiut, a significant contributor to our commitment to educating and graduating more Nunavut nurses.

Mr. Speaker, this is in line with Sivummuqmalliajjutivut, as we ensure our nursing students have access to the appropriate training and support as they embark on their professional journeys in nursing.

This year six students will be receiving this award, three Inuit and three non-Inuit. These students are automatically awarded this scholarship as they earned the highest grade point averages amongst their peers in years two, three, and four.

Mr. Speaker and fellow members, please join me in congratulating the following six students who have earned this award: Amy Clark and Jena Merkosak from second year; Amiel Hernandez and Sapatie Stokes from third year; and Oopik Aglukark and Amal Osman from fourth year.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to ensure a safe and systematic process is in place to support the integration of graduates into the health care workforce and preserve the quality of our health care services. We recognize that nursing in Nunavut comes with its challenges.

Today I would like to acknowledge the long hours and many sacrifices these students are making to better serve our communities. It is each and every one of you who will continue to build a health care system we can all be proud of and one that serves the needs of our people. Congratulations and again thank you very much for your work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 251 – 5(2):
Director of Forfeiture under the
Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My colleague and I are pleased to announce that the Department of Justice has made an offer for the position of director of forfeiture.

Mr. Speaker, as you may recall, the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* was passed unanimously in March 2017 to target bootlegging and drug dealing.

The Act allows the Government of Nunavut to take away the profits and instruments used to break the law if it can be proven in a court of law that the property is in fact the profit or

instrument of unlawful activity. The Act specifies that forfeiture funds can be used to pay for the forfeiture office costs and support victims and community projects.

Mr. Speaker, the Act creates the forfeiture office and the director of forfeiture position. Once hired, the director of forfeiture will be able to assist in bringing the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* into force, along with the preparation of regulations under the Act.

At first the office will be comprised only of the director of forfeiture. Once the office is up and running and accepting files, there may be one or two caseworkers hired, depending on workload. As my colleague has mentioned before, the position will be located in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the forfeiture office will receive files referred to it from law enforcement agencies like the RCMP as well as other government agencies. Referrals may come from agencies throughout Nunavut, other provinces and territories, or other countries. The forfeiture office can also receive information from the public. The forfeiture office will rely on evidence and information gathered by these agencies during their investigations.

Mr. Speaker, this Act creates an important tool to improve law enforcement in the territory. I look forward to the positive impact this office will have in addressing crime in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers'

Statements. Acting Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Minister's Statement 252 – 5(2):
Official Openings of the Cape
Dorset and Grise Fiord Power
Plants**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, last week on May 24 the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin, David Joanase, His Worship Mayor Toonoo, and the community of Cape Dorset welcomed my colleague, Minister Jeannie Ehaloak, and Qulliq Energy Corporation officials in celebrating the community's new power plant.

An official sealskin ribbon cutting was led by local elder Ms. Atsiaq Alasuaq and a tour of the new facility was provided to territorial and community representatives. The residents of Cape Dorset came together for a reception with refreshments and prizes at the Sam Pudlat Elementary School.

The Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak and the Qulliq Energy Corporation would like to thank the community for their support and patience during the Qulliq Energy Corporation's ongoing replacement of aging infrastructure and equipment.

Territorial representatives and Qulliq Energy Corporation staff are looking forward to their upcoming visit to Grise Fiord on June 7 to celebrate the newest power plant replacement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 378 – 5(2): 2019 Qikiqtarjuaq High School Graduates

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the residents of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq who are watching and listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride. The school graduations usually coincide with our spring sitting. We are very proud of our graduates. We have graduates in my community, but I do apologize that I wasn't able to attend the ceremony as the House was having their spring sitting.

I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating the three grade 12 graduates. The names of these three graduates are:

- Sharon Kokseak;
- Linda [Kopalie]; and
- Colin Kooneeliusie.

They have completed their grade 12 requirements and can now work towards a career that may require post-secondary education and can choose what they wish to pursue since grade 12 is just a stepping stone towards higher levels of education and specialized careers. I am especially proud of their accomplishments and also appreciate their parents' dedication and encouragement for their children to

graduate from this initial phase. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 379 – 5(2): Inuit Employment in Government Contracts

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about contracts that are awarded in Nunavut, for example, in my constituency community of Igloodik. When contracts are awarded, we don't see a large percentage of Inuit employment content within that contract.

People are actively seeking jobs in the community of Igloodik. There are Inuit electricians, carpenters, plumbers, and oil burner mechanics. Inuit are skilled in these sectors. However, there always seems to be a caveat as southerners treat them with disdain even though they are qualified.

For these reasons, I rise to ask that a greater focus be placed on Inuit content with contracts offered in Nunavut, whether it is in construction or building schools, as I believe more attention needs to be placed on contract conditions, with oversight.

To use another example, a contract that is causing concern... I think we can use the acronym FNCQ. They are

constructing housing units in Igloolik. They hired the bare minimum number of Inuit and hardly any employment income is coming into the community. The majority of the contract funds are funneling outside of our territory of Nunavut to southern locales.

If this was revisited by this government, communities could actually benefit from construction projects where the majority of the funds would stay locally. I believe the government has the authority to impose those conditions.

Mr. Speaker, when we reach oral questions, I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 380 – 5(2): Inuit Employment in Government Contracts

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat and Whale Cove who are watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I totally agree with my colleague. I raised a question in the House just this past week about the lack of employment opportunities. It is causing many residents to become stressed about their inability to get gainful employment. Many children suffer from malnutrition due to hunger. Our fellow residents face a lack of housing. They don't have the prerequisite equipment to enable them to go hunting, so they can't even go

hunting because of the lack of income from not having any employment opportunities. This continues to be the biggest source of anxiety and concern for both me and my constituents. I will continue to voice this matter in this House.

The Minister responsible for Arctic College announced during ministers' statements a project that we want to support. We would like to encourage the government to require more opportunities when airports, schools, nursing stations, or (interpretation ends) health centres, (interpretation) and infrastructure such as these are being constructed. They should include set numbers of apprenticeship positions because they need experience in their fields. There is a requirement already within our contracting provisions where the contract includes specified numbers of apprenticeship positions.

Let me read this statement that the government released in the past as a prime example. (interpretation ends) "For Contracts with an anticipated Labour component valued in excess of \$1,000,000.00 and with duration of twelve (12) months or longer..." providing-on-the job training for Inuit workers is a contractual obligation.

(interpretation) The government has apparently set up training programs and the number of students that will be involved, be it in carpentry or some other trade. It is something that I am very concerned about. It is only afterwards that we hear about training opportunities. Here, if an individual has their own private business, the government has indicated that they will be awarded the contract, but there should

be a training component in it.

At the appropriate time I will be directing my questions to the Minister of CGS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 381 – 5(2): 2019
Igloolik High School Graduates**

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of my community, my colleagues, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to congratulate the graduates in my community. I am very proud of these graduates. There were 12 students who graduated recently from the high school. I will say their names, as I am very proud of them. These individuals are our youth who will have many opportunities if they wish to continue with furthering their education. Their names are:

- Pauloosie Alorut;
- Tianna Amaaq;
- Bonnie Innuksuk;
- Connie Innuksuk;
- Ika Irgaut;
- Nujalialh Iyerak;
- Brandon Kripanik;
- Cheryl Piugattuk;
- Geno Qulaut;
- Marcy Siakuluk;
- Paul-Lucas Ungalaq; and
- William Tapardjuk.

They are all young and have just graduated. I encourage them to keep

going. There are colleges and universities that are available. Please have a successful future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 382 – 5(2):
Housing for Staff at Sanikiluaq's
New Health Centre**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have risen a number of times before, to address the need for staff housing to be built and made available close to Sanikiluaq's new health centre.

Mr. Speaker, I have risen in this House, I have written letters, I have spoken to individual ministers, yet it seems there is very little willingness to ensure that our health centre staff are going to be properly housed.

Mr. Speaker, the building of Sanikiluaq's new health centre will likely be completed by the end of next year, 2020. It should be clear to my colleagues that having staff living close to the health centre is important for a number of reasons, including the ability of staff to quickly get to the centre in an emergency where a few minutes can make the difference between life and death.

Mr. Speaker, information provided to me by the Minister of Health shows that

there have been well over a thousand after-hour call-outs in Sanikiluaq's health centre every year since 2016. In fact in 2017 there were over 2,000 call-outs, and for the first three months of 2019 there were over 400 call-outs. Being called to the health centre is not an occasional occurrence; it happens a lot.

Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq often experiences foul weather with high winds. The roads are frequently inaccessible during the winter. With the current staff housing location, health centre staff will have to make their way across town to the new health centre in the case of an emergency. Add in the cold and the dark and this journey puts an added burden on our health care workers who are trying to provide a critical service.

Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq's health centre staff housing needs to be planned now to ensure that it is included in next year's capital budget. I will be seeking a commitment from the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 383 – 5(2):
Addressing the High Cost of
Living**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak, as well as my

colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice a concern held by my constituency communities of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak related in particular to the extreme high cost of living with many sale items being very expensive, and this applies to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that we can improve the situation, even in a small sector during some times, perhaps even into our future long-term ideas.

Mr. Speaker, the communities I represent are deeply concerned about their runways which have limitations on the size of aircraft that can land and limits the kind of aircraft that can use their runways.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the cost of airline cargo is provided with subsidies for healthy foods by working together with the airline cargo companies.

Mr. Speaker, in order to make the runway improvements in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, they may need to widen the runways or even lengthen the airstrips.

Mr. Speaker, in order to cover the high costs of healthy foods through the food subsidy program, airport improvements can decrease these costs.

Once we get to oral questions today, I will be asking about this issue, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement 384 – 5(2): 2019
Arctic Bay High School Graduates**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize two graduates who were the subject of celebration on Friday at the Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay. They are Kane Qaqqasiq Taqtu and Elvina Natanine. These two were able to complete their grade 12 studies and the community came together to celebrate their graduation.

However, since it occurred during our session, I was unable to attend to the ceremony, so I apologize to them. Nonetheless, I am very proud of their accomplishment and wish to encourage them to seek post-secondary education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 4. (interpretation) Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 485 – 5(2):
Regulatory Approvals**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to speak on a question asked by Mr. Allan Rumbolt, member from Hudson Bay.

The question was:

“Can the minister confirm what additional regulatory approvals, if any, will be required from relevant authorities in Northern Quebec in relation to the Sanikiluaq to Nunavik portion of the link?”

