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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Quttiktuq)
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Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

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(Kugluktuk)

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*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
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Energy Corporation*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

Hon. George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
Management Board; Minister of Health;
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

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responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

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(South Baffin)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, October 24, 2019

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaermerk, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Cathy Towntongie.

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): As we begin our meeting, I will say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 300 – 5(2): Wolf Sample Collection**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People of Arviat, I say "good day" to you. I will see you again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the wolf sample collection program has expanded. Following on a successful first season in the Kitikmeot, it will now include the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk.

>>Applause

As part of the support for active harvesters, it provides \$300 per wolf to hunters who supply kill information and samples from their harvest to our wildlife offices.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the harvesters who have helped us so far. Fifty-two hunters harvested 146 wolves in the Kitikmeot region during the 2018-19 season. Kugluktuk hunters harvested 101 wolves and other communities took 45. This program has been a success. I encourage all hunters to take part in this program.

Effectively managing our responsibility to the land, animals, and environment is essential. This program and research will help us do that in the spirit of *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Minister's Statement 301 – 5(2): Full-time Justice of the Peace

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Mr. William McNair to the position of full-time Justice of the Peace for Nunavut.

Mr. McNair brings with him four years of experience practising law in Nunavut. Prior to his appointment, Mr. McNair had practised criminal law with

[Maliiganik] Tukisiiniakvik legal aid clinic in Iqaluit since 2015. Before that he worked as a criminal defence lawyer in Toronto for several years.

Mr. McNair was appointed upon recommendation of the Justices of the Peace [Appointment] and Remuneration Committee, a committee made up of the Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice and several community members.

Mr. Speaker, as a full-time, legally trained Justice of the Peace, Mr. McNair will hear matters in the Nunavut Court of Justice under various federal and territorial statutes, including the *Criminal Code of Canada*. He will also provide direction and advice to the other Justices of the Peace in the territory and will assist in ensuring the delivery of training programs to the Justices of the Peace.

The appointment of Mr. McNair to this position will improve access to justice for Nunavummiut and will help ensure a faster and more efficient functioning of the court system.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues of the legislature, please join me in congratulating Mr. William McNair in his new role as Justice of the Peace for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 302 – 5(2):
Uqutaq Society's Transitional
Housing Initiatives**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to stand in the House as Acting Minister responsible for Homelessness (interpretation ends) to highlight for my colleagues the Uqutaq Society's transitional housing initiative for men.

Recently the society secured funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Co-Investment Fund to open Nunavut's first transitional housing initiative. The transitional housing will serve as a bridge between the homeless shelter and permanent, stable housing by offering supports, such as mental health and addictions programming, life skills building, tenancy education, and pre-employment training.

The existing Uqutaq Homeless Shelter will move to buildings 1077 and 1079 and will accommodate up to 60 men and offer both shelter services and new transitional housing services. Although the buildings will not be ready until spring 2020, the Uqutaq Society is already working with clients to determine their needs and develop programming.

Mr. Speaker, my acting department has been working closely with the Uqutaq Society in order to establish the transitional housing in Iqaluit.

In fiscal year 2019-2020 the department contributed \$200,000 towards the purchase of the buildings. In addition to this, the department, through the Poverty Reduction Division, will continue to provide ongoing operations and maintenance funding to the shelter and support to the shelter in terms of its governance and administration.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend all of those involved in the establishment of this important initiative for their invaluable contribution in this community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements.
Minister responsible for Education,
Minister Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 303 – 5(2):
School Liaison Training**

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues in the House and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education provided training during the fall school liaison cross-training in Iqaluit from October 19 to 20. This event is the result of a partnership between the Nunavut Teachers Association and my department.

Mr. Speaker, each year the Nunavut Teachers Association members of each school elect a professional development liaison and a communication liaison. Every two years these elected individuals gather in Iqaluit for cross-training in both of those roles as well as one and a half days of training provided by the Department of Education.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this year the training my department is providing includes the Indigenous Cultural Competency workshop delivered by the Quality of Life Secretariat of the Department of Health, as well as the trauma-informed practice workshop and the "Our Children, Our Responsibility"

workshop delivered by the Embrace Life Council.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that educators are receiving relevant made-in-Nunavut training that enhances work with students. I want to thank our Educator Development Division and the Nunavut Teachers Association for making this training happen.

Mr. Speaker, "Safe and Caring Schools" has been a strong theme in all our training this year. To have our partner, the Nunavut Teachers Association, join in with our initiatives in this area is a testament to our shared commitment to making the teaching profession the first choice for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. I would like to make a slight correction on my behalf, as I indicated minister for. With the correction, I would like to say, "Minister of Education." Thank you.

Continuing with Ministers' Statements.
Minister of Health, Minister Hickeys.

**Minister's Statement 304 – 5(2): Inuit
Employment**

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of our foundational commitments as a government has been to provide employment and development opportunities for Inuit in Nunavut. The Department of Health continues to make strides in achieving this objective, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the progress made thus far.

Mr. Speaker and members, efforts are currently underway to make the job application process more accessible for all Inuit applicants. Multiple positions have been identified for restricted competitions to improve the hiring process for Inuit. There is also a territory-wide update and standardization of job descriptions being completed and the development of a standardized orientation package so that we can ensure greater degrees of consistency throughout the hiring process.

Mr. Speaker and members, Health has hosted career fairs in several communities this year, raising awareness on health promotion, protection, and the employment opportunities that exist within the department. To date Health has had 15 successful direct appointments in 2019 and is continuing to target positions for Inuit employment.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also thrilled to share that Health's Educational Upgrade Program, designed to provide education opportunities to Inuit employees, continues to be a success. This year 11 Inuit health employees graduated from the Native Education and Training College in Ontario with either a one-year certificate or a two-year diploma, and five of these diploma graduates have gone on to pursue a distance bachelor's program at Royal Roads University.

>> *Applause*

I agree. Mr. Speaker, we applaud the graduates and wish the best for those who are continuing their academic journey.

Mr. Speaker, currently of Health's 788

positions, 388 are filled by Inuit, roughly 50 percent. Through both our development programs and our recruitment initiatives, Health is committed to ensuring that all Inuit with the skill set and desire to work in our department have access to job opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 305 – 5(2):
Premier's Summer Meetings 2019**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to speak about my participation at several important meetings over the summer.

Mr. Speaker, on June 13 and 14 I participated in the Northern Premiers' Forum in Dawson City, Yukon. This meeting was hosted by Premier Sandy Silver. We discussed the state of the north, infrastructure, and murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, as well as our shared vision for the territories.

From June 26 and 27 I was in Edmonton, Alberta, where Premier Jason Kenney hosted the Western Premiers' Forum. Topics of importance included market access and economic corridors, as well as responsible resource development and climate change.

Finally, I attended the summer meetings of Canada's Premiers on July 9 to 11 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where discussions focused on climate change,

mental health and additions, internal and international trade, and strengthening the Arctic.

I was sad to miss Nunavut Day here in the territory, but I was honoured to be with the nation's indigenous leaders at Big River First Nation that day. Premiers and leaders were happy to wear their Nunavut Day sunglasses and to wave Nunavut flags to help me celebrate from afar.

Mr. Speaker, these meetings allow me to inform my colleagues of Nunavut's urgent needs and realities and discuss areas of mutual concern and interest. I am passionate about promoting our territory, our culture, our language, our vision, and our needs in helping the other jurisdictions understand reconciliation and nation-building. I aim to inform my colleagues on the disparity between our jurisdictions. These meetings are an important opportunity to share information and create a shared understanding of how important it is that we reach the same standard as all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working collaboratively with my colleagues to build mutually beneficial relationships between our governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. I have no more names for Ministers' Statements. I wish to advise members that the Member for Aggu, MLA Quassa, is not present today due to illness. Also, the Member for Tununiq, Mr. Qamaniq, will not be present due to illness.

Continuing on. Members' Statements.
Member for Uqqummiut, MLA
Pauloosie Keyootak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 453 – 5(2): 2019 School Graduates of Clyde River

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my sincerest pride. As we all know, kindergarteners have graduation ceremonies, which is a source of pride.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into my statement, I say "good day" to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq who are listening to and watching the proceedings.

I apologize in advance if I mispronounce the names of the kindergarten graduates of Clyde River this spring. I may mispronounce some of their names and I apologize for that first of all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the following kindergarten graduates this spring:

- Mavis Amagoalik
- Benjamin Apak
- Diamond Arreak
- Taylor Johnny Joanas
- Erica Kautuq
- Levi Kuniliusee
- Ashevak Palituq
- Inuujakuluk Qillaq
- Tammy Tassugat
- Blade Tigullaraq
- Rocky Tigullaraq
- Franky Angutikjuak
- Lee Solomon Apak
- Lyndsey Aqqiaruq
- Lucas Arnakak

- Elise Iqakjuak
- Hilory Kuniliusee
- Shane Poisey
- Sharaleen Qaqqasiq
- Robin Qillaq
- Serena Wilton

These are the kindergarten graduates from Clyde River. I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

**Member's Statement 454 – 5(2):
Public Housing Rent Scale**

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet and to my husband’s fellow “Good Inuk” and our esteemed elder, Alice Kingmeatok, along with people of Chesterfield Inlet and to my *anikuluk*, Louis Autut, if you happened to be listening in.

I rise today to again address the issue of the public housing rent scale in Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am going to make three basic points today to explain why I believe that the Nunavut Housing Corporation needs to undertake a formal review of the public housing rent scale.

The first point that I want to make concerns the question of how effective the current public housing scale has been in achieving its objectives.

Mr. Speaker, when the current public

housing rent scale was announced back in 2013, the government of the day stated that its goal was to “reduce [disincentives] to employment and support the goals of poverty reduction.”

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the mining and job boom in the Keewatin is having a profound impact on our communities.