Mr. Speaker, in my response I did say that I do stand to be corrected and, Mr. Speaker, I stand to be corrected.

>> *Laughter*

The Nunavut Impact Review Board's screening decision and federal ministerial approvals are only the first steps in the regulatory review and permitting process for the submarine cable fibre project and are not sufficient to actually begin construction. Federal ministerial approval allows for the Government of Nunavut to proceed with the project but is still subject to the terms of the screening decision report and to obtaining any licence, permit, or other authorization required by or under any other Act of Parliament or any territorial law.

In this instance the project will still require reviews and authorizations from other authorities, including the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board for activities carried out within their boundary, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Industry Canada, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Transport Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, the Nunavut Water Board, and all permits and licences required by the Government of Greenland.

The Department of Community and

Government Services is currently initiating steps to obtain these additional authorizations and expects that process will extend well into next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Hickes.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this moment to welcome one of my young constituents. Mr. Speaker, some people follow hockey and different sports and different activities around the world, but this young man, whenever I see him around town, whether it be out in the street or at work, we always talk politics.

>> *Laughter*

This is one young man that follows politics.

>> *Applause*

I would challenge anyone that debates; all the members and their ridings probably, Mr. Speaker. This young man, whenever we have a dialogue, and I will have to say your predecessor, Mr. Speaker, thought very highly of him, and we shared a sad moment on his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to welcome Mr. Liam Ellsworth, who is here today shadowing one of our researchers to see the behind-the-scenes activities of what this legislature does and works for our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

I would like to welcome all of the visitors who are to my right to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and also on my left. Welcome to the gallery of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more lists of names. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 519 – 5(2): Ensuring Contractors Support Local Economies

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier during members' statements, I want to speak to the issue of contracts and Inuit employment levels.

What I want to ask about relates to past years where contractors were awarded contracts in the communities and in particular to part of my constituency which I used as an example, Igloolik. When contracts were awarded in the past, as I stated earlier, contractors only hired the bare minimum number of Inuit. I also used an example earlier that I probably don't need to mention again.

Perhaps the minister can elaborate for Nunavummiut about Inuit who have the capacity or capability to work, and whether the government can stipulate

conditions so that contractors are obligated to hire locals when they win a contract in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your question. When you spoke earlier about the matter related to a Government of Nunavut contract, that company doesn't have one with the GN but rather with the housing corporation. I can't speak to that contract specifically.

However, when contracts are being considered towards the construction of a school or health centre, for example, the lot where construction will occur is inspected by our officials at (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. (interpretation) If the contract is going to be to construct a school, then it would include Department of Education officials where we conduct a joint inspection to determine if the lot is suitable.

We provide expertise to our client departments on lot inspections and the required paperwork so the inspection proceeds in the community where construction will take place, if the department has a suitable inspector. We would then look at employment opportunities, including how many workers would be required from the community. The review includes many factors.

They then approximate the number of workers required, including any conditions, and if the entire workforce

can't be comprised of Inuit, then they determine what percentage of Inuit workers can be hired at a minimum. This work is done prior to the construction phase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank him for explaining that further. As per my earlier comments regarding contracts that are awarded, yes, I imagine they are allowed discretion, but that is a huge amount of monies that would have gone toward local people's incomes. However, it just gets spent on hotel rooms for outsiders, per diems, and meals. Now, when a contract is awarded, the majority of contractors are bringing up trailers so that they don't need local accommodations.

I wonder if this policy can be changed to include the review of each contract to encourage as much local expenditures as possible, especially through the local labour pool, through local hotels, and by subcontracting local businesses. I wonder if this can increase the amount of funds that remain in our communities that would allow for more growth economically. Can the department completely revise this contracting policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I thank my colleague for his comments on this issue, and I appreciate hearing that.

Yes, contracts are continually reviewed. Different communities also have limited

capacity or they don't have an experienced workforce and that happens on occasion. For example, in the availability of local hotel accommodations you mentioned, some communities have no capacity to house any additional workers locally. They have to look at alternatives such as private accommodations if workers are travelling to the communities. This sometimes includes looking for rooms or billets, especially with limited capacity, or if there is a private home, then they sometimes rent the private unit. Alternatives such as these are handled in that way.

Further, if a contract spells out certain conditions, they are written out. To use Hall Beach for example, if we had a contract there, then we would require a certain number of outside hires who will stay at a private unit or at the hotel. Those kinds of details are worked out. However, we try to keep moving forward in preparing the logistical needs.

We all know we have to improve this practice, and CGS completely understands the reasons, as well as the regional challenges we face as a government. We are aware of the challenges that are espoused, but we are debating improvements in this skein. If there are particular suggestions to improve this, then we would appreciate hearing back from the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, perhaps we can meet at your office outside of session,

when we can possibly provide alternative solutions towards that.

I want to supplement my question with where the contract activity report on page 51. In looking at the number of local Inuit hires, it remains static. The figures are staying at the same level when comparing them. When scoping this out from an overview, what ways can we increase these numbers so that local residents can benefit? I imagine it becomes harder when so many contracts are going on, especially when looking at the community share of income.

What about the overall scenario in Nunavut? Can it be reviewed in its entirety? That will include all the contractors, as well as the amount of Inuit employed under each contract and a territory-wide assessment. The Inuit employment levels are low. Maybe you can put in provisions through Community and Government Services that 50 percent of the workforce should be Inuit. How can that be reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I thank him for asking that question. We all want to hire as many Inuit as we can here in Nunavut, but we shouldn't think that the MLAs on this side are reticent to improving the percentages because we are all working towards increasing the numbers of Inuit workers. In our view as a government, 50 percent is much too low. However, if we identify a goal that is unattainable, then we will be going around in circles. Some communities have Inuit

employment levels of over 60 percent.

For example, if they are constructing a health centre in Rankin Inlet, at the beginning of the contract many Inuit may work on the project, but once they have received a couple of paycheques, they stop working. It happens everywhere and I imagine you have observed that in your own community. Some Inuit will work for part of the project but never seem able to work to the end, especially after a few pay periods. We are trying to figure out how we can keep them employed.

We are trying to improve the rates. I think 50 percent is too low of a target. Our goal is to increase that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 520 – 5(2): Ensuring Contractors Support Local Economies

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to direct my question to the same minister regarding employment.

Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings are looking for employment and they are waiting. As a government we spend money excessively. For example, the project that was recently announced, the (interpretation ends) new health centre, Cape Dorset, (interpretation) I was perusing the documentation, although I know that this work will be initiated at some point.

(interpretation ends) The Inuit labour

requirement for this project is 25 percent. (interpretation) Based on my colleague's statement, within Nunavut it averaged out to 30 percent. The base target of 25 percent isn't even commendable, Mr. Speaker. However, it is understandable in terms of offering educational requirements or a component of training that we would be able to increase the number of Inuit workers on these projects.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that for each major contract with the labour component valued in excess of \$1 million, a training plan is required, and it goes through the Department of Family Services, and then that training plan goes back and forms part of the contract, which is administered, I believe, by CGS for a major works contract.

My first question for the minister is: do all current major contracts have a training plan in place, and who is monitoring those training plans? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally agree with my colleague and the issues about 25 percent Inuit employment being low. I agree with you on that, but that is the actual fact. There are two major reasons, and I am not defending what they are doing, but when the contracts are of a larger amount, if you don't reach the 25 percent Inuit labour content, you will be penalized for not reaching the Inuit employment levels (interpretation ends) because they work their penalties into

them.

(interpretation) However, with respect to the training components, we collaborate with the Career Development Division within the Department of Family Services so that the training component is available, adequate, and attainable. We work with the contractors to ensure that the goals for education and training are being met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the divisions work together... (interpretation ends) There is a relationship there with regard to these training plans between CGS and Family Services. Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid I might get lost in between the two departments.

My understanding is that based on these tender documents, which are pulled off the government's own website, the training plans go back and they become part of the contract. My question is: those training plans which were developed with the contractor and Family Services, who monitors those training plans? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to be corrected again. I hope I don't correct myself the next time, but I understand that the project manager would work to ensure that those plans are being followed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second

and final supplementary, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Can the minister commit to examining how these training plans are currently being implemented and monitored? Mr. Speaker, I'm not convinced that this is a tool that is being used to its best capability.

As I mentioned in my member's statement, these training plans are developed after the contract is awarded. The government has already decided who the best contractor is, and apparently the training component isn't important enough to put into deciding which contractor is the best.

Can the minister commit to looking at how these training plans are used, including whether they should be part of the bid submission process before the contract award? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question. I think he read my mind.

Mr. Speaker, our department, with work with our client departments, has been working to deal with that very issue. We see it in our department and throughout our client departments that we have not been very strong in the past in ensuring that there are proper training plans. There are many opportunities for people to get skills in electrical, oil burner, carpentry, mechanical, and so on.

Our department and our client departments and the training component of Family Services, we have seen that there is a big need to improve on that. In fact I would like to let my colleagues know that one of the things we are currently looking at and working on is that procurement at CGS has held meetings with the NNI Secretariat, the capital planning, and also Family Services' Career Development Division.

What we're doing to that is that we are working on getting a requirement for Inuit training/employment form included in all capital projects of any significance and that that form has to be filled out at the same time as filling out the RFPs. I think it's a very positive step. It will put the training component right at the forefront of any contract or procurement that goes out there. If we see a school being built, it will have a training component in there and it must be filled out and it must be filled out adequately, with real numbers and real training plans before the contract is awarded. It puts it at the front and not at the back. It's exactly what my colleagues are talking about.

I look forward to that work continuing and developing, and I'll be more than happy to keep my colleagues informed on this movement as it moves forward, but it is something. We've already had one meeting amongst the people I have mentioned in here. I see we're going to be going forward with that and I really look forward to it and I hope it's something that will be fruitful in future contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Oral

Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Question 521 – 5(2): Oversight on Contracts by NNI Secretariat

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the same minister, the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As we know, our contracting procedures are very important to the communities and contracts are what the government works with. We have heard and seen situations in the communities where the contractors are working on major projects, such as the construction of housing units or some other facility within our community.

What is noticeable is the lack of Inuit frontline workers, if any, or very few Inuit working, and sometimes there are no observable Inuit workers at all. Sometimes they have no Inuit workers, just southern imports. We aren't necessarily anti-southerners, but we are representing Inuit who fought for and attained Nunavut. It is clearly outlined in the land claim where it states the NNI Secretariat, which he mentioned, can conduct inspections or they can investigate compliance to a contract that was awarded.

My first question is: how many inspectors does NNI or the minister's office have for assessing that? How many officers have the capability to inspect projects to check compliance with their contracts within the outlying communities that his department has contracted out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question, Mr. Quassa. We monitor the contracts through CGS, whether it is for the Department of Education or the Department of Health. When they're putting infrastructure projects together for the government, we have one person who is responsible who is the (interpretation ends) project manager, (interpretation) and each project has one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are documents available under 6.2 where the (interpretation ends) NNI Secretariat (interpretation) will identify contractors to work with in submitting reports to the Government of Nunavut.

How many times has he seen the reports that were a result of the contractors being approached to complete their inspections? How many times has he seen such a report? I find it very interesting based on my comments about certain communities that note contractors and assess their project hiring when working on their projects.

My question is: in terms of non-compliance of contractual requirements, is it the majority of contractors? What has the department found with respect to this non-compliance issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not the minister responsible for the Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti portfolio, but what I can say is for projects that we monitor to date, we can't direct them to hire this many Inuit as that is not what is monitored daily. Even if the number of workers stands at ten or even five workers, the contract is assessed from the time it is awarded to the time when the contract is completed, and the numbers have to comply with their contractual obligations.

As an example, when they start constructing units, there are a lot of labourers required that are comprised mainly of Inuit. If we were to watch at the beginning, unskilled labourers are needed, but when they start working on the electrical components, an Inuk electrician may not be available or one may not be available until later, so no Inuit are visible, while at other times more Inuit work on the project.

We monitor the overall numbers that are provided for each phase, which might be on a monthly basis or a bi-monthly basis as different numbers pop up, but our job is to try to keep the numbers consistent throughout the entirety of the contract to ensure that the number of Inuit workers as reported are corrected when they count the figures overall. I hope that was clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier

comments, communities observe the situation as they see the project work daily since they live in the community, and as I conveyed earlier, we are asked by the residents “Where are the Inuit employees?” We hear those questions, which is the reason behind the community concerns. I imagine the department is apprised of local projects from the communities to their contract monitoring divisions or if the (interpretation ends) NNI Secretariat (interpretation) receives these updates on the contracts.

Is the department open to communities providing their observations or do you expect communities to provide their observations on whether local Inuit were hired or the lack thereof? With issues such as those where residents observe the work daily, can they contact someone at your department or who would they contact to submit complaints about the lack of compliance with their contractual obligations? Who can you get this information from in the communities, or are you available? I think that should be the case because it’s the communities that are aware of this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I thank my colleague for that question. Yes, absolutely. We are continually kept abreast of developments locally and our offices even receive phone calls. Sometimes I get personal phone calls from citizens or from colleagues about the need to check into a project or to check the numbers.

Project foremen are also informed along with community GLOs who work for the

government locally and are provided with this information. We are informed in all the various avenues available to the local people and we want to be kept informed.

This is not a frivolous matter but quite a serious one when talking about Inuit wanting employment and those with the capability to work hard, Mr. Speaker. We want to be informed either by Inuit who aren’t being hired or in situations where Inuit who are able and willing to work aren’t hired. We especially want to hear from those Inuit. Many contractors just say that no work is available even though there is space. We want to hear from the people looking for jobs who are not given jobs, Mr. Speaker.

We want Inuit to be employed every time there’s a contract. We want them to seek out Inuit employees. I am absolutely committed to this requirement, as I want to see a day in our future when the entire workforce for these contracts are comprised of local Inuit and where there isn’t a legal requirement to hire locally because of the high numbers of qualified Inuit. That’s what I would like to see. I want to see a time where we no longer need the Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Policy because of the numbers of qualified Inuit construction workers.

That’s why we wanted Nunavut established. I think all of us ran for office to work hard on that. As minister, I try to work hard on Inuit employment because I want as many Inuit to work as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 522 – 5(2): Flight Schedules for Uqqummiut

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, during this past winter sitting, I kept raising this question about the routing of airlines, which is inconvenient for some communities, particularly so in the case of my constituency. It continues to raise concerns amongst my constituents as it relates to air travel routes and it is very inconvenient when we want to go to one community and need to take different routes.

I represent Clyde River and when I'm in the community, the scheduled flight returning down island has to go all the way up to Pond Inlet, then Arctic Bay before it goes to Iqaluit. On every trip down island we always pass through Pangnirtung when we are going to Iqaluit and vice versa. There is always an inconvenience.

I had questioned the minister during our winter session as he said he would look into it. What is the status? Can the minister update us on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question again. We always try to work with the airlines and they set up their own schedules and routing. To date I have not spoken directly to their executives, but my officials have communicated with them.

We currently have a request for proposals for medical and duty travel. Since the contract will be awarded soon, I am purposely not in contact with the executive because we want to complete the competition properly. The issue is discussed and the airlines listen closely to what the members say in the House. I wanted to reiterate that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for pointing that out. Mr. Speaker, there is only one airline that flies into my other constituency community. Canadian North does not fly to that community. It is only First Air that goes there and there are now over a thousand people in that community. It has been a concern that only one airline services their community. Has the minister ever approached the airlines to see if Canadian North can start flying to Clyde River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not the ones who decide which airlines fly to which communities, but we can encourage them.

Right now it is in the request for proposals stage and they have submitted their bids outlining what they want to do in the Baffin, Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions, along with the southern routes. As our constituencies are in the Baffin region, right now I am expecting to have a decision by July to award the contracts, and the effective start date will be January 1. I am anticipating changes.

As I previously stated, when the request for proposals was issued, I wanted as many airlines to submit bids so that we would have competition. Sometimes there is a monopoly, so they forget about the people and only look at the costs. We are working very hard on this as a government to try to address the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that explanation. Mr. Speaker, it has also been a concern for both of my constituency communities. I brought this up before. Every Christmas flights go to every community beginning in Iqaluit to Pangnirtung, to Qikiqtarjuaq, and so on. It is very convenient for families, but it only takes place once a year. It is fully booked long before the departure date. People have wondered if that can happen not only in the wintertime but also at least once in the summer. Can the minister work with the airlines to see if the same thing they do in the winter can also be done in the summertime? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The airlines themselves make these decisions and they are there to make a profit from each community. Yes, those popular Christmas flights have been offered for quite a while now and as you stated, the seats sell out very quickly. I can speak to this in more detail once we begin our discussions with the airlines to see if they can provide affordable airfares.

First Air introduced the Ilak fare for family discounts and Canadian North has Pivut fare directed at indigenous people. They give discounts to partner organizations. For instance, the Nunavut Employees Union has their discounts. Inuit organizations can say, "This is how much travel we're going to do and this is how many people are going to take those flights, so please give us a discount." We all have that opportunity. However, as a government we are doing it through competition.

As for the general public, I will continue to work hard. One of my constituency communities has the highest airfare and the greatest number of stopovers along the way, whether they're trying to get to Iqaluit, Ottawa, or going west. It takes them a long time. I will keep this in the forefront. I thank you, member, for bringing this issue up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Question 523 – 5(2): Municipal Bylaws

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon. I say "hello" to

everyone.

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

As the minister will recall, I have been asking questions since our winter sitting about the status of the City of Iqaluit's new land administration bylaw, which the elected council approved in November of last year.

As the minister is aware, the new bylaw includes new eligibility and procedures for residential ballot draws that will prioritize Inuit and long-term residents of the city.

Under section 53.5 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, the approval of the minister is required for the new bylaw to come into effect.

I'm asking: can the minister provide a detailed update on the status of his review of the new land administrative bylaw? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I signed that off recently, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good to know. Would the minister be able to confirm before the end of the sitting that he actually signed off on that bylaw? Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't see why not, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 524 – 5(2): Housing for Staff at Sanikiluaq's New Health Centre

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement today I once again addressed the need for staff housing to be located near the new health centre being built in Sanikiluaq.

Can the minister clearly explain how the need for staff housing for critical personnel such as health care workers is evaluated for each community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. When the member raises questions like that, we will do the evaluations. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His response was so quick I didn't hear what he said.

>>*Laughter*

That's unusual for this House.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, I have requested a number of times in this House and through correspondence that housing for staff be made available in close proximity to the health centre in Sanikiluaq.

Would the minister agree that providing housing for health care staff close to the health centre is an important consideration given the time-sensitive nature of medical emergencies as well as for the safety of staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I agree with the member and plans are underway to build five-plex staff housing for the member's community, adjacent to the new health centre. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome that information. I won't seek commitment like I said in my member's statement then. I'll just thank the minister and his staff for listening to the concerns of the community and bringing this forward, and I look forward to reviewing the budget in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I didn't hear a question. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

Question 525 – 5(2): Tenant Engagement Campaign

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Gjoa Haven and my family watching.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister will recall, he made a statement during our winter sitting about the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new tenant engagement campaign. In his statement he talked about sending calendars to the 25 communities and how much it costs to maintain a unit to rent, \$26,500.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just asking if that campaign worked, and can the minister provide an update today on the status of that campaign? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The key to the longevity of our public housing is working proactively with the tenant in terms of keeping the house well maintained so that when the tenant maintains his or her home, that leaves us more money to address the public housing stock. We have a very good program in terms of we're committing to improving our communications with our public tenants. As for the timeline, it's an ongoing

process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently assisted a constituent with a situation involving damage to the constituent's property as a result of a sewage tank overflow. Mr. Speaker, when the tenant approached the local housing organization about the situation, they were informed that it is the responsibility of public housing tenants to obtain insurance for their household effects. I'm sure the Nunavut Housing Corporation insures their own public housing units. With that, I am fairly certain that many public housing tenants, especially elders, are unaware of this requirement.

Can the minister indicate if the Nunavut Housing Corporation's tenant engagement campaign will provide information about insurance requirements and options? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we receive notices or when I am notified by a colleague that this office or unit requires repairs or mould remediation where it is too mouldy, I task my officials to look into the complaint.

With respect to the member's question (interpretation ends) about insurance, it's an option for the tenant to get his or her own property insurance. I do not know if our TROs, or tenant relations officers,

inform the would-be tenant, but I will commit to making that information passed on to the tenant prior to the tenant moving into a public unit.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify if the Nunavut Housing Corporation has entered into any types of agreements with private insurance companies to provide discounted rates or other incentives for public housing tenants seeking to purchase coverage for their personal property? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe we have done that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 526 – 5(2): Addressing High Cost of Food

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Family Services, who is also the Minister responsible for (interpretation ends) Poverty Reduction.