I have had many conversations with constituents on the topic of the rent scale, and I believe that the time has come to take another look at it because I am not convinced that it is encouraging people to seek work. Because of the public housing rent scale, some people do not want to work.

Mr. Speaker, the second point that I want to make concerns the issue of fairness. In some cases I have heard that residents living in old units that are in poor condition may be paying the same rent as residents living in new units of the same size.

I recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation may now be taking some ad hoc measures to address this, and I applaud the corporation for its efforts. However, I want to emphasize the need for a formal review of the issue.

I would like to continue my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

The last point concerns fairness.

The most recently tabled annual report of the Nunavut Housing Corporation reveals that over 300 public housing tenants are income earners making over \$100,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a relatively small percentage of the total number of tenants, but I believe that we should look at ways of changing the rent scale to encourage high-income earners to become homeowners. If even a couple of hundred high-income earners moved out of public housing, two people, that would free up units for people in greater need, such as mothers in shacks or cabins.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to raise this issue of housing rental scale during our term of office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 455 – 5(2):
Recognizing Volunteer Organizers
of Pangnirtung Music Festival**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I say “good day” to the people of Pangnirtung who are able to watch the proceedings. There are strong winds in Pangnirtung, so some residents don't have power at this time.

I would also like to recognize an annual event that takes place in Pangnirtung and it was successful again this year. The event took place from August 8 to 11. The volunteers organize the event and they fundraise through the music festival. First of all, I would like to

recognize the committee:

- Billy Etooangat
- Matthew Nauyuq
- Anne Cecile
- Rosie Kilabuk
- George Qaqasiq
- Tim Evic
- Malaya Oshoweetok
- Jacqueline Qaqasiq

Many people went to Pangnirtung and local residents also partook in the event. The performers at the music festival in Pangnirtung are:

- Janice Parsons and Sandy Emudluk
- Jerry Laisa
- Lucien Taleriktok
- Tooma and Jerry Lee
- Hyper T
- Northern Haze

A local youth church group also participated in the event, which comprises of Amanda Ishulutaq, Emilia Evic and Alaana Sowdluapik, Joey Nowyuk, Ben Qaqasiq, Simeonie Keenainak, Tim and the Band, Malaya Oshoweetok, and Steven Nowdlak.

The sponsors which made the festival possible were the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, the Department of Health, the Department of Culture and Heritage, the First Nations Bank, the Inuit Co-op, the Amaruq High School Council, and the residents of Pangnirtung who participated in the fundraising events.

I would like to recognize and congratulate them for the successful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 456 – 5(2):
Marine Safety**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Netsilik.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an incident that occurred recently in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago a hunter reported spotting a dead bowhead whale approximately 100 kilometres from Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, the cause of the marine mammal's death was unclear to the hunter, and the incident was widely discussed in the community and on [social] media.

It is not clear if this is connected in any way to the grounding last year of a cruise ship in the same area and the release of contaminants into the water. It is also not clear if the death is perhaps related to a more recent collision with a marine vessel in the area.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, a cruise ship ran aground approximately 78 nautical miles northwest of Kugaaruk on the morning of August 24, 2018. A quantity of fuel oil was released into the environment.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the federal Transportation Safety Board indicates that the investigation into this incident is now at the “report phase.”

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it has been approximately two years and now they are finally in the reporting phase.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my constituents are concerned about protecting the purity of our ocean waters and the safety of our marine mammals.

Although we are not opposed to the economic benefits that increased marine traffic and tourism might bring to our communities, we are deeply concerned that safety regulations keep up with the changes.

Mr. Speaker, as usual, I will have appropriate questions at the appropriate time for the appropriate minister.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

**Member's Statement 457 – 5(2):
Recognizing Rhoda Angutimarik
Recinos of Arctic Fresh**

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

I rise today to congratulate an individual from my riding who owns a company called Arctic Fresh. I would like to congratulate Rhoda Angutimarik Recinos. She was also recognized in an event in the spring for providing nutritious food in the north. She was also recognized again on October 23 in Toronto at a nationwide event for providing nutritious food in the north.

I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rhoda, and I urge my fellow residents of Amittuq to look at

the possible economic ventures. I will fully support you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 458 – 5(2):
Financial Management of Public
Funds**

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

Mr. Speaker, we all know that expenditures are very high within the government. As Members of the Legislative Assembly we repeatedly talk about the fiscal constraints. We tell people that we want to build houses, but we don't have enough money; we could increase the number of teachers, but we don't have enough money; we could build another elders facility, but we don't have enough money.

From what I understand, financial management is the foundation of good governance. If I understood it correctly, if government employees aren't exercising sound financial management, then we can't have a proper government. What I talked about yesterday in the House was a cost increase of \$80 million. I am very concerned about financial management within the government.

When Nunavut was created in 1999, we had a huge discussion about money at

that time. Twenty years have passed and we are still in the same situation. I don't know if it is financial mismanagement or what happened. The Minister of CGS indicated yesterday that there was an increase of \$80 million in May 2019. Subsequent to that I don't know what happened within the divisions of the Department of Finance. That's what I would like to find out.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am very interested in the chain of accountability and the chain of events that followed an \$80 million cost increase to a major capital project under this government. I will have questions for the Minister of Finance at the appropriate time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ministers' Statements.
Minister for Aivilik, Minister Netser.
Members' Statements. Sorry.

**Member's Statement 459 – 5(2):
Recognizing Chase Harron, a
Hockey Player from Coral
Harbour**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a person from Coral Harbour who is 15 years old. Chase Harron went down to Maple Ridge in British Columbia to go play hockey and attend a hockey camp. He is down there playing in an AAA hockey league. He is very good and was recognized previously. As you may recall, last year Nunavummiut went to play hockey in Edmonton, Alberta. He

was recognized for his abilities at that event. He is playing hockey and getting trained.

At only 15 years old, he gets home sick, but his parents are always encouraging him that it will pass and the home sickness will pass. He spends a lot of time down there now. I would like to express my pride in him. He will likely be the next Jordin Tootoo in the NHL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride in him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. My apologies. Members' Statements. Continuing on. I have no further names for Members' Statements. Continuing on. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to warmly welcome Joanasie Akumalik. Many people know him and I try to represent him. He is a city councillor and he is running again in the election. I know that about Joanasie. Please feel welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. MLA for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy today as I think my colleagues will be easy on me

because my sister is here.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) You can stand up.

(interpretation) My sister grew up in Arviat as well but lives in Iqaluit now, in Apex. Her husband, Bart, and sons Victor and Alex are living in Iqaluit now too. I am proud of her as she is a doctor.

>> *Applause*

The Minister of Education would be happy if I told him that she was trained in Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

I encourage the people of Nunavut to get into the health field. Those who are interested, she is one of the people you would be working with. She is fluent in Inuktitut and English, and she is a doctor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery.

>> *Laughter*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Uqhuqturmiut, good afternoon.

She has already been recognized, and I would like to say a very big "thank you" to her for looking after me last weekend when I ended up in the hospital. I publicly say "thank you very much" to the doctor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my husband, Andrew Nakashuk, is here. He is here for a meeting and I would like to welcome him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Okay. Continuing on with our agenda.
Oral Questions. Member for Rankin
Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms.
Towtongie.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 622 – 5(2): Model of Care Review

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health's model of care review has been mentioned a number of times in this House. However, we have yet to see a copy of the report and its findings.

Can the minister give us an overview of what specific aspects of health care, service delivery, staffing and other issues that are addressed in the model of care report and, if he cannot, will he commit to tabling the report for members to review and read? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health,
Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken about this report a number of times and I have been reviewing it and going over the details of the report, and there are some structural positives in the report. It talks more... How do I put it? It talks more about the framework of health provision in the territory, of what services we are providing in the territory, what services we rely upon out-of-territory care. I am working with the department on getting the report translated so that I can share it with members. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment. However, like my colleague from Arviat North-Whale Cove, the shortage of nurses in our community health centres is an issue, as in many communities around Nunavut, particularly in Rankin Inlet with the forced growth of the mine. The lack of health care staff is an ongoing concern, and we like the professional health care staff. I'm not putting them down in any way, but I'm worried about burnt out health care staff.

I would like to question the minister: can the minister provide an update as to what specific steps are currently being taken to address the shortage of nursing staff at the Rankin Inlet Health Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about in-territory health care, especially with the staffing side of things, we are working, for example, with Nunavut Arctic College for our Nursing Program. We've got different programs that we are anticipating for addictions and trauma counselling. We work very closely with a number of our partners to promote health care as an industry. As we have a Nunavut doctor here in the House today, Mr. Speaker, it's an ideal moment to bring up this topic.

We work very diligently with our recruitment office. We have been very successful, especially with our physician recruiting, and we've had a number of successes with our nurse recruiting as well too. We are challenged not only from the competitiveness of other jurisdictions in the country but from the financial reward of pay scales. A recent discussion that I had with some of my staff is the rate of pay for a nurse practitioner in Ontario versus Nunavut. The actual top end of the scale in Ontario is higher than here in Nunavut. We have to compete against those different pressing issues, and I'm not making excuses because our nurse recruitment team and our physician recruitment team are working very hard.

I talked the other day about how difficult it is to fill health care positions during summer months and holiday seasons. We are planning further and further in advance to fill these. I was speaking very recently during a tour of the QGH and I spoke to the young lady that looks after the physician recruitment, and I believe I alluded to it a little bit in here, where the physician visits are going to the communities and there are all these

different coloured tags on the map and how they're planning things out close to a year in advance.

Our team is doing a lot of work to promote health care positions in the territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry but I'll say this in English. (interpretation ends) The model of care report, there was no mention of providing a formula to determine staffing requirements at our community health centres.