(interpretation) I am confident that many of my colleagues and the communities are affected by the high prices of food in the stores. That's what I will be basing my question on to the minister.

It has been said and we have seen pictures of stores where they hold sales, but if you look behind the sticker, you see a lower price with the higher price as the sale price. My question to the minister is: has her department looked into the high cost of food in the stores? What is being currently done to address the high cost of food in Nunavut's retail stores? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. I know it is obvious that food is expensive in Nunavut. I can respond by saying that there are different programs like (interpretation ends) Nutrition North (interpretation) that we always say has really helped the people of Nunavut.

I can also say right now that (interpretation ends) the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, under that, the department is currently reviewing proposals as we look to... . We're in the process of renewing the strategy and action plan for poverty reduction. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In April 2018 the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Food Security Coalition... . (interpretation) I'll just say this in English. (interpretation ends) I note that in April 2018, over a year ago, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition put out a call for

proposals for food security initiatives. Can the minister provide a brief overview of how many proposals were submitted, how many projects were funded, and what kinds of outcomes to improve food security were achieved? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have that information right now as we're preparing to do our annual roundtable for poverty reduction. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clearly inform this House of what steps community residents can take if they feel that the local retailers are raising the cost of food unfairly and, if she doesn't have that information with her right now, will she commit to providing it before the [end of the] current sitting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I will. I think there is a Better Business Bureau maybe, but I will certainly clarify that and provide the information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member Qirngnuq.

Question 527 – 5(2): Airport Infrastructure

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I remember I was very proud to have supported funding for Taloyoak's new airport terminal building, which was recently opened just last year.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, his department published a 20-year airport infrastructure needs assessment in April 2014, five years ago. This comprehensive report contained important information about the state of airports in all 25 Nunavut communities.

Can the minister confirm when his department will be issuing an updated airport infrastructure needs assessment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. With regard to the 20-year airport infrastructure needs assessment, I'm looking forward to having the document ready for review because there has to be a second review. I look forward to being part of the review committee to see what environmental work is required at all Nunavut airports and related infrastructure. I look forward to the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to my question. I'll be asking my next question in English for clarity.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is well aware, the cost of living in the two communities that I represent in the Legislative Assembly is very high. One of the ways that the government could help to address this issue is to undertake improvements to our air transport infrastructure to help make it possible for airlines to enhance their services, including air cargo services. The department's 20-year airport infrastructure needs assessment report indicates that Kugaaruk's runway is in poor condition.

(interpretation) The 20-year airport infrastructure needs assessment report indicates that in 1995 the runway in Kugaaruk was constructed. The gravel stockpile for the runway had an estimated lifecycle until 2015 and it looks like the stockpile is set to be replenished in 2023 based on the report.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm what work has been undertaken or will be undertaken to widen, lengthen, and repair the runway? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for those comments. At this time (interpretation ends) for what is listed in

the 20-year capital study, those are the number of things that each of the communities need. Because it is the 20-year needs assessment, not all of them were done to date. This is one of the reasons why we're updating our 20-year assessment for airports for that.

For the purpose of Kugaaruk, the airstrip does need some overlay and I don't have a specific date or when we're planning to do the overlay as it is necessary. As the member might be aware, with the limited funds that we do have, there are priorities that take over it from time to time. This is one of the situations in Kugaaruk where you have seen some delay in that, but from an operational sense, to date, Kugaaruk, when we do our conditioning, is at the fair stage, not at the poor stage as it initially was at the first assessment.

I just wanted to highlight that and that we will continue to monitor and we will continue to seek various funds to try to improve all of our Nunavut airports. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the minister seemed to state that the runway in Kugaaruk is fairly good, and in English in 1995 it says (interpretation ends) "poor," (interpretation) so it must be wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I will say this in English for clarity, and this will be my final question. (interpretation ends) On February 25, 2016 the federal Minister of Transport tabled the final report of the *Canada Transportation Act Review*

Panel. The report recommended that the federal government should provide "targeted financial support for runway extensions and surfacing, as well as for 24-hour automated weather systems and modern landing and approach systems in applicable communities in the territories. To facilitate these improvements, an investment of \$50 million per year over ten years is recommended to address the most significant infrastructure gaps, either by augmenting the Airports Capital Assistance Program, or by creating a new 'Northern Airports Capital Assistance Program.'"

Can the minister update us today on what discussions he has had with his federal counterpart concerning this recommendation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the member for questioning and outlining that report. That report was done and there was an audit done for the Airports Capital Assistance Program. It calls for a northern component of that \$50 million, and I advocated for that to the federal minister and I will continue to do that. I have raised it during my meetings with him and I have also written a letter to him, and I will continue to advocate. Any chance I meet with the Transport Canada minister, I will continue to advocate that we do need a northern component of the Airports Capital Assistance Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Member Lightstone.

Motion 039 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Question period is extended for 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Question 528 – 5(2): Procurement Practices

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and it is regarding the procurement practices.

My first question to the minister is: how often does Community and Government Services receive complaints regarding potential bias in RFPs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how often, but on occasion there are questions raised on procurement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is in relation to the *Hansard* from Friday, May 31, where the minister states in his point of privilege that the accusation "...calls into question the credibility as the minister responsible. There has been no evidence provided of such fraudulent activity happening in the department and, if anyone is aware that there is, it is critical for them to" either make himself aware or this legislature or the appropriate policing authorities.

Mr. Speaker, with that being said, the minister has just admitted that the Department of CGS has received complaints about bias in RFPs. In fact I would just like to point out that I identified one issue on May 8 where there appears to be a very serious bias in the terms of reference of one specific RFP.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to reiterate that I was not trying to encourage political interference. I was just trying to raise this issue to the minister so that the minister would be aware.

With that being said, I believe that the minister does have evidence, contrary to the *Hansard*. I would like to ask again: how often does the minister receive bias complaints about RFPs, and are we looking at once a year, once a month, or a couple of times a week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I guess we could twist words how we want to twist them.

Mr. Speaker, what I was referring to is

when we put out an RFP for a particular procurement activity for a particular contract with a client department, on occasion there will be a question in there about the contract, and we put an addendum in the contract to say that we were asked about this particular thing.

Let's say for the sake of argument that the interested person might ask, "How come you're asking for only blue paper in this contract or procurement thing?" We would then put an addendum in saying "There was a question as to why we are producing blue paper and not green and this is why." That is what I was referring to, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. I caution members, when you guys are using words, to be very cautious of the words that you are using in the legislature.

(interpretation) Your second and final supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to reiterate that I have pointed out an instance where there appears to be bias in a specific RFP, yet the minister seems to believe that the current RFP process is free from any bias and are never built or designed or written for one specific vendor to be capable or qualified for.

With that being said, I would like to ask the minister to commit to sharing with the Assembly how many complaints has the Department of CGS received about potentially "biasly" written RFPs and going forward, if that information would be included in the Community and Government Services' procurement

activity report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it depends on what you term as bias. Mr. Speaker, the issue my colleague wrote to me about is an issue I won't go too far into, but every person who wants to bid on a contract has the right to ask, "How come you're asking for this kind of licence to do the activity?" I don't think that is a bias. If you're asking for someone with a heavy equipment operator licence to go on a contract for snow removal, that's what it requires. That's how I will refer to that, Mr. Speaker.

Other than that, I don't believe that's a bias. I do not believe that that is trying to pinpoint it to a certain person who has that heavy equipment operator licence. It allows everybody with a heavy equipment licence or Red Seal certificate and so on to pursue the contract that they're going after. It gives people an opportunity to have that kind of certification in order to apply for that contract. I don't believe that it is a bias.

I will look, but I'm pretty sure that our department of procurement in Community and Government Services has not been charged, sued, or found guilty of any wrongdoing, Mr. Speaker. Our department is very thorough in ensuring that proper procurement practices are followed. I am not aware of any cases where they are liable for such action that my colleague is accusing them or assuming they are guilty of bias, Mr. Speaker. I know of none. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. I would also like

to make a correction on my behalf as the Speaker. I indicated “you guys” and I stand to correct myself and I would like to state “members.”

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Question 529 – 5(2): Oversight of Emergency Medical Equipment

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s great to be allowed a second question.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention in more than one case that equipment failures have resulted in medevac services being extremely delayed, which has led to further complications during medical emergency situations.

Can the minister explain what steps are taken to ensure that airline companies providing medevac services keep their planes in top condition and ready to fly at a moment’s notice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has been raised to me a couple of times in the last little while on people’s perception of how long it takes for a medevac to respond to a call. There are a number of different issues, mechanical being one of them. We are in dialogue with our contracted

provider and this issue is being raised with them. They are responsible to keep a fleet of aircraft and backup aircraft where possible or needed. I am aware of this issue and there will be ongoing dialogue with the contractor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister noted, this has been raised in the House several times before, so it really is an issue, and I guess you just start to look at accountability. When you are awarded a contract to do a certain job, it is accountability that we are looking for.

I understand that planes do go mechanical and pilots will not fly until they can ensure the absolute safety of the flight. However, it is the case that flights are delayed due to equipment malfunctions, and this may have an impact on the delivery of emergency services.

Can the minister explain how his department tracks situations where medevacs are delayed, especially if there are medical consequences as a result of that delay, and what implications this has for the contractor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are ongoing discussions with the contractor and the Department of Health to monitor medevac occurrences, frequencies, usage, volume, and that type of thing. One of the things

with that tracking mechanism, it gives the contractor more information on whether they need to enhance their fleet or if there are better locations. There are a number of different things and these discussions are ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just hear the same thing, “Oh well, we are talking with them. It’s ongoing. We are talking with them. It’s ongoing.” Yet I think these problems are ongoing. Obviously the talk might not be working and maybe a little more needs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, all of our health centres have equipment which is designed to be used in the case of emergency. Fortunately emergencies do not occur all that frequently. However, this means that the equipment sits there and may not be checked on a regular basis.

Can the minister clearly describe what measures are in place to ensure that all community health centres have the necessary emergency-related equipment at all times and what steps are taken if it is found that the equipment is missing or malfunctioning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of our health centres have a core inventory of equipment. We can’t always foresee every occurrence, but we do have a basic inventory of all of our health centres. If any of those pieces of

equipment fail or are missing or damaged, we would work very quickly to make sure that that equipment would either be refurbished or replaced or repaired. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 530 – 5(2): Training Plans in Government Contracts

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services. (interpretation ends) My question is regarding the topic of training plans, specifically those that are developed with regard to major contracts issued by CGS.

I’ll quote from a contract document that I pulled off of the Nunavut Tenders website. “The successful contractor must contact the Career Development Division of the Department of Family Services upon contract award to develop a specific training plan for this contract.” Can the minister please explain what the process is in terms of developing these training plans? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question and it kind of leads to the last question you had. Obviously as a government we hadn’t done a very good job when it comes to this. I can say, though, with our department right now, our career development is being very

proactive. They have actually created a training plan right now, working with the contractor, actually for the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre project to better ensure that the training plans are created for big projects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The minister referred to, I guess, a single major contract. My next question for the minister is: how many other training plans for major projects are currently in place? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have the numbers right now, unfortunately, but I can certainly provide that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for offering to provide that number, minister. I'll look forward to getting that information.

My last question for the minister is: who decides on the final numbers of tradespersons that will be trained as part of a major contract? Is it the Department of Family Services and the contractor? Is

it the Department of CGS and the contractor? I'm trying to understand who says, "This is good enough." I think, from the Inuit employment numbers, it is clear from this side of the House anyway that what we are getting is not good enough. Who makes the decision to sign off on these training plans? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. We're working on a new system for tracking the available skills in communities in order to better target training. This will allow us to work more closely with contractors to determine what skills are present in a community and where training will be needed for projects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 531 – 5(2): Disposing of Dangerous Goods

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

When I was in my other constituency community of Igloolik, a fellow Amittuq resident took me on a tour where they have safety concerns about the environment. He showed me places around Igloolik by driving me around and took me to a dump site that had batteries lying around the landfill.

I would like to ask the Minister of Environment if his staff can revisit some of the hazardous sites to ensure they are able to do a proper assessment of how hazardous the materials are. Apparently with the 24-hour daylight, many children are going to the landfill when it is no longer attended by employees. I wonder if the minister can check with his officials to see if they can assess the situation in the communities they are responsible for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of old batteries and landfill sites in Nunavut, when vehicle batteries are disposed of, they are brought to the landfill site. The hamlets or the municipalities are responsible for the upkeep of landfill sites and have to have sea cans that don't leak. They have to have them at the dump and the batteries have to be kept within those containers. If there is leakage from the batteries, the environmental officers can be notified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that clarification. This is hazardous. The streams start flowing when the spring comes, and I saw this as hazardous with the various batteries that are a lying around. I thought it would be a safety issue when I saw it. They told me that the kids walk up to this area. That concerns me.

I wonder if the minister can indicate for my other constituency community whether they can work closely with the local hamlet in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, what I can say is that each hamlet is responsible for municipal waste sites and the landfill site is supposed to have a leak-proof container or even a (interpretation ends) sea can (interpretation) container to house their hazardous materials.

If used batteries are seen, they can report it to the conservation officer that there are batteries at the landfill site, and notify them of the location where the batteries are laying on the ground at the site. The conservation officer can also pick up batteries and bring them to the landfill site so they can be properly stored. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seeing this, I was worried for kids who go to the dump on foot or on their bicycles as it is now 24-hour daylight, and rivulets are now opening up. It is a hazard for the community, especially when it is in close proximity to the community.

I would like to suggest to the Department of Environment that they work with the hamlet to better manage their landfill site, either to move the landfill site or to manage it more efficiently, and for all hazardous

materials properly housed, as he said, into leak-proof containers or sea cans. Can this issue at the dump be dealt with on an urgent basis in Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For Nunavummiut who are listening, batteries shouldn't be thrown outside of the garbage system. Don't put it on the land. The legal requirement is to dispose of batteries properly.

Yes, in that respect, as I stated earlier, the hamlet needs to ensure there is enough space within the landfill site for the storage of used batteries. I'm not aware if there is such a container in Igloolik, but the member can check with the hamlet to see if they have one. I will also task the Department of Environment to look into the situation in Igloolik to determine if a proper container for batteries is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 532 – 5(2): Problems with Obtaining Driver's Licences

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What an opportune time to be rising today. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Yesterday my colleague asked a question and I need further clarification. The issuing of licences was discussed in the House yesterday. They mentioned

that they were going to provide a toll-free number for the various regions for people to call to enquire about issues with their licence applications.

I don't clearly understand this.

Yesterday the minister mentioned that this has not been completed. Since they don't have a toll-free number, where can people call to complain regarding issues for people who are tired of waiting for their licences? Where do they call? Do they call the minister's office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for the question. At this time... I seem to have misplaced the briefing note. At this time we don't have a toll-free line, so I can't quote it here.

However, we do have offices that issue licences and Gjoa Haven is where the headquarters office is located. The director is from Gjoa Haven and is available to discuss issues with people who have complaints, and they can call the office. If they want to find out what the status of their licence application is, for example, if they are in the Kivalliq region, they would check our Rankin Inlet office, here in Iqaluit, and in Kugluktuk. These are the offices that have been split up for this purpose in order to administer to the communities in their regions as our employees handle the various communities in their region.

I would ask that Inuit with enquiries about their applications first contact these offices, but if no response is

provided, you can always contact the departmental headquarters, either to the regional director...actually to the assistant deputy minister under the Transportation Division, who is responsible for this program. That person is also available.

If clients are not getting anywhere in terms of dealing with it on the phone with the 1-800 number that we tried to set up, we work with the (interpretation ends) government liaison officers (interpretation) in the communities or the (interpretation ends) municipal liaison officers. (interpretation) They forward applications or take photos and deal with anything else that is required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. When will this toll-free number be available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to repeat what the member had said yesterday. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but as I stated yesterday, I don't have a timeline in terms of when that's going to happen. If it does happen, we have communications where we can communicate it either through our press release or through community announcements. I plan on doing that if it falls outside of the session. It is quite critical that our public needs it, if we do have 1-800 numbers that they are made aware. It is through that communications

that I think would be the best form of communicating to our public when that 1-800 number is operational. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think it's important to keep in mind that we're talking about a complaints line. First, the department is having trouble handing out licences and issuing licences, so they're going to set up a complaints line about that. Now they're having trouble setting up a complaints line, so we're going to need another complaints line to complain about the complaints line...

>> *Laughter*

...because the licensing system in Nunavut is far from ideal, Mr. Speaker. I know we have a few laughs about it here in the House, but the frustration at the community level is real. This is a basic government service, issuing driver's licences.

Can the minister please update the House in terms of how many Nunavummiut are currently experiencing delays or sit on a backlog list of driver's licences? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not a laughing matter. We are not creating a complaint line on that 1-800 number. If there are complaints that need to be heard, we do already have a director in place. We already

have an assistant deputy minister. If you cannot get it at our regional level, I would encourage our public to elevate to that. That is a very good way of getting some of that information.

In terms of the relations that we have with government liaison officers and our Motor Vehicles that send off to get the driver's licence or the government ID, that system, that's definitely something that we are working very closely to try to fix and something that I have committed here.

Also, I want to state that I don't have specific backlogs of how many are sitting there in every community, but I do want to assure the members and the public that with the recent change of the RCMP not doing the training, we are flying in our motor vehicles staff to every community. They have already visited a number of communities and they are still going to continue to visit until the system is fixed. It is imperative that we do try to get the licence to each of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, I would like to note that the time for question period has expired. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, if it's okay with the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): My fellow members, do you agree to go back to Item 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): They don't mind. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife who is able to be here. In the 1990s she was an interpreter for the Department of Health. She has now been retired for 26 years. I feel better when she's around and a lot happier. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Katherine Qirngnuq, who is behind the MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please feel welcome in the Legislative Assembly. As we have Nunavut, everyone is welcome here.

Going back to the orders of the day. Written Questions. I see none. (interpretation ends) Item 8. (interpretation) Returns to Written Questions. I see none. (interpretation ends) Item 9. (interpretation) Replies to Opening Address. I see none. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Petitions. I see none. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

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

**Committee Report 012 – 5(2): Bill 1,
Corrections Act**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to report that the Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bill 1, (interpretation ends) *Corrections Act*, (interpretation) and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 1 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 1 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays?

(interpretation) I am asking the Member for Amittuq: as you raised your hand, did you say no? Member Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was too fast; I was trying to second the motion. That's why I raised my hand.

>>*Laughter*

I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There are no nays. Bill 1 will be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Committee Report 013 – 5(2): Report
on the Review of the 2015-2016,
2016-2017, and 2017-2018 Annual
Reports of the Representative for
Children and Youth**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to present the *Report on the Review of the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 Annual Reports of the Representative for Children and Youth*.

Uqaqtitsijii, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on these reports on April 10, 2019.

The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee included Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth and her staff, as well as senior officials of the Government of Nunavut's departments of Family Services, Health, Education and Justice. The standing committee notes its appreciation to all the witnesses, sincere appreciation, I might add.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains six sets of formal recommendations which cover a number of thematic areas, including:

- Clarifying Child Rights;

- Child Rights Focus;
- Coordination of Government Services;
- Lack of Resources; and
- Annual Reports.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government and the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth provide comprehensive responses to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 177 – 5(2): MOU 2017 GN-Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

Tabled Document 178 – 5(2): MOU 2019 GN-Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. I have two documents to table today. The first document is the 2017 Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines Memorandum of Understanding. The other document is the 2019 Government of Nunavut and Baffinland Iron Ore Mines Corporation Memorandum of Understanding. Those are the documents I'm tabling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation...I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Minister Savikataaq.

Tabled Document 179 – 5(2): 2018 Annual Report – URRC

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the 2018 Annual Report for the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to Minister Kusugak's point of privilege against myself when I was absent last Friday to attend the missing and murdered indigenous women's closing ceremony, I would like to address two issues.

First, in the minister's statement he indicated that he has full confidence in the "Procurement Division to ensure that policy and procedures are followed..."

Speaker (interpretation): Member Lightstone, I ask you if you're going to be tabling a document. Member Lightstone, I'm asking if you will be tabling a document. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Yes, sorry, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify, I am tabling a document here.

In leading up to the reason behind this tabling of document, the minister's point of privilege indicated that he has full confidence in the "Procurement Division to ensure policy and procedures are followed for each and every contract..." while also "diligently ensuring that the GN has a fair and equitable procurement process with the appropriate checks and balances..."