Can the minister clearly explain if there is specific methodology his department currently follows, if there is any, to determine the number of health care staff required at any given health care centre in order to adequately and safely meet the needs and demands for health care services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, there is not a current formula. That is one of the issues that I was really looking forward to getting fleshed out and we are doing that now on our own. We are looking at different models of health practitioner make-up of health centres. Again, I alluded to it a little bit the other day. It is still an ongoing discussion. We are looking at different models internally before we start making some decisions and bringing forward options for funding for those models and positions. Unfortunately I can't share any

information right now, as we haven't come to our conclusions yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 623 – 5(2): Concerns with Medical Travel

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health.

The airlines have a contract with the Government of Nunavut to provide medical travel for patients who cannot get the treatment needed in their communities. Patients from my region go to either Yellowknife or Edmonton and returning home would be the same route. You either overnight in Yellowknife or go direct through to their communities. Sometimes they would have to fly back to Yellowknife because of either poor weather or mechanical. Anything happens.

My first question to the minister is: when being rebooked, are the patients on a priority list on the next available flight? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, how do I put this? This is one of the things that circumstances kind of beyond our control of increasing health costs, especially with the medical travel. Our medical patients do have priority when they're going to their appointment. They do not have priority going in from their appointment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why I asked this question is we had an elder who was travelling with his granddaughter all the way from Edmonton and having heart condition problems. The patient wants to go home right away to go back to the family.

With the merger of airlines, would the Government of Nunavut ensure that patients do have first priority for medical travel, especially when returning home? Again, they really want to go home. Would the government be able to ensure that they do get first priority to get home right away? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can continue to bring this issue up with our regular scheduled meetings that we have with our contractors. Mr. Speaker, I want our patients to go home as soon as possible too. Every day that they spend on travel costs the Government of Nunavut additional funds. Our priority is to get people home as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, that being said, it's not a current condition of our contract. We negotiated the billeting to be able to prioritize our medical travel passengers going to their appointment, which is obviously a very critical time frame to make sure that the appointment obligations are met, but I will and we will continue to bring up how maybe the airlines would be able to voluntarily accommodate requests on a maybe circumstantial basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It might not be a question; just a comment. With all the overcrowding in our facilities, this would make sure that they don't sleep in the living room or TV room. It would sure help if they were given the first priority to get home on the next available flight. It's just a comment to make sure that the government ensures that they do get home as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do acknowledge that it was a comment and I appreciate the Speaker's indulgence to allow me to agree with my colleague.

I think it's a very important component of the whole system overall. We want our residents at home where supports and everything are in place, but I do want to use the member's example. When a flight departs, the boarding homes are anticipating those people not to come back. The planning and everything around that can create a lot of stress for the boarding home infrastructure. We do acknowledge that and we're continuously working with our contractors to work around solutions.

If twenty people who left that morning show back up in the evening and those rooms were given out, it puts a lot of pressure on the boarding homes and the planning. We do a lot of planning with the boarding homes on when our specialists come in to access different levels of health care. When weather or a flight challenge throws a monkey

wrench into that, it can be very complicated, but we do continue and we will continue to do our best to make sure that our patients get home as fast as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk.

Question 624 – 5(2): Mould Infestation and Remediation

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and they again concern the issue of mould, which I brought up on many occasions in this House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in July of this year the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals for a new mould management plan. My understanding is that the contract was awarded in August of this year. In this request for proposals, "Targeted mould remediation projects have taken place in 2017 and 2018 in communities throughout the territory. Additional projects will be undertaken in 2019."

Can the minister confirm how many housing units underwent mould remediation this year in the communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mould in our housing units is a large concern

(interpretation ends) and we take it very seriously. (interpretation) When we are informed by the communities about housing units that have mould, I immediately inform my deputy head, Terry Audla, President of the Housing Corporation, and we get started on them right away. We are concerned and our tenants should not be in mouldy houses. With regard to his question as to how many units underwent mould remediation in Igloolik and Hall Beach, I don't have the number with me today. I apologize. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, maybe the minister can inform us of how many units have been remediated, not only in my riding but in all of Nunavut.

My second question relates to what the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet talked about on October 21, which is rent scales. I would like to ask the minister: can the people who live in mouldy units have their rents lowered? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also appreciate getting those questions. I feel for them, Mr. Speaker. I was also a tenant at one time, though that was quite a while ago, and I feel for them with our cost of living in Nunavut being extremely high, especially if you have children. Rent is really high, so I would like to review this for tenants in our housing units. I'm saying today that I

will get a review done on how we can make improvements. With the units that are being rented that are too old or dilapidated, we look at the rent scale and lower them. As I was saying at the witness table, we already do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know this will not be completed overnight in order to be carefully reviewed. People living in mouldy units are a safety issue, especially when they have children and they get rashes and it can be passed on to another person. I would like this addressed for the tenants, whether they have a job or not. I think the rent should be lowered if they live in a mouldy unit. What you are doing as the housing corporation can have an impact on Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, what I would now like to ask is if the housing corporation can inform us when the mould remediation will be completed on the housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot say exactly when the work will be done. As I said, it is only when we are informed of mould that we deal with it. Last year in 2018-19 we spent \$5 million on mould remediation. The work is ongoing. As I stated earlier, as soon as we hear which units have mould, we start work on them right away. LHOs are informed of the house number which has mould that needs to be dealt with and LHO staff have been trained to deal with mould.

The work is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 625 – 5(2): Support for Released Inmates

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Justice.

We all know that people from any Nunavut community are incarcerated at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Even though they don't want to go there, they have no choice but to go there when they break the law. Some of them have mental health issues or substance abuse issues.

However, my question is: while they are incarcerated, what types of support do they receive through counselling if they have substance abuse or mental health issues? What types of support do they receive while they are incarcerated? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

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

The Department of Justice offers programming in all of our facilities to prepare inmates to reintegrate them back into their communities. At the Baffin Correctional Centre we offer 11 programs for inmates who are at the Baffin correctional facility and those

programs are: substance abuse program, elder counselling, Inuit cultural skills program, town crew which is held here in Iqaluit, life skills program, alternatives to violence, anger management, [Inunnguiniq] parenting program, [Pilimmaksarniq] education program; InsideOut – SMART Recovery teaches inmates to problem solve and improve relationships, with a primary emphasis on addictions and recovery; there is a maintenance program and recreational programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for providing information on the available programs at the institution and the elders that provide help to inmates.

My question is: can the minister clarify whether her department monitors the counselling services provided to released inmates and, if so, (interpretation ends) what tracking system do they have to ensure that it is effective to the inmates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get the last part of the question, but I'm going to try to answer your question. All inmates are entitled to these programs, but we can't force them to attend these programs. It's up to the individuals themselves, but we encourage all of our inmates to participate in these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for pointing that out. Of course inmates want support and I have heard in the past that inmates start having more anger when they are released and we don't want them angrier when they are released.

(interpretation ends) I guess my final question will be: will the minister ensure that adequate counselling and support services are made available to the inmates who are released from jail? As well as, like she stated, preparing to be released, they need more mental health support prior to their release. I'm asking the minister if they will ensure that they have a good tracking system to ensure those programs are successful.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. We do have support services for our inmates who are reintegrated or released back into the community. We have community justice outreach workers in every community. When an inmate is released back into their community, the community justice outreach worker will contact them and ask them, "Is there anything we can help you with? Is there any further counselling you need? Is there anything that we would be able to help you with?" so it is easier to reintegrate back into their community so that they never come back into our facilities again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 626 – 5(2): Increased Cost to Capital Project

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

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Finance in his role as the Chair of the Financial Management Board.

Mr. Speaker, based on the exchange yesterday in the House I had with the Minister for Community and Government Services, in May 2019 the Department of CGS learned that there was going to be approximately an \$80 million cost escalation increase in their fiber optic project.

My question for the minister is: in terms of the Financial Management Board, what specific processes and actions took place following the notification from the department that there was an \$80 million cost increase to the ongoing capital project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the question from the member. It allows me to frame out the process. When the original appropriation was brought forward under Vote 4 funding for the marine survey to be completed, it was funded by the federal government to lead out this project. Again, as members are aware, the project was brought forward as part

of our capital estimates and then the monies were approved to go into the next phase.

At that time when the marine survey came in, the Department of Community and Government Services brought it back to the FMB with the recognition that the cost estimates were underestimated. The federal government has upped their contribution to the project. As the GN we are not on the hook for \$80 million; we're on the hook for our 25 percent of that. We will, at some time down the road in future fiscal years, be looking at additional funds to complete out this project. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't believe I received an answer in terms of my question.

I understand that there is a perception that when the federal government is footing the bill, we're getting a good deal because we only have to pay 25 percent. I know that seems to be the M.O. within the government, but at the end of the day those funds were already under a signed funding agreement. They were available, 75 percent of that \$80 million, that money was available for other projects. To say that we are only the hook for a quarter of that cost increase, I believe, is a bit confusing. Whether it's federal dollars, whether it's Government of Nunavut dollars, at the end of the day it's all supposed to be going to help the people of our territory.

I'll ask the same question again. When this cost increase of \$80 million came

through, came to the Financial Management Board from the Department of CGS, what specific processes and actions followed that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I'm a little confused. Once the FMB has approved to move forward with a project, the money is allocated to the department to proceed with the project. I'm not sure what other process is in there. Once the department gets allocated the funds through the FMB and then through the House, the project moves forward. That's the process. Thank you.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I guess that does partly show why I'm concerned. I believe that we should have processes in place to protect against this type of cost escalation.

Here's a specific example: FAM Directive No. 302, section 4.3.2 states, "When a department makes any adjustment to a capital project, which significantly affects the scope (\$100,000 or 20% of the project budget, whichever is greater) or timing (e.g., a year or more delay) of the project, the responsible Minister shall advise the impacted MLA(s), other members of the Regular Members' Caucus, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and the Secretary to FMB."

My final question for the minister is: was this directive followed with regard

to this fibre optic cost escalation?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only speak as chair of the FMB and that process was followed.