Well, the minister also indicated to me in correspondence that CGS Procurement does not... .

Speaker (interpretation): Member Lightstone, (interpretation ends) on a point of privilege, there is no debate allowed, so please table your document; no comments. (interpretation) Member Lightstone.

**Tabled Document 180 – 5(2):
Correspondence Regarding
Procurement Practices**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. I would like to table a complaint that I received and forwarded to the appropriate ministers where a constituent had raised their concerns over an RFP, which included terms of reference which were prejudicial towards one single supplier and which means in fact that this RFP

was specifically written so that one sole vendor would only be eligible to qualify. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Member for Uqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Tabled Document 181 – 5(2):
Constituency Concerns from
Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today a collection of constituency concerns that I recently received from the communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents.

**Tabled Document 182 – 5(2): 2019
Report of the Auditor General of
Canada to the Legislative
Assembly of Nunavut on Support
for High School Students and
Adult Learners**

Members, I also wish to table the 2019 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners*.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have no more lists of names. Item 14. (interpretation) Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

**Motion 040 – 5(2): Extended
Adjournment – Notice**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, June 6, 2019, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 17, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. (interpretation) Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Main.

**Motion 040 – 5(2): Extended
Adjournment**

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

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3,

that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 17, 2019.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

>> *Applause*

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

**Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the
Education Act and the Inuit
Language Protection Act – First
Reading**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Aivilik, that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Going to the orders of the day.

(interpretation ends) Item 18.

(interpretation) Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 19. Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 16:02 and
Committee resumed at 16:32

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members and welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 1. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to commence with the review of Bill 1, *Corrections Act*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Corrections Act –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeegok: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Akeegok, please introduce your officials and then proceed into your opening comments. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Bill MacKay, Deputy Minister of Justice, and on my left is Thomas Ahlfors, (interpretation ends) legislative counsel.

Good day, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to discuss the new *Corrections Act* on behalf of my colleague, Minister Ehaloak.

The department's provision of correctional services in Nunavut has come a long way in a very short period of time. We have commissioned many reports and have invited many independent review bodies to Nunavut so that we knew how to make things better for Nunavummiut who are incarcerated.

Following the report of the Office of the Corrections Investigator and the report of the Office of the Auditor General, the Corrections Division has made substantial updates to our infrastructure and to our mandate and has worked for over five years to make substantial upgrades to our legislation. What we are presenting to you now is the result of this hard work.

The work completed to create the bill you have before you was extensive.

Starting with a small amendment to the Act in 2015, the department began to address long-standing, immediate human rights issues with the legislation.

In 2016 the Department of Justice undertook consultations across Nunavut, including public meetings in five Nunavut communities. We spoke to inmates, correctional staff, community leaders, justice stakeholders, Inuit organizations, and to anyone who wanted to bring ideas to us.

Since this project was initiated, a lot of research has been done by the department. We reviewed legislation across Canada, completed academic research, reviewed data collected by corrections, and reviewed international human rights conventions and standards for best practices.

Bill 1 is a complete overhaul of the way we do corrections in Nunavut and it does so in three main ways:

1. It increases accountability and transparency through the creation of an independent officer that can provide oversight on and ensure the fair treatment of inmates in the custody of the Department of Justice. The bill also more fully outlines what information is to be provided to inmates, creates a formal grievance procedure, allows for reviews and oversight on the use of segregation, and requires the tabling of an annual report.
2. Bill 1 ensures that key procedural safeguards are included in the legislation and regulations. Provisions regarding use of force, search and seizure, and limits on

disciplinary segregation have been added. The bill provides direction on measures to be taken by correctional staff should an inmate have mental health issues.

3. Bill 1 reflects the importance the Department of Justice places on Inuit societal values, culture and language and will aid in the provision of culturally appropriate correctional programming through the creation of an Inuit societal values committee. This committee will include representation from every region of Nunavut and Inuit elders. The committee will advise and help the Department of Justice make decisions that respect culture, values, language, and programming in Nunavut's correctional facilities. Bill 1 also requires the provision of programming in Inuit languages and requires programs provided to Nunavut inmates to consider the importance of Inuit societal values and culture. Elders will continue to maintain their special status as visitors to correctional facilities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will take questions or comments. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 1, the proposed new (interpretation ends) *Corrections Act*.

(interpretation) The standing committee is in support of the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in his opening comments.

(interpretation ends) Over the past year the standing committee has been engaged in a productive dialogue with the sponsoring minister concerning the bill. A total of 17 amendments to the bill were adopted on the occasion of the standing committee's recent clause-by-clause consideration of the proposed legislation. These amendments resulted in a number of improvements to the bill, including strengthened provisions in relation to the investigations officer, a new position that is established by the legislation.

As chair of the standing committee, I will be proposing two additional motions to amend the bill during our consideration of it this afternoon.

The first motion, if adopted, would provide for an additional measure of independence in respect to the provisions concerning inmate discipline.

The second motion, if adopted, would require the investigations officer to complete his or her statutorily required report on the composition, mandate, and operations of disciplinary boards within two years of the office-holder's appointment.

I look forward to the support of my colleagues for both motions.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Do members have any general comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just an observation on my behalf, when we speak of elders in the minister's comments, I would prefer traditional knowledge-holders. In our history we have had elders who came off the land, lived off the land, but today's elders are just physically getting old without knowledge of their culture or their language. Just that observation on my part: traditional knowledge-holders of the Inuit culture and the ability to transmit the culture and traditional behavioural mechanisms. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Anyone else with general comments towards the bill? If not, we will now proceed to the clause by clause of Bill 1 and it's in your legislative binder near your desk, I do believe.

Clause 1. Agreed? Sorry. I'm getting ahead of myself. Bill 1, *Corrections Act*.
Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Mr. Main.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

**Committee Motion 006 – 5(2): Bill 1,
Corrections Act, Clause 18
Amendment**

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Agreed?

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move that clause 18(2.1)(a) be amended by replacing “at the correctional centre where the inmate is confined;” with “by the Corrections Division;” That’s my motion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Agreed?

Chairman: Thank you. As the motion has already been distributed to members and is deemed that the motion is in order, I have a few brief comments before we proceed with the motion.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Agreed?

Every member has a right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Agreed?

The mover of the motion speaks first.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Agreed?

The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes debate.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Agreed?

To the motion. Okay, sorry. Alright. Thank you. From my understanding, you don’t have a copy of the motion. Now you have it. Okay, we will proceed. To the motion. Mr. Main.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier I spoke about how the standing committee worked on this proposed bill, and in looking at the details of this redrafted bill, it seems as if it is much more linear, in my personal opinion.

Chairman: Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Agreed?

We have brought up this matter on several occasions to the minister through

Some Members: Agreed.

reciprocal correspondence where both parties shared correspondence on this subject of the disciplinary board for the inmates, especially on the need for independence, which members have voiced from time to time.

It may be particular to incarcerated inmates, or perhaps how inmates will be incarcerated within the facilities, or even perhaps if they will be placed in single cells, or as it is called in English (interpretation ends) segregation, (interpretation) related to the critical importance of these issues, as these aren't frivolous matters.

This isn't the first time we have debated the need for independence from the disciplinary boards, as an example, to ensure it doesn't just have correctional officers managing the disciplinary board at their own discretion, to have a completely independent body that is responsible for the work they are mandated with.

Yes, I have other comments to make, but I believe the committee knows what they want, so I will leave my comments at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. To the motion. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to extend my thanks to my ministerial colleague, Minister Ehloak, and to voice pride in her capabilities.

During the review of this proposed bill, there was an exchange of correspondence with both the regular members and the minister, and the end result is that we now have Bill 1 in the

House.

With that being the case, I would like to address this motion briefly. (interpretation ends) We are concerned about the proposed amendments' requirements of a disciplinary hearing to be adjudicated by someone who is not part of the correctional division.

Under the department's proposed bill, if an inmate subject to disciplinary proceedings is notified, they may be subject to segregation or loss of remission as a result of the charges. They may make a written request to the warden that the charges be heard by a disciplinary board composed of one person who is not employed at the correctional centre and where the inmate is confined and has demonstrated knowledge of Inuit societal values and the Nunavut correctional system. The decision of the board can be appealed by the investigations officer. The decision of the investigations officer is binding.

The model in the bill as drafted was taken from the NWT draft *Corrections Act* and the suggestions of the standing committee. Independent adjudicators of the disciplinary hearing are not a common practice in Canada nor has it been called in for consultations on this bill.

The department should have the flexibility to conduct disciplinary hearings using correctional staff. We do not know how many inmates will elect to have their case heard under this process and it might be difficult to find someone with necessary knowledge and experiences to conduct a hearing that is not a correctional employee.

The bill already includes substantial independence and binding appeal processes. The hearing in the first instance should be informal, must be conducted by people that know corrections in Nunavut and know the inmates. Moreover, there is a requirement that the investigations officer review the disciplinary process within two years.

That being said, we understand the regular members' concerns and we will find ways to implement the bill as amended, and I am saying that we are prepared to support the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok, you had another comment?

Hon. David Akeegok: Sorry, that was on the motion. On the motion's wording itself, if I may, could I ask our appropriate legal counsels to go through the motion wordings? I do apologize. I did not see it in time to allow my counsel to go through it. He has indicated there are grammatical corrections required in the French version. I don't know if this is the right forum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sorry for the delay. There is just some confusion on what you're asking for. Minister Akeegok, if you could please restate the issue you have with the current motion so that we can make a decision on where we go from here. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In the French version, the wording that's being proposed in the motion does not make the sentence flow with the paragraph on

the actual legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Again I apologize for the delay.

From my understanding, if you want to make an amendment to the motion, to the French portion only, we will allow you to do that through yourself at the moment here. Is that your intention? Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Yes. Just bear with me.

(interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest an amendment to the motion in that the French version of the motion be amended by replacing "pas" with "de" and "Division" by "division" without the capitalization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okay. Thank you. It has been noted and the motion has been amended in the French version only, and we will continue on with debate on the motion. Is there anybody else who wants to speak to the motion? If not, the mover of the motion has the right to speak last on the motion. Minister Main, do you have any final comments? Go ahead, please.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) *Je suis...* . No.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) I thank the minister for his support to the motion and I ask that my colleagues vote in favour of the

motion at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I apologize for calling you a minister.

To the motion. I will now ask all members who are in favour of the motion, please raise your hands, the motion as amended. Thank you. Opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Moving back to the bill. Clause 18, as amended. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 53. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 54. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 55. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 56. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 57. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 58. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 59. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 60. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 61. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 62. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 63. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 64. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 65. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 66. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 67. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 68. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 69. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 70. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. My understanding is that the motion was on 70.1, so we will agree to clause 70. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 70.1. Mr. Main.

Committee Motion 007 – 5(2): Bill 1, Corrections Act, Clause 70.1 Amendment

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move at this time... . (interpretation ends) I move that clause 70.1(1) be amended by replacing the word “three” with the word “two.” (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. As before, the motion has been distributed to members and the motion is deemed in order. To the motion. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) On behalf of my ministerial colleague, we propose that the three-year timeline would have been a better review, but moving it a year ahead does not impede this legislation. Therefore I’m encouraging our government to be prepared to accept this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My committee colleagues felt that we have to be expedient on this issue. There was a need to improve the system and it’s pretty important that it be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. I ask that my colleagues vote in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. To

the motion. Seeing as there are none, all those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Clause 70.1, as amended. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 71. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 72. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 73. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 73.1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 74. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 75. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 1 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 1, as amended, can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now

like to ask Minister Akeeagok if you have any closing comments.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My ministerial colleague, Minister Ehaloak, worked very hard to get this bill through and she had a close working relationship with the regular members. It was a long process, but I am very pleased that we are able to get it through.

I'm just a voice for the minister, but I would like to thank all the members who worked quite hard to get this through to make sure that our inmates are in a safe environment. I am very pleased that Bill 1 is going to be passed. I thank you all, members, and all those people who worked hard and made contributions during our consultation.

I'll leave it at that. I thank you all for passing the bill. I'll make sure that my ministerial colleague, Minister Ehaloak, is kept informed about the progress for today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for all the hard work that you have put into this bill. As you stated, it took a long time, but hopefully we got it to a point now where it's better for the people of Nunavut.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

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

move to report progress. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report that Bill 1 is immediately ready for third reading as amended and that two committee motions were adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Minister Netser. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation)
Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeeagok.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – Corrections Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move, seconded by my fellow Member for Arviat South, that (interpretation ends) Bill 1, (interpretation) as amended, (interpretation ends) *Corrections Act*, (interpretation) be read for the third

time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 1 (interpretation ends) is ready for assent.

>> *Applause*

Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for June 5:

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 25
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: I wish to advise members that the document which the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak tabled earlier today is currently under review by my office and is not immediately ready for distribution. If necessary, I will get back to the House with a ruling at a later date.

This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 5, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:10*

Appendix – June 4, 2019



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

Report on the Review of the 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual Reports of the Representative for Children and Youth

Chairperson

John Main

Co-Chairperson

Cathy Towntongie

Members

Tony Akoak
Pat Angnakak
Joelie Kaerner
Mila Kamingoak
Paulosie Keyootak
Adam Arreak Lightstone
Simeon Mikkungwak
Margaret Nakashuk
Emiliano Qirngnuq
Paul Quassa
Allan Rumbolt

Introduction

Nunavut's *Representative for Children and Youth Act* was passed on September 17, 2013, by the 3rd Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Ms. Sherry McNeil-Mulak was appointed as Nunavut's first Representative for Children and Youth by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on June 2, 2014.

Section 35 (1) of the *Act* provides that "the Representative shall, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly an annual report on the conduct of the office and the discharge of the duties of the Representative during the preceding year."

The Representative's first Annual Report for 2014-2015 was tabled on May 30, 2016 and was reviewed by the 4th Assembly's Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities. That Committee's report, tabled during the fall sitting of 2016, made the following recommendations:

- That the Representative for Children and Youth clearly outline what steps are taken and what processes are followed by her Office when addressing requests or inquiries relating to each of its core services;
- That the Representative for Children and Youth establish measures to track the success of her Office in addressing requests or inquiries relating to each of its core services;
- That the Representative for Children and Youth continue to explore options for incorporating Inuit culture and Inuit Societal Values into the structure and operations of her Office;
- That the Representative for Children and Youth continue to work towards ensuring that her Office's services are made available in a linguistically appropriate manner; and
- That the Representative for Children and Youth ensure that her Annual Report is tabled within the deadline specified in the legislation.

The Committee appreciates the efforts made by the Representative for Children and Youth to follow these recommendations.

The Representative's Annual Report for 2015-2016 was tabled on May 30, 2017; the Annual Report for 2016-2017 was back-door tabled on January 11, 2018 and tabled in the House on March 6, 2018; and the Annual Report for 2017-2018 was tabled on October 26, 2018.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held its hearing on the 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 annual reports of the Representative for Children and Youth on April 10, 2019. The hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery as well as being televised live across the territory.

The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

The standing committee notes its appreciation to the Representative for Children and Youth and her staff for their attendance as witnesses during the hearing as well as to the witnesses from the departments of Family Services, Health, Education and Justice for their participation and contribution to the proceedings.

The 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 annual reports of the Representative of Children and Youth include descriptions of the role of the office, the evolution of the office's advocacy work, activities over the years and a significant amount of background information. The standing committee appreciated the level of detail relating to initiatives undertaken across the territory. The 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 annual reports of the Representative for Children and Youth also raised a number of issues and concerns with respect to the delivery of government services, programs, and policies for Nunavut's children and youth.

The standing committee's hearing format allowed for a comprehensive discussion of many of these issues, with departmental representatives having the opportunity to respond to specific areas of concern and to provide further insight on their working relationship with the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth in addressing the needs of children and youth across Nunavut and towards improving service delivery.

A number of central themes emerged from the standing committee's review of the 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 annual reports of the Representative for Children and Youth. Observations and recommendations on these themes are discussed below.

Observations and Recommendations

Issue: Clarifying Child Rights

The mandate of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth is guided by its enabling legislation, the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, as well as such documents as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and National Advocacy Standards.

The Office of the Representative for Children and Youth is, by the nature of its mandate, focused on child rights and the Representative and her staff work towards ensuring that young people in Nunavut have their views heard and considered in all matters that affect their lives and to ensure that the government's services, programs, policies and legislation affecting children and youth are working to support the rights and best interests of young Nunavummiut.

The annual reports of the Representative for Children and Youth provide a number of examples of communications and outreach activities as well as community visits, in-service meetings and workshops with government agencies and school visits. The standing committee commends the Representative and her staff for their efforts in these areas.

Despite the Representative's outreach activities, standing committee members noted a lack of awareness of rights-based advocacy across Nunavut and, during the hearing, members addressed the concern that supporting the rights of children and youth may be perceived as somehow impacting the roles of adults, parents, grandparents and government authorities.

During the hearing, the Representative noted that there are some restrictions in the scope of her Office's mandate, with one of those restrictions being that the Office does not get involved in private family matters or disputes between private family members.

The Representative also noted that one of her office's biggest challenges during her term has been the "newness of introducing that concept of child rights and some of the misconceptions that are around it."

Some members of the standing committee expressed concerns that the focus on child rights may also be perceived as not taking into account the rights of parents, Elders or families as a whole. It was further suggested that discussions of what entails certain rights should also include discussions of inherent responsibilities.

In her testimony before the standing committee, the Representative stated:

“When we meet with community members, with young people, we have very important conversations around what rights are and what they are not, because there is some fear that rights mean the child can tell the parent what to do and kind of take over and those types of things, and those types of concerns. Rights are not about that and so we’re very clear in our conversations with people that the rights under the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child] are those things that young people need to meet their basic needs in life and how government provides for those.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth focus more communication and outreach efforts towards promoting the awareness of parents, grandparents and the general public about the concepts of child rights and the Office’s mandate.

Issue: Child Rights Focus

The Representative's formal opening comments identified a common trend in all of the annual reports under review:

"Year after year the largest number of issues brought to our attention pertain to the Department of Family Services; specifically, child protection."

As noted by the witness from the Department of Family Services, the department's high involvement in the cases handled by the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth is not surprising given the mandate of Family Services, which is to support children, youth and families.

Testimony provided by the Department of Family Services witness indicated:

"We do sometimes get pressure from the Representative in listening to the youth, and here is where our department may not always agree based on other information that we would have that the representative is not privy to, such as immediate family or other family situations. There is other private information.

"Although we value and accept the recommendations, the advice of the representative's office, they are very youth focused. We are family focused and also through our investigative authority, we have access to a little bit more information in certain cases. We still do value the representative's office. They speak a lot to the issues that matter the most to our department as well."

While the standing committee recognizes that work of the Representative for Children and Youth focuses predominantly on the rights of children and youth, it also recognizes that many government services focus on the rights of parents and families as well as the rights of children and youth.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth evaluate its processes for addressing advocacy cases and identify how those processes could be more holistic and make the necessary changes to better take into account the associated information and privacy restrictions faced by government service providers.

Issue: Coordination of Government Services

A consistent trend noted by the Representative for Children and Youth in all of the annual reports under review, is the inadequate coordination of care and services for Nunavut children and youth by government departments.

The *2015-2016 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth* notes on page 32:

“Too often in our individual advocacy work in 2015-2016, our staff observed that professionals from various government departments were making decisions without coordinating their efforts. Without active coordination, government support is incomplete, not timely, and, sometimes, inappropriate because vital information is not shared.”

The *2016-2017 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth* lists, on pages 19 and 20, four advocacy case samples which include narratives under the following headings:

“Lack of planning and communication with foster parents.”
“Gaps in child and youth mental health services.”
“Inadequate coordination of services.”
“Hearing and considering young people’s opinions.”

The *2017-2018 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth* notes on page 21:

“March 31, 2018, marks two and a half years that individual advocacy services have been offered by our office. Over this period of time, the lack of coordination of services between GN departments and staff continues to be one of the major barriers to young Nunavummiut and their families accessing services.”

During the standing committee hearing, members heard from government witnesses that staff turnover, staff burn out, the high transiency of government workers and a lack of resources all contribute significantly to poor coordination in the delivery of services to children and youth across Nunavut.

As noted by the Representative during her testimony before the Standing Committee,

“The communication and coordination barriers exist throughout the entirety of government in my opinion. Where we see it the most and where it’s having the biggest impact on young people is out on the frontlines, but it also exists within middle management and other areas within government organizations as well.

There is no clear understanding from service providers in terms of how they can work together to support a shared client. There are certain protocols of working together within the government, but they’re very specific to certain situations.”