With regard to the rest of the notifications, you would have to direct that question to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 627 – 5(2): Liquor Legislation

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. My questions are again for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's question period I must say the minister kind of shocked me by revealing that the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission does not seem to take any responsibility in helping to enforce court-ordered restrictions on alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, sections 87 and 104 of the current *Liquor Act* deal with the issue of "interdicted persons" who are under order to not possess or consume liquor. Under the legislation it is illegal to provide or sell liquor to someone who is under an order of interdiction.

Can the minister confirm whether or not the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission sells liquor to interdicted

persons, an action which would be, in my mind, in direct contravention of the *Liquor Act* itself? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different levels of these court orders. Mr. Speaker, when somebody is court ordered not to possess or consume alcohol, the onus is on that individual to abide by his court conditions. That's all I've got to say on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I guess I'll have more questions on this. That's also shocking.

Mr. Speaker, I will again remind the minister that it was his own government's report that recommended greater action and coordination in ensuring that court-ordered restrictions on the consumption of alcohol are enforced, which doesn't really support the comments that the minister just made.

During yesterday's question period, the minister claimed that privacy legislation seems somehow to prevent the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission from doing its part in ensuring that people under court-ordered restrictions, some of whom may be potentially dangerous to themselves or others, are prevented from buying liquor.

Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to approve amendments today to legislation

to fix this problem. Will the minister commit to working with his cabinet colleagues to bring forward appropriate amendments at the upcoming winter sitting of the House to fill this gap, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those rules are in there. Mr. Speaker, when the member is using the term “indiction,” it’s different than a court order. Any time there is a court-ordered [interdiction] that is sent to the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board, it is submitted directly to the Liquor and Cannabis Commission and, if somebody is restricted from purchasing alcohol, then we would abide by it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister’s response yesterday didn’t seem to think that there was a process in place due to a number of reasons that he stated, so it’s kind of confusing for me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again make it perfectly clear that the focus of my questions today is not on law-abiding citizens; it is on individuals who are under court order to not possess or consume alcohol.

During yesterday’s question period, the minister made some kind of reference to the beer and wine store infringing on people’s “human rights.” For the record, is it the position of this government that people under a court order to not possess or consume alcohol have a human right

to purchase alcohol, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They don’t have a legal right. Under a court order, if somebody is not supposed to consume or be in possession of alcohol, they know that. Mr. Speaker, those are court ordered to the individual. Mr. Speaker, if at some point the courts were to provide an [interdiction] order to be brought to the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board, we would act on it.

Mr. Speaker, I do take a bit of offence that the member is alluding that I didn’t respond to her question yesterday. She was asking questions on court-ordered people, and we don’t have plans; we’re not an enforcement side from that component from a legal standpoint. We don’t anticipate changing the rules of having every licensee given a list of every person in the territory that is court ordered not to drink alcohol, but if there was a case brought forward and forwarded from the Department of Justice or from the courts for an [interdiction] order, we would follow it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 628 – 5(2): Ownership of Tammaativvik Boarding Home

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

...(no interpretation)...

Speaker: Interpreters, please turn your channel on. Thank you. Member for Uqqummiut. Oral Questions. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, we repeatedly ask questions regarding the Tammaativvik Boarding Home for medical patients.

Mr. Speaker, so we will all understand and that the patients staying at the boarding home will understand, as some of us don't clearly understand, especially the patients, the Tammaativvik Boarding Home for Baffin patients, who owns that facility?

I know that the patients are under the care of the Department of Health, but the Tammaativvik Boarding Home in Iqaluit is not owned by the Department of Health, right? Is it owned by the contractor? I would like the minister to clarify that. That's my first question. Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify, the Nova Group of Companies is the organization that we have the contract with and they are the owners and maintainers of the facility. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clarification. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my colleague, the

Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, was asking about the Tammaativvik Boarding Home and the medical patients who board in the premises. She was asking about medical patients with either physical or age limitations or even age-related physical ailments who board at the medical home, specifically the severely handicapped or so aged that they are no longer mobile. With this being the case, the question was whether priority is given to elders or those with physical limitations. The minister's response was that priority is given to patients who are elders and those with physical disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, this summer I was recently here escorting a medical patient and I was here for two weeks. I learned firsthand how the Tammaativvik Boarding Home operates. Patients with physical disabilities and elders are not prioritized at all. The Tammaativvik Boarding Home operates on a first-come, first-served basis. When physically challenged patients arrived after the other patients, they are not prioritized. I noticed some elders housed in accommodations such as TV or laundry rooms and even in the kitchen's exterior storage room. Some of our beloved elders are accommodated in those conditions. They are not prioritized in any way.

I wonder who or which company oversees the operations of the boarding home wherein the corporate retort is that they comply with prioritizing our patients. I wonder if the minister can clarify which company actually operates the boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through ongoing discussions we have with the contractor, it is where some of these nuances, if you want to call it, are on the different practices.

As an example, if there is a room better suited for an elder or with somebody with mobility issues, the boarding home will attempt to relocate the people who are in that room already. They will try to find either another room or alternate accommodations. We can't kick somebody out to make room for somebody new. Although I firmly believe that elders should have the priority and I do applaud people who do step aside and let elders have the room that is better suited for them, I will continue to have my officials bring this up with the contractor.

If the member feels that either himself or somebody with him or anybody else, a constituent or anybody, any of our constituents that feel they are not getting serviced properly, I strongly recommend that they either contact the Office of Patients Relations or through myself through the MLA to address these as they occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that and for committing to another meeting with the contractor to ensure all of these matters are addressed.

Mr. Speaker, this matter is indeed one where empathetic feelings abound, especially when witnessing the plight of medical patients. It is disturbing to see

patients in distress when they ought to be the priority, such as disabled or aged patients. When you see others in that situation, your heart just breaks. When overcrowding became an issue, I would see the TV rooms get crammed to house the overflow with no beds or cots.

I even saw patients using their clothing as mattresses, yet I saw no compassion. Some Inuit patients have a large load of complaints to unload. If the minister is serious about this matter, he should meet with the patients who face these challenges, not just the contractors. If more effort was placed on exit surveys or the like, perhaps the health department could learn something if more questions were asked about services to the patients who receive them and whether their stay at the medical facility was acceptable or wrought with issues.

Can this be the singular focus of an initiative to identify non-medical concerns for patients who attend the boarding home, whether it is an independent party or separate department program reviewing experts? Can this issue be included in the review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to find the exact date, but actually here in the Baffin region we did a survey. I believe it was last year. If I recall correctly, it ended just after Christmas last year. I will have to confirm that and I will go speak to the member outside the Chamber when I get that confirmation, but there was a survey put out there. I will dig up the results and I will have a chat with the member.

Thank you.

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

Question 629 – 5(2): Marine Safety

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

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement today, an incident occurred recently in the waters near Kugaaruk involving the unexplained death of a marine mammal. It is not clear if the death is perhaps related to a more recent collision with a marine vessel in the area.

As northern people, marine mammals are a part of our diet. We have to keep our waters clean, as we all know. There was a grounding of a cruise ship on August 24, 2018. There was a release of 80 litres of fuel into the water. We're not sure if the death of a marine mammal was due to that, but we know that oil or fuel can burn marine mammals.

Can the minister indicate if this incident is being investigated by his department in cooperation with the Department of Environment and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans? Can he provide clarification? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are still investigating the incident. The Transportation Safety Board indicated

that it would take approximately 600 days to do an investigation. The report has not been released to us yet. I know there was an investigation and they have been submitted a confidential report and they have been given some time to respond to that report. We look forward to getting that report. As the Department of Transportation, it didn't really have an impact on us, but once the report is released, we will scrutinize it.

You also indicated that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are informed or given a report if there is an unexplained death of a marine mammal and where it was located. It is the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that does the investigation. I don't know whether they informed the community of Kugaaruk of their findings, but they do inform the affected communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that there's an upcoming report and I thought the minister would know.

As I noted in my member's statement, the investigation into last year's grounding of a cruise ship near Kugaaruk is now in its "report phase." Can the minister provide any updates today on the findings of this investigation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when it's in a report phase, it's considered confidential. Usually during that phase

the owners of the cruise ship and the investigators are given time to look through the report. Once that is completed, they can directly reply to the Transportation Safety Board. At that time it would be made public. I'm looking forward to seeing that report, but I can't give you a date as to when the report will be made public. I'm very much looking forward to the report and once it's made public, I'll read it right away because I don't want to see this happen again in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He may have answered part of my final question, but I'll ask it for clarity.

(interpretation ends) As I noted in my member's statement, my constituents are deeply concerned about the risks to the environment and the safety of marine mammals that accompany increased marine shipping and cruise ship traffic. Under his department's new *Marine Tourism Regulations*, cruise ship operators are required by law to submit detailed reports concerning their activities while sailing in Nunavut waters. When will the minister be tabling the reports from the most recent cruise ship season? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't yet decided as to when it will be tabled in the House. In regard to the question, the fact that it's a little different, I looked for

it and I couldn't find the date as to when we will be dealing with it. Once I get the date after the sitting, I can give it to my colleagues. We will be tabling that in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 630 – 5(2): Carbon Tax Revenues

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance in relation to the carbon tax revenues.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday during the Committee of the Whole's review of the Department of Community and Government Services' capital budget, I expressed my gratitude for the creation of the Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund.

I believe that if Nunavut is going to succeed in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, it will require collaboration between the Government of Nunavut as well as homeowners and the business and industry sector through rebates and incentive programs.

Mr. Speaker, the substantiation sheet indicated that the new project is a requirement to show how the Government of Nunavut is distributing carbon tax revenues. This is the first time I had heard about requirements associated with the carbon tax revenues. I would like to ask the minister to expand on this requirement and inform the Assembly if there are any other requirements which we have not heard of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance and Chair of the Financial Management Board, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak to a response from yesterday that I didn't give, but there might have been some misunderstanding. There is not a requirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to know that there are no other surprises, but I do hope that the carbon tax revenues will be used appropriately.

As I previously mentioned, I believe that the government must work with the public through energy efficiency tax rebates or funding programs to assist and incentivize the purchase of energy-efficient upgrades or alternative energy systems. I would like to ask if the minister intends to use the carbon tax revenues to fund energy efficiency specific tax rebates or incentive programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a topic that's near and dear to me as well too when we're talking about green energies in this day and age with climate change being such a focus. Although we're limited in opportunities, that shouldn't stop us. Mr. Speaker, there are still options that are available to us. We've had a number of submissions from different departments on ideas on how to utilize these revenues in the exact manner that the member is

talking about of providing programs for individuals and residents of Nunavut.

Upcoming this session, Mr. Speaker, we're doing some income tax amendments that are directly related to carbon tax revenues to make sure that the general population gets some immediate relief from the carbon tax. Going forward as revenues increase, we're going to be looking at more programs that are available to Nunavummiut. Thank you.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to highlight an issue that I have been bringing up for the last two years since I have been sitting in the seat. It's a fact that we need to assist the public with achieving their goals of reducing our own reliance on fossil fuels. I would like to ask again if there are any plans to use the carbon tax revenues specifically for tax rebates for home energy efficiencies or alternative energy incentive programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're looking at a number of different options, that being one of them. We have been soliciting different departmental ideas on different programs to bring forward. We have been discussing amongst cabinet and I know with our deputy ministers on how to utilize this revenue in a way that benefits Nunavummiut who are most impacted by it, as well as ongoing government operations. This carbon tax increases government operational costs as well

too. We want to make sure that at the end of the day as much of this carbon revenue gets back into the pockets of people who are impacted by it. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Motion 051 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Kugluktuk, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes. Please bear in mind and keep in mind to keep your preambles short. Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Question 631 – 5(2): The Epidemic of Bullying

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Kuglukturmiut and my colleagues. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, bullying is a serious problem in our schools. In the community of Kugluktuk it seems to have reached an epidemic level. Both of our schools are afflicted by it. Children

are finding excuses to go home and stay at home to avoid being bullied. Parents are desperate. It is all over social media.

Can the minister clarify what steps are being taken by the Department of Education to prevent bullying in our schools? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, we know bullying is not just a school issue and it is a community-wide issue across the territory, but for the purpose of the education system, we do try to work with the school staff, the students, and parents, engaging the community on different ways we can address bullying. I think we need to take a stance together against bullying and this is where I'm trying to hit the message home on bullying prevention.

There are different ways that we can address that and I encourage the member to work with the DEA and parents on how we can talk with our kids, our students, on the home front even. We encourage the school body to have different initiatives that address and discuss ways we can address this big issue.

However, I think there are some areas that have already been addressed or that we try to work with is working on training. This is one thing that we try to have different types of training available. Just as an example, in Pond Inlet we had a youth conference and one of the focuses was on an anti-bullying campaign. This is one of the things that

we do and there are many others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Principals' Conference held in late September this year focused on "Safe and Caring Schools." Can the minister elaborate on whether the "Safe and Caring Schools" theme focused specifically on bullying and, if so, what best practices were shared with respect to bullying and bullying prevention?
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. The theme across different training opportunities that we have been providing through the Department of Education, including for principals... . The principals' conference is on "Safe and Caring Schools," and this is one area, bullying, that we try to address. One thing that really was resounding that I heard at the principals' conference when I made a visit there was that there is a great need for mental health services to be available within the school.

We want to highlight different ways we can have available resources for our students and staff on coping skills, on how they can develop healthy relationships between peers and between the student body and the staff. It all has to do with respect. I think that's where when people know how respect is given and accepted, that's where we can make some headway on addressing bullying in

the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana, Mr. Speaker.* I appreciate that schools in Nunavut have Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit, school counsellors who have training to provide students with support in dealing with upsetting and stressful situations.

Can the minister clarify whether school counsellors have specific training to assist children and youth who are the victims of bullying and whether his department monitors how often school counsellors have to address this particular behaviour across Nunavut's schools?
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just recently, this past week in fact, Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit school counsellors have met here in Iqaluit to have a conference on safe and caring schools and that's the theme. They did have specific training provided regarding mental health and how that can play out in their field. We do try our best to have these resources available to our staff.

In terms of tracking the number of incidents of bullying, I'll have to look into what level of tracking we do on that front. I think, more at the local level, that might be something that's tracked on a wider, overall picture. We know it's prevalent, but how much prevalent it is. We also know, just for example, some incidents may be happening that school staff are not aware of at recess time, and only students themselves experience it or witness it. However, it's not reported.

We don't track that information, just to be clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main, for the second time. Mr. Main.

Question 632 – 5(2): Funding to Renovate Elder Care Facility in Arviat

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

We have an elder care facility in Arviat and I will always appreciate the Government of Nunavut because we are provided an elder care facility. However, the facility was built before Nunavut was created, (interpretation ends) the Andy Aulatjut Elders Centre. (interpretation) It has become quite old and it has been known for a while. The government has provided money for renovations, but to my knowledge and to my understanding, the work still hasn't started.

My first question to the minister is regarding the renovations they were going to do on the elder care facility. What is the current status on the plan to renovate it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for asking that question. (interpretation) We visited that facility with the Minister of Health this

fall during the cabinet retreat. It's obviously quite old. I was not told of when they plan to renovate it, but I'll get back to my colleague on it. Thank you

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my understanding, there was money set aside, perhaps two years ago. Even though there was a budget, the work never started. What is the reason behind the delay? I would like to understand what the reasoning behind it is, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't been briefed on what the exact reason was. It's clearly an old facility now. Once I get the information and the reason for the delay...perhaps the bids were too high. Once I get a better understanding, I'll get back to my colleague. Thank you.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I look forward to getting the information from the minister. Some of the elder care facilities within Nunavut are owned by the Department of Health, but the facility in Arviat is owned by the housing corporation. I would like to understand now if the minister had any discussions with the Department of Health on whether that elder care facility can be transferred to the Department of Health and be owned by that department. Has this been considered or discussed?

That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't had discussions on that to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 633 – 5(2): Update on Marine Infrastructure Development

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

Mr. Speaker, in June 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board published a notice of screening for a "Four Harbour Feasibility Study Field Program." Information concerning this initiative indicates that "Advisian has been retained by Fisheries and Oceans Canada...to conduct an engineering feasibility study for the construction of small craft harbours in four communities in Nunavut: Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Clyde River." Mr. Speaker, this is good news for my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe the extent to which his department is involved in planning the new marine facility in Clyde River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. In August, (interpretation ends) Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (interpretation) and the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister Wilkins, went to visit Arctic Bay along with the president of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. At that time they announced that they will be presented. They also stated that the one in your constituency community of Clyde River will be built by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Government of Nunavut is not involved in that. That was an agreement between the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the federal government. However, I am kept informed and I look forward to their construction, especially the one in Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that explanation. Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how the proposed new facility in Clyde River will compare to the new facilities in Pangnirtung and Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think they have come up with three or four designs. I haven't seen the design for Clyde River, but the Advisian company will be used for the plans. It's fully funded by the federal government and it will be built similar to the one built in Pangnirtung. We expect to see the same design used by the federal government. I

haven't reviewed the details. It's within the agreement of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the federal government. I still don't know what type of design they selected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that further explanation. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the approximate budget for constructing the new facility in Clyde River and can he confirm that the federal government has committed to funding the full cost of the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost of the project was announced in August. It's for four communities and I will look into exactly how much it will cost and inform my colleague. I don't have the figure in front of me right now regarding the announcement that was made in August. It is written in there how much the federal government will provide for that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 634 – 5(2): Law Program Students' Articling Opportunities

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

Mr. Speaker, as the Nunavut Law

Program is a heavily funded Government of Nunavut initiative, I would also like to point out that there are currently 23 Nunavummiut who have entered their third year of study, to which I congratulate them on succeeding this far. Considering the significant funding allocated to the program, I would like to enquire if there's a plan in place to ensure their success upon graduation.

I would like to ask the minister: as the business plan of the Department of Justice states that one of its priorities in the current fiscal year is to "Coordinate with the Nunavut Law School program to provide articling opportunities to program graduates," my question is: what commitments is the Department of Justice making to ensure that the Nunavut law students have articling positions at the end of their program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. The Department of Justice is a partner in this program and we are working to ensure that it is able to accommodate students who wish to article within the Department of Justice. The Legal and Constitutional Law Division is developing an articling student job description which will apply to students who article in the Legal and Constitutional Law Division and/or the Legal Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the Minister of Justice is working to ensure that the department will be able to accommodate these potential graduates in the legal and constitutional division, but I would like to ask again: what tangible commitment is the minister willing to make for the 23 up-and-coming law graduates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Like I stated earlier, we are working towards developing these job descriptions for students and we will accommodate these students once they're getting ready to do their articling. Our department, as I stated, is willing to work with Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Justice to ensure that these students are in articling positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking for some figures here and I would also like to point out that 9 of the 23 students in the program are Government of Nunavut employees who are on education leave. Part of their education leave includes a requirement to return to work upon graduation. I would like to ask: at a minimum, is the Minister of Justice willing to commit to creating at least nine articling positions within the Department of Justice or, if not, hopefully more to accommodate these obligations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana* to the member for his question. As the Minister of Justice I cannot commit that all nine plus more will be articling within government, but we're hoping that we can get a lot of the law students into positions articling within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 635 – 5(2): Investment in Community Learning Centres

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I rise to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Arctic College.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last session I put in a written question regarding the status of community learning centres. I would like to thank Arctic College for providing a detailed response to my question.

I'm just going to go through all these community learning centres across Nunavut: the one Arviat, built in 1983; Chesterfield Inlet, built in 1982; Sanikiluaq, built in 1965. Mr. Speaker, the one in Gjoa Haven also jumped out at me. Overall in poor condition, single trailer built in 1978, Mr. Speaker.