During the standing committee hearing, government witnesses discussed ways in which interagency and inter-departmental working groups currently work together to provide coordinated services for youth while recognizing that complications result from such circumstances as individuals taking direction from and reporting to different regulatory bodies and different information sharing protocols. It was suggested that greater collaboration could occur in the sharing of resources and training opportunities between departments and such affiliated agencies as the RCMP to improve the government’s child and youth focus in delivering services.

During her testimony, the Representative noted further:

I think, while there are pockets of protocols within this government that relate to certain subject matters, what we’re missing is a general interdepartmental protocol for the coordination of services for young people, generally speaking. People are hesitant without that good direction from government to work together because of professional obligations with respect to the maintenance of confidentiality, with respect to client information, with respect to upholding our own professional standards and the uncertainty of where this government sits with respect to the exchange of that information when services need to be coordinated for young people.”

In the absence of a comprehensive interdepartmental protocol for the coordination of services for young people, the standing committee commends the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth for its work in facilitating communication, information sharing and making connections between departmental service providers in order to achieve positive results for the children and youth receiving advocacy support through her office. To this end, the standing committee fully supports the recent establishment of communication protocols between the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth and the departments of the Government of Nunavut.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that in the spirit of piliriqatigiinniq (working together for a common cause) and aajiiqatigiinniq (decision making through discussion and consensus) the Government of Nunavut work towards establishing a comprehensive interdepartmental protocol for the coordination of government services for young people across Nunavut.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report, indicate which Ministry will take the lead in developing the interdepartmental communication protocol regarding services for children and youth and what will be the timeline will be for its implementation.

Issue: Lack of Resources

In her formal opening comments to the standing committee, the Representative stated that:

“Through our work on these cases, we have grown extremely concerned about the weakness of the current system to support vulnerable children and families in need of protection and care. There is a notable lack of investment in the area of family supports and prevention based initiatives.”

The standing committee learned that a number of initiatives have been undertaken by government departments to address specific identified gaps in service for children and youth as well as families. However, it was also clear that resources and the capacity to deliver child and youth focused programs are limited.

Key service areas identified as needing further investment included: child protection, foster supports, educational assessments, psychiatric and psychological services, child focused counselling, training in youth criminal justice options and rehabilitation services.

In her testimony before the standing committee, the Representative noted that:

“I think it’s fair to say that our office and the department [of Family Services] are on the same page with respect to concerns raised around capacity within the department. As Ms. Niego clearly identified, one of the issues, and we are in agreement with that, is that the social services workforce in Nunavut are generalists, so there’s no specialty. The variety, not just the caseload that they carry, but the variety of cases can be quite complex.

There’s definitely, from our perspective, a couple of things that we see the department doing and are really great signs, but there’s definitely additional significant investment that needs to be dedicated to this department.”

As noted by the witness for the Department of Family Services, business cases put forward by the department for additional funding have suffered from the lack of data and information. It is anticipated that the department’s new electronic case management system will provide the necessary data to support the development of stronger business cases going into the future.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide an explanation of what specific factors have led to a lack of resources being allocated to child and youth services and indicate what specific new investments will be included in upcoming budget allocations that will be dedicated to supporting comprehensive child and youth services across Government of Nunavut departments.

Issue: Supporting Inuit Culture, Language and Societal Values

In her formal opening comments to the standing committee, the Representative stated that:

“Over these years we have seen the percentage of Inuit working in our organization gradually increase from 38 percent to 50 percent. Our organization’s goal is to reach 63 percent Inuit employment in the upcoming years and to ultimately create a workforce that is representative of the population we serve. As an organization, we have also made a significant investment in building the language capacity of our staff by encouraging and supporting nine Inuktitut language training requests for both Inuit and non-Inuit staff. We look forward to continuing to support our staff as they advance their language skills over the upcoming years.”

The *2017-2018 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth* introduces her Office’s Elder Advisors and notes on pages 13 and 16 that:

“Elders offer invaluable wisdom and perspective based on lived experiences and cultural teachings. To incorporate this knowledge into our work, the RCYO works with five Elder advisors from across the territory. Our Elder advisors are well-respected in their home communities and considered experts in Inuit culture and societal values, and firmly believe that this knowledge has a role to play in improving programs and services for children and youth.”

The standing committee commends the Representative for her efforts towards ensuring Inuit representation in her office and respecting Inuit Societal Values. However, standing committee members continue to have concerns regarding the Office’s ability to provide services across all Nunavut communities. The standing committee encourages the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth to continue working towards increasing its capacity to deliver services in the Inuit language.

Standing committee members further expressed concerns regarding the lack of linguistically and culturally relevant services provided to children and youth who may be placed in care outside of Nunavut.

In her testimony to the standing committee, the Representative indicated:

“Our office absolutely supports young people from Nunavut who have to leave the territory in order to receive services. So if it’s a child or a youth whose home base is here in the territory and they can’t be provided with the services by a given department and are sent out, then we can absolutely support them. The support might look a little differently because our legislation isn’t allowed, our law here isn’t allowed to cross the border, when that young person crosses the border, so it looks a little bit differently.

Rather than dealing directly with a service provider on the ground, a third party that's delivering services on behalf of the GN, we still work with the GN, the department back here on the ground to obtain information and updates and work on the file."

While the standing committee recognizes that the Representative's jurisdiction lies within the borders of Nunavut and the Office's work focuses on services provided by the Government of Nunavut, members were of the view that greater effort must be made to support Nunavut children and youth who are receiving government services outside of Nunavut.

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that in the spirit of aajiqatigiinniq (decision making through discussion and consensus) the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth work closely with Government of Nunavut officials and counterparts in other jurisdictions to find more ways to ensure that linguistically and culturally relevant support is provided to Nunavut children and youth who may end up in care outside of the territory.

The standing committee further recommends that the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth consider developing a process to monitor the services provided to Nunavut children and youth who are in care outside of the territory.

Issue: Annual Reports

The *Representative for Children and Youth Act* provides that the Representative shall, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly an annual report on the conduct of the office and the discharge of her duties during the preceding year.

The standing committee notes that the annual reports of the Representative of Children and Youth have consistently been tabled after the deadline specified in the legislation, with two annual reports being tabled over a year later. While the standing committee recognizes that such factors as translation, formatting and production all contribute to the delay in producing such reports, such lengthy delays are highly undesirable.

The standing committee is also somewhat concerned that little effort appears to have been made to take into consideration the comments made by the 4th Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations and Public Accounts regarding the format and production of the Representative's annual reports.

As indicated by the 4th Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations and Public Accounts following its review of the Representative's 2014-2015 annual report, the timely submission of annual reports ensures that their review can be conducted in a timely manner. In its Report on the Review of the Representative's Annual Report for 2014-2015, the Committee indicated;

“While pleasing to the eye, the heavy use of photographic and artistic images in reports and other such documents often involves additional production time, increased costs and requires the type of printing services that are often not available locally, leading to additional expense and potential delays in shipping and transportation. In the interest of saving time and cost, the Committee encourages the Representative to place greater emphasis on the substantive content of her annual reports.”

It should also be kept in mind that the Office of the Representative of Children and Youth receives annual funding from the Legislative Assembly and its annual reports are not only a means of accounting for past expenditures but can also be a means of providing data and information in support of requests for additional resources.

In her formal opening comments to the standing committee and throughout the hearing, the Representative provided additional statistics and detailed information on her Office's progress on advocacy cases that had been opened by her Office. This additional information was not included in the annual report.

In her testimony before the standing committee, the Representative noted:

“By the end of 2017-18 we opened 200 individual advocacy cases. We closed 151 of those, and of the 151, 122 have been successfully resolved. How do we close a case? The 122 that were closed, they’re closed under the category of successful resolution, so that means that the issue that was brought forward to our attention has been dealt with and addressed to our satisfaction, and we are ready to close that case. We can also close cases under other categories.

For instance: unable to contact. Of the 151, 16 cases were closed because we were unable to contact the client that we were working with and this can happen for a wide array of reasons. Our staff wait 20 business days and are required to make at least three contacts and be unable to reach the person for three attempts before they close. So those are not closed quickly by our office.

Another reason that we will close a case is because the client may decline advocacy services and that can happen right at the onset or it can happen at any point in the advocacy file. We have discussions with the client but ultimately it is their decision if they choose to close the advocacy file and decline further services.

The fourth reason that we would close a case... . Sorry, I’m going to backup for one second. Declining services accounts for four cases of the 151 that have been closed. The fourth and final reason is that all advocacy avenues have been exhausted by our office and no resolution has been attained, and that accounts for nine cases of the 151 that have been closed.”

It is the view of the committee that such data and information should be included within the annual reports to demonstrate specific and measurable outcomes of the Office’s individual advocacy work.

It was further noted that although the annual reports of the Representative for Children and Youth provided very comprehensive overviews of the Office’s work on systemic advocacy issues, little detail was included with respect to which specific systemic issues had been identified, how they had been addressed, what recommendations had been made to government departments to improve services to Nunavut’s children and youth and what, if any, improvements have been made as a result of the Office’s recommendations.

In her testimony before the standing committee, the Representative stated:

“First of all, with respect to monitoring, it’s the systemic team’s responsibility for monitoring in our office. They not only house all the systemic issues, conduct the investigations, but then they also hold responsibility for monitoring. All recommendations that are produced by our office, all formal recommendations, are documented in their database and it is their responsibility to ensure the office is kept abreast when updates are due and whatnot.”

The standing committee is of the view that information about the Office’s formal recommendations to departments of the Government of Nunavut should also be included in the Office’s annual reports in order that the members can follow up and ensure that they are being taken into consideration by the government.

Standing Committee Recommendation #6:

The standing committee recommends that the Representative for Children and Youth ensure that the Office’s annual reports are tabled within the deadline specified by the legislation, using whatever means necessary to shorten production times including simplifying the report’s presentation.

The standing committee further recommends that the annual reports of the Representative for Children and Youth include more specific data and information on its individual advocacy work that could be used to measure and evaluate the progress and success of the Office’s work.

The standing committee further recommends that the annual reports of the Representative for Children and Youth include more specific detail on the Office’s systemic advocacy work including any related advice or recommendations provided by the Office.

In her testimony before the standing committee, the Representative did commit to providing the standing committee with copies of her letters to the departments of Community and Government Services, Education and Family Services with respect to her observations on the implementation of recommendations made by the Auditor General of Canada. The committee continues to look forward to receiving those documents.