It's clear from both this response and from questions asked by members in this House that the time is here to invest in community learning centres across Nunavut. We need to invest more into

adult education in our territory, Mr. Speaker.

My first question for the minister is: when will we see investments come forward for our approval into community learning centres across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for raising this issue. Mr. Speaker, when I got appointed as Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, I made it clear that my priority would be to these community learning centres.

Currently we are visiting, or have visited the majority of our community learning centres. For further work, we are collaborating with the Department of CGS to assess all of our community learning centres and from there, we will decide which communities will go for renovations or new building. I also applaud the member from Gjoa Haven too that has raised this issue as well, but I am committed to doing something throughout Nunavut to these community learning centres. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the timeline to see improvements, I think many of us in this House would agree that this is long overdue. Community learning centres

under previous ministers and previous governments have been neglected for a long time.

We have seen huge investments put into regional centres, regional campuses. I understand that those are important and they are very useful for my constituents as well, but we need to remember that community learning centres are the foundation of adult education across our territory.

Mr. Speaker, we have a beautiful new community learning centre in Whale Cove. It has a daycare in the building. Child care is an issue that has been identified by adult learners in Arviat. There is currently no daycare attached to the Arviat Community Learning Centre.

Can the minister provide a summary or a snapshot of how many community learning centres have daycares attached to them across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We all know that any proposal for a new facility goes through the GN's capital planning process.

As for the daycares, I do know that the one in Rankin Inlet, Arctic College has a daycare facility. I think the Department of Education has a policy when, correct me if I am wrong, they do any renovations or new building, daycares are included in the program. He will correct me if I am wrong. I think we are looking into that as well. Any building that we... I should rephrase my answer. Arctic College is also looking into

addressing the daycares for our learners.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The community learning centre in my home community, in this response to written question says "...good condition as of 2018 visit," and I have raised this in the House before. My concern is not that the Arviat learning centre is in poor condition; it is just simply that it is too small for the size of the community.

Can the minister please confirm that as part of their work with CGS to look at which learning centres will be built upon or fixed up or replaced, can the minister confirm that population and the size of the facility relative to the size of the community will be considered?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe it's the government's practice to consult with the MLAs and the community in terms of when they're building a facility. They consult with the community as to what the size of the building will be. I can safely say that we look at the size of the community and the possible learner numbers that will attend these facilities, and we go on from there. I assure the member that any work that will be or is being planned, we will consult with the members on those.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has

expired, and we will now proceed.

Speaker's Statement

Before we proceed to the next item on the orders of the day, I am very pleased to take this opportunity on behalf of all Members of this House to publicly congratulate the Hon. Frederick Blake Jr. for his selection earlier today as the new Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

>> *Applause*

On a personal note, I'm pleased to note that I'm no longer Canada's rookie Speaker!

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Continuing on with our... Premier of Nunavut.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm making a request to go back to Item 2 and it's unusual to ask to go back to Ministers' Statements, but they don't pick new premiers too often in this country too and I'm asking the House's consent to go back to Item 2. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Premier is requesting to go back to Item 2. Are there any nays? I hear none. Please proceed, Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Revert to Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 306 – 5(2):
Announcement on the Selection of
NWT's New Premier**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank all the Members of the House for letting me go back to Item 2.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone is aware, they had their election earlier in the Northwest Territories and that they had their leadership forum today and they picked a new premier. I would like to congratulate Premier Cochrane there.

I have worked with her before and I'm looking forward to talking with her and meeting with her, and sharing our goals and just have another strong northern voice to be a part of our northern group of premiers when we talk with Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Continuing on. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 7: Written Questions

**Written Question 050 – 5(2): Use of
Travel Agencies**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance and the subject is the use of travel agencies.

Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that some government departments may be using travel agencies to book employee travel.

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, as the Chair of the Financial

Management Board, to enquire if there is any merit to these allegations.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I ask that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. How much has been spent in fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19 on travel agents, travel agencies, or any other companies which provide assistance to book and coordinate travel?
 - a. Would you please provide a breakdown by department and division and identify the travel agent, agency, or company for each fiscal year?
 - b. Would you also identify whether or not ministerial travel was booked under the budget in Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and, if so, which minister and on behalf of which department and identify the travel agent, agency, or company?
2. If assistance was used to book and coordinate employee travel, was there an RFP process, was it sole sourced or through a standing offer agreement?
3. Would the use of companies which provide assistance to book and coordinate travel fall under the NNI Policy?
4. Would the use of companies which provide assistance to book and coordinate travel be FAM-compliant?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is requesting that his written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed to read your... Sorry about that. Continuing on. I guess the rookie thing is still kissing my breath.

>>*Laughter*

Continuing on. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

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

Committee Report 017 – 5(2): Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Bill 8 will appear on the order paper on Monday, October 28.

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

Committee Report 018 – 5(2): Bill 34, Write-off of Assets Act, 2018-2019

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m not getting tired of sitting.

(interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 34, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2018-2019*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Bill 34 will appear on the order paper on Monday, October 28.

Continuing on. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 30, 31, 32, and 33 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:52 and Committee resumed at 16:16*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 30, 31, 32, and 33. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of the 2020-21 capital appropriations for the Department of Health, followed by Nunavut Arctic College. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 30?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2020-2021 – Health –
Consideration in Committee**

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

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, if you could introduce your witnesses and please proceed into your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2020-21 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health.

I would like to introduce my officials from the department: Deputy Minister Ruby Brown and Greg Babstock, Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Mr. Chairman and members, the emphasis of the department capital estimates continues to remain focused upon projects intended to replace and renovate our aging community health care facilities. The department is committed to providing safe, efficient, environmentally friendly and welcoming facilities for staff and clients across the territory.

Commencing in 2020-21, we will begin to see an increasing priority placed upon capital projects intended to deliver new facilities capable of providing an enhanced suite of health care services to all Nunavummiut within the territory. The department will continue to leverage the support of partners and stakeholders in the establishment of new and innovative methods of program delivery, supported through these initial capital investments, and reducing the reliance upon out-of-territory health care providers.

Mr. Chairman and members, planning for the new Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre will be completed in January 2020 with resources for detailed design and construction being requested as part of the 2021-22 capital estimates process. Baker Laker and Kugluktuk continue to be the next two community health centres identified for replacement and consideration for addition to future capital plans as planning projects.

For fiscal year 2020-21, Health is requesting an additional \$27.50 million for six identified capital projects. I will briefly describe details of each of these projects.

Health is requesting additional budget in 2020-21 to complete the construction on the Sanikiluaq Community Health Centre. The resources are to be used to conclude construction activities, complete any work to occur during the warranty period, and to facilitate fit-up of the facility. It is expected that the new community health centre facility will be providing care to the residents of Sanikiluaq by September 2020.

Mr. Chairman and members, the department is also requesting budget to continue with the second year of construction on the Cape Dorset Community Health Centre in the summer of 2020. The construction of the new facility commenced this past summer in June 2019 and is expected to be operational and serving clients in Cape Dorset in the fall of 2021.

Mr. Chairman and members, a recent announcement made by the Government of Nunavut, Indigenous Services Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated committed capital and

operational resources in support of the construction and management of an addictions and trauma treatment facility within the territory. With the Government of Nunavut taking the lead in construction of the building, a notional budget in support of planning activities is being requested in the fiscal year 2020-21 with full scope of expense being outlined in the 2021-22 capital planning cycle. The provision of a culturally appropriate, in-territory treatment facility will allow Nunavummiut to seek and obtain these specialized health care services closer to home, promote increasingly healthy families and communities, and significantly reduce the department's reliance on out-of-territory residential care providers.

Mr. Chairman and members, Health as well as other key Government of Nunavut stakeholders and external partners have been looking at options to best address the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut. Today we put forward the initial request for capital appropriation to initiate the first phase of our approach to long-term care in support of Nunavummiut. The first of our proposed regional elders facilities is planned for Rankin Inlet, with construction to commence in the summer of 2020. It is expected to be ready for occupancy by the fall of 2023.

Mr. Chairman and members, this represents the first steps in an innovative and important investment in the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut and the delivery of culturally appropriate and clinically sound programming for those of our population in the greatest of need. The capacity to provide these essential care services to elders at home within

Nunavut has long been a goal of the department.

Mr. Chairman and members, we are continuing with the required work to explore potential outcomes for the next phases of this work in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot regions. It is our intent to provide more information and a second capital appropriations request in the next capital planning cycle for the fiscal year 2021-22.

The department is requesting its annual budget allocation for small capital procurements. The small capital appropriation is for the procurement and replacement of the department's medical equipment, vehicles, and furniture. I will provide you with a detailed listing of the equipment, vehicles, and furniture that we are planning to replace in 2020-21 once the priority listing is finalized.

Similarly the department is requesting its annual appropriation for ongoing lifecycle capital projects and maintenance of Health's fixed assets. This yearly allocation is dedicated to minor renovations, repairs, modifications, and upgrades of departmental facilities territory-wide and is essential to ensure effective lifecycle management of Health's assets. We have also set aside contingency funding within this envelope for any emergency repairs that may be required at health facilities during the year.

Mr. Chairman and members, in closing, the department is consistently looking to further enhance the design elements of new health centres and other new health facilities to better meet the needs of the department, our communities and all their residents. This capital plan proposal

is focused to ensure clinical facilities and the essential services they provide are available to Nunavummiut by replacing aging health care facilities, promoting the development of new, specialized facilities, and through prioritized approaches to ongoing building maintenance and lifecycle management.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2020-21 includes funding for two ongoing health centre replacement projects in the communities of Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq, initial funds for the planning of Nunavut's new addictions and trauma treatment centre, and two Nunavut-wide budget items for ongoing lifecycle repairs and small capital purchases.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to present his department's draft 2020-21 capital estimates, members were advised that funding would also be requested to initiate a project to construct a 24-bed

long-term care facility. While additional information provided to members in early October indicates that this project is part of a long-term vision to have over 150 dedicated long-term care beds across Nunavut, a number of questions have been raised with respect to the future status of those elder care facilities which have been operating in Nunavut communities as well as the status of proposals to build facilities and provide long-term care under service agreements with the government. Members look forward to receiving comprehensive updates on what options are being considered to develop the government's long-term strategy for providing elder care across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that there are a number of aging community health centres across Nunavut and the Department of Health faces challenges in accessing sufficient capital funds to proceed with more than one health centre project at a time. During his appearance before the standing committee to discuss his department's draft 2020-21 capital estimates, the minister indicated that following the completion of the current two health centre projects, a replacement health centre project for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq would be introduced in future planning documents while projects for the communities of Baker Lake and Kugluktuk would follow. Although none of these projects appears on the 2020-25 five-year capital plan, the standing committee anticipates seeing these projects appear in due course.

Members have suggested that when plans are approved to replace a health centre with a new building, additional

detail such as the proposed remediation and allocation of the old health centre building should be addressed within the capital planning documentation in order to forestall the building sitting unused for lengthy periods of time.

Members would further appreciate receiving information on what kinds of criteria are used to determine whether a community health centre will undergo major renovations or replacement. Members were of the view that utilization rates, demographic trends, and other factors should be taken into consideration when prioritizing health centre projects, especially when health centre staff are faced with overcrowding, lack of office space, and inadequate space allocation, all of which have an impact on the ability to deliver programs and services effectively.

Members continue to encourage the minister to work with his staff and with his colleagues in such departments as Family Services to address issues in those community health centres where space limitations have been identified.

Members recognize that including staff housing within newly constructed health centre facilities is not economically feasible given building code requirements. However, it has been noted that health centre staff accommodation needs must be better taken into account when planning new health centres. The standing committee encourages the minister to work with his counterpart in the Department of Human Resources to ensure that housing needs for health centre staff are addressed in a timely manner and that staff housing units which are in close proximity to the health centre can be dedicated to health

centre staff.

Mr. Chairman, members of the standing committee continue to raise concerns with respect to the need for dedicated mental health facilities and encourage the minister to provide regular updates on options and initiatives in this area.

The standing committee greatly appreciates the minister's efforts to access funding support to help address Nunavut's significant needs in the area of addictions and trauma treatment. Both the federal government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have committed to contributing funds to the building and establishment of the Nunavut Recovery Centre in Iqaluit. Members look forward to more specific detail as this project moves beyond the planning stages.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's proposed capital estimates include two blocks of funding for ongoing lifecycle and small capital projects. Members again appreciated receiving details on what projects have been prioritized under these line items for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health. I am confident that individual members will have a number of comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Are there any general comments? If not, I will ask members to go to their capital estimates on page H-3 for Health Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$27,500,000. Any questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you and good afternoon. Well, I don't think it's any surprise that I want to talk about my favourite subject and that's long-term care. This is an issue that the minister knows I have been advocating for during the first year of my first term as an MLA and this is my sixth year, so I have been trying to ask for long-term care for Nunavut for quite some time now.

Some people have told me it's because, "Oh, I know, it's because your parents are down there at Embassy West," but I started this fight before I knew that my mom had dementia. I did not know at the time and I started this fight because a constituent came to me because she didn't know what to do with her mom and there was no place for her to go here.

When I talk about this, I can be very emotional, a lot because I'm frustrated. I'm frustrated with how hard it has been just to get to this point. I was so disappointed when I saw in the minister's letter that only one region would be getting this to start off. I know how long it takes just to get to that point and it makes me wonder how much longer we are going to wait for the second and third one to come about. I will not accept, and I want you to know, I will not accept this plan.

We can do better. There are other options. Kugluktuk had another option. We presented this when I was on the Sailivik board before. We presented an option where the government didn't even have to come up with any capital dollars. We had a partnership with the Inuit organizations, but we wouldn't even get a response, not even a response. That is disrespectful.

You took our proposal, but you never gave anything back to us. I will not accept that you can't find any way to build more than one facility. I will not accept that you want to close down long-term care facilities that are in the communities. I will not accept that you can't work with the community of Kugluktuk to get their place up and running. I have never seen a strategy coming from the department when it comes to elders and long-term care. Do you even have one? It has never really been shared with anybody.

I know we're not really supposed to be the way I am, and I'm really sorry, but I have gone to Embassy West many times because my parents are there, and I speak with many residents and families that are there from Nunavut and there is so much hurt and pain of separation. There just doesn't seem to be anything on the horizon in the short time for families to get together. Only two tickets are provided by the government, and most people have large families. If you come from a large family and your mother is sent away, if you're on income support, there is only one that is going to be chosen or two at the very most. You may never see your mother or father again.

I don't accept that you can come out with a facility at the earliest in three years, and we all know how things are always extended to future years. I will not accept that. That is not what we want. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes, do you wish to respond? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I empathize with the member's emotions and passion behind this topic. I'm not going to get into a bunch of he-said-she-said stuff on the lack of detail in some proposals, the work that was put in to help organizations submit proposals.

I was questioned yesterday by the member from Kugluktuk who is claiming that we have denied the proposal from Kugluktuk. We have not. I stated yesterday that we are still in discussions with them and I am hoping that they progress favourably.

Personally I just don't appreciate the personal attack that the member is saying that I am not able to do this. In the Legislative Assembly we all put forward our capital plans and approve the capital budgets here in the Assembly. It is not up to me to pick and choose which projects come forward. I work with my cabinet colleagues. I work with our capital planners to decide on the viability of projects.

Right now we've got an opportunity. We left money in the last session. In committee we talked about leaving some room for projects, such as the additions and trauma, such as elder care facilities, and we're moving forward. We're moving a heck of a lot faster with some of the work that was done in the Fourth Assembly, with some of the passion that the member has brought to the table that has led the charge on moving these types of initiatives forward.

I am not sure how to respond to the comment, Mr. Chairman, but this budget that we're putting forward proves that we're serious about bringing people

home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Committee Motion 009 – 5(2):
Deferral of the Consideration of
the Proposed 2020-21 Capital
Estimates of the Department of
Health**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This elders' care topic and long-term care are very important, and I appreciate that the department has been working hard on this and has brought a project forward for review.

I think we all agree on the what. We all agree that we need long-term care in Nunavut. We all agree on that piece, the what, everybody in this room. It's the how. How we are planning to get there, I think, is where there are unanswered questions. They are pretty fundamental. The chair of the committee mentioned them in her opening statement, what is the future status of existing elder facilities.

Also fundamental is the approach. This facility that has been planned for, the government is proposing to go in on it alone. There are no private partners now listed on the substantiation sheet. It is pretty fundamental and without a strategy in place or without a long-term plan for long-term care, the questions will continue to be very fundamental. I think it's key that we have answers to these very fundamental questions before we vote in favour or vote against anything.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I move

that the committee defer consideration of the Department of Health for the time being. (interpretation) I make that motion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Main. With there being a motion, I will have to ask that the mover of the motion if he could provide a copy so that we can have it translated. While we are waiting for that, we will take a 10-minute break while the motion is prepared for members. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:44 and resumed at 16:54

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back, members. I'll call the meeting back to order. A copy of the motion has been placed in front of everybody. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make to the procedures.

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

The mover of the motion gets to speak first and the mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess my comment is that I would just like to state that I'm bringing this motion forward as Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus. I believe I have already stated the reasons for bringing this motion forward, so I won't restate them. (interpretation) That is it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I will oppose the motion. However, I would like you to clearly understand that there are elders from Rankin Inlet in Igloodik, Arviat, Gjoa Haven, and Ottawa. We send out our oldest elders. I would like that clearly understood and our elders cannot be in touch with their grandchildren, their relatives, or their language, even though an elder who was sent to Ottawa, and I will not mention any names, informed their children that they will not live long. Two weeks later they passed away.

Rankin Inlet in the Kivalliq is a regional centre. The mayors had a meeting and they unanimously approved to have an elder care facility in Rankin Inlet. For that reason, I will not support the motion, thinking about the mayors' resolution and our elders from Rankin Inlet who are not in Rankin Inlet anymore. I want to clearly point that out. I am not opposing communities that want elder care facilities because they also need them, but we want to fast-track the elder care facility for Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. To the motion. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to state that I stand with my colleagues on the Regular Members' Caucus as part of our role means that we must conduct due diligence in all matters.

I believe it is irresponsible to ask us to vote on a matter without providing the

entire plan and without seeing the long-term strategy for providing elder care in the territory. I do not believe it is in our best interest to vote blindly, which is why I believe that when we do require or request information to understand the full picture, it is essential that it is provided to us in a timely manner.

With that being said, I will be voting in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will also be voting with my colleagues just because I do not want my facility in my hometown closed. We have a lot of people who work there, 19 people. It creates a lot of jobs that we do need in a small community such as mine, and we do have professionals there who are professionals in dementia. I do not want to see that facility... I have been told that it will not happen right away, but it will happen in the future. I don't know how late in the future, but we do need that facility in my hometown, so I am in favour of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. To the motion. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be voting for the reason that in my mind, if we in the House put our minds together, nothing is impossible. We don't want to leave out those who have worked hard for us. Let us work hard today and tomorrow. I will vote in favour of the motion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: To the motion. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have stated in the past that I will speak for our elders. Our elders need more respect, so you as a government should respect them more. People's parents are probably struggling in Ottawa and it was stated earlier that some people may never see them again, that they will pass away soon.

In your opening comments you stated that in 2023 this would be completed. How many elders who are waiting down there will pass away in that time? Our elders worked hard. If they did not work hard, would we be here? Would we even be alive?

The government should be more strongly implementing *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and strengthen it for our language and to protect our elders. In *Turaaqtavut* we stated that we will provide service for them. When will that be strengthened? In saying that, our elders end up having nowhere to turn. Who will provide support for them? How will the organizations provide further support? With this motion being introduced, yes, you can feel it. Even if you disagree, I think you as a government can only hear it this way.

We are trying to strengthen Inuit. We are trying to better protect elders. We have to work better together for the sake of our elders. They trained us and they let people work on their word, but they are still waiting. In saying that, they are watching us and they are probably watching with more interest to see who will support the motion and who will oppose it. This has to stop.

Our elders are very important. I will reiterate that my words come from my mother, who said that I was going to be heard. I would ask her, "Who will listen to me?" She told me that when the day comes, I would understand. To date we don't make short-term plans. We plan for the long-term future. What will you be? How will you live your life? The language will not be defeated. Even if an Inuk tries to become a white person, it's impossible. That is true.

Yes, as a government we speak English, and yes, that is appropriate, but I believe that our culture will never be defeated. When our elders provide counselling, they provide their own experience. As I just said, they made plans for me for the future. Even if I start sweating, I was told, "Even if you do that, don't be shy about it." I am younger than you and I still have those words, the words that I was told. You cannot forget their words. They have to be there.

As long as the world is there, we will always be present. We as younger people, let us respect them more. As a government, respect our elders. They are important. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. To the motion. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say we are aware that the existing facilities in the communities are full to capacity and some of the facilities can't be reopened because they're dilapidated, which is a huge loss to communities.

To our understanding, the minister stated

that they are planning for the construction of elder care facilities in the three larger centres and they will be starting with Rankin Inlet. A cause for worry was the possibility that smaller communities that currently have facilities will be losing their facilities later on. In his defence, the minister stated that they will be given support. However, in the longer term, will they be moving those elders to the larger centres? Once they get bigger facilities in the regional centres like Iqaluit, there is a danger that the facilities in the smaller communities will be closed down.

The smaller communities have been able to manage their facilities. Retrofitting them to make them bigger seems to be the better option. For the facilities that are being closed, they have to look at them again and build new facilities. I wanted to point that out, and I will be supporting the motion for that reason and the danger that the smaller communities might lose their facilities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. To the motion. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members for their comments to this motion. I think a large portion of the comments that have been provided so far argue my side of why it should go through with respect to the elders, with bringing our elders home.

I do understand there is some concern over existing facilities and what's going to happen to them down the road, and we're not there yet. I can't tell you today what my plan is for the facility in Gjoa Haven or Igloolik or Arviat. They may

very well have stated they're going to need to stay in place for a period of time until we have capacity.

I could have this facility in Rankin Inlet tomorrow and it's 24 beds. We have 33 people at Embassy West in Ottawa. That's not going to close down Arviat. That's not going to close down Cambridge Bay. That's not going to close down any of our other facilities. Down the road at some point we may have to look at repurposing depending upon the need.

What we were mandated to do when we sat down and did our mandate discussion when we were in Pond Inlet, we talked about bringing our elders home. I'm not sure where this concern or challenge is from a lack of a plan or a strategy. We did a report tabled in 2016, *Continuing Care in Nunavut*, from 2015 to 2035. There was a lot of information in there that we used to move forward with our plans. We know that by 2035 we're going to need 156 beds. This is our plan to get there.

We don't have the money to build three facilities all at once. I wish we did. I wish we had the capacity to be able to do that. We don't. To me, removing this or even risking removing this, the member from Amittuq made a lot of great points... .

An Hon. Member: A point of order.

Chairman: Thank you. A point of order has been raised. To the point of order. Mr. Main.

Point of Order

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe the motion is to defer; it's not to remove anything, so if that could be clarified. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I will agree with the member that the motion is to defer, not to delete anything from the budget. Okay. Mr. Kusugak.

Point of Order

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the point of order is to not discuss the removal of anything but then deferral, but all the previous speakers in this Assembly were able to speak as if they're looking at removing a budget item. They're talking about if this budget goes forward and approve the elder facility, then it might hinder the other communities, the other elder facilities. I think it's in that same light that my colleague, the Minister of Health, is speaking to rebut some of the concerns that are being brought forward in previous discussions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I will remind members that the motion on the floor is to defer; it's not to delete anything from the budget. I will allow members to speak their mind and reply to any comments that were made, as you wish, and we will leave it at that and we will continue on with the debate on this. To the motion and I'll go back to Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I apologize if the confusion is there. Oftentimes when a deferral is requested, there is a reason behind, in this case, from what I'm

understanding, that there is not a strategy that the members can take a look at. I don't have a new strategy, so the condition is not going to be met. I take it as if this continues to go forward, there's a possibility of it being removed.

That being said, I'm not going to go back and forth on this, on semantics. I think, at this point, when we go forward, there is more than enough evidence that I don't think anyone in this room can deny is that we need to build long-term care facilities in this territory. We have a need that is unmet. We directed ourselves in our mandate discussions to bring our elders home. I'm doing that. We're doing that as a cabinet, as a government, all of us together in this room as an Assembly. This is phase 1.

Mr. Chairman, I go back to some of the discussions that have been brought forward in other parameters, Kugluktuk, Iqaluit. I have stated in the last couple of days that Kugluktuk is still a very real possibility. There are discussions ongoing. I'm not going to discuss in this Chamber or negotiate in this Chamber of how that project is going to move forward. That's why we started with the Kivalliq, so that we gave Kugluktuk time to be able to come forward and finalize their proposal.

Building a centre here in Iqaluit, obviously, is a huge demand. It's the largest centre. That being said, it's also a very large project. When we look at our capital dollars, we don't have partners on this right now. We may have an opportunity for partners moving forward. It was mentioned that this was going to be a government-run facility. Yes, because we cannot find any partners that want to practise here in the

north. They deem the risk too high. We have been working on this for years. This is the closest we have come to that first phase of actually putting bricks and mortar down and building a facility in this territory.

Like I stated earlier, a lot of the arguments that were listed earlier to support the motion actually, in my opinion, support going against the motion. We need this. I don't think anyone can argue that. If we wait any further, it's going to cost more money, we many have even further capital pressures. Right now we have purposely left room in our capital plan as of a few weeks ago when I talked to members stating that I had hoped to come forward in this session with a plan. I do have a plan; it's a 24-bed facility in the Kivalliq, it's a 24-bed facility in the Kitikmeot, and it's a 108-bed facility here in Iqaluit. That's my plan to meet the ongoing need for long-term care.

As a side note, when we talk about the location of these facilities, Rankin Inlet was spoken about at the last mayors' conference, and there was a resolution brought forward to locate the facility in Rankin Inlet. Any MLAs from the Kivalliq, your mayors agreed to this as well.

An Hon. Member: The mayor wasn't there.

Chairman: Order.

Hon. George Hickes: My point being is that we have to start somewhere. This is the most logical initiation point to start looking at bringing our elders back home. I can't imagine how it's going to impact five years down the road, ten

years down the road of what existing facilities is going to happen to them. That's something that if we're all still in this room, we can talk about different options for these facilities. It's going to be some time before we can meet the current need, never mind the growing need.

This is to me...forgive me, Mr. Chairman, but these arguments of five years down the road shouldn't stop what we're trying to move forward today. Let's come forward with solutions. There's nothing to say that we're going to be closing these facilities for sure and, if they do, they're going to be repurposed into what tomorrow's need is because we're going to deal with tomorrow's need today for elder care.

I'm not sure what more I can add to that, Mr. Chairman. I firmly believe that any type of deferral to even potentially jeopardize this project. If the members are looking for more detailed information on the strategy, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, but the strategy is what I just said. We go by the report from 2015. It's only four years old. Not a lot has changed since then. It's supposed to carry us to 2035, and we have the money available now. We have sacrificed other projects to make this vote money now. I will leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. To the motion. Mr. Nester.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to speak to this motion, but after Mr. Kaerner spoke, I wanted to follow up. Mr. Chairman, he always says that he is proud of elders and that we should

be doing something for them. We're trying to do something for them, Mr. Chairman. *Turaaqtavut* states that we need to bring our elders home. We also hear from our constituents, "Take care of our elders and stop sending them down to Ottawa. We want to see an elders' care facility in Nunavut." As planning is being done, we're now trying to make changes.

Mr. Chairman, I can say that if there was an elders' care facility in Rankin Inlet, some of us wouldn't have to go through this and it would have been set up so that our loved ones would be taken there instead. Mr. Chairman, I had an aunt in Ottawa who passed away down there. We really want to see and you really want to see an elders' care facility in Nunavut, yet you now want to delay it. We're being very foolish by doing that, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) There's no point of order.

Chairman: Thank you. As Chairman I will make the decision on whether a point of order is granted or not. Mr. Main, to your point of order.

Point of Order

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The member is criticizing for us. Bringing a motion to the floor of this House is a right and for criticizing a member for exercising their right in the House to bring a motion and to debate the motion, I believe, is out of order. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I will agree with the member. We do have that right

within this Assembly. With that I will ask Mr. Netser if he wants to continue with his statement.

Hon. Patterk Netser: I do, yes. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) I do not recall criticizing any of the members, but I just made a point so the audience and the English folk can understand better. If we had a facility in Rankin Inlet or in the region, my immediate family would not have to be dealing with this. Mr. Chairman, I had an aunt who was brought to Ottawa due to a lack of facilities in Nunavut. She passed away down there. We hear from our constituents, "Bring our elders home." "When I become old, please don't send me to Ottawa," yet as a government we are trying to bring this forward and now it's being deferred. I don't see any wisdom behind this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to make a comment. I understand where my colleagues who are supporting the motion are coming from. With the debate on the motion to defer the consideration of the budget, my concern is that when we want to defer something because we want more information or further clarification, even though that might be the case, I also realize that that might not be the case.

I am thoughtful of the communities that currently have elders' care facilities and I even envy them. I am happy for the elders' care facilities in Nunavut. They house people from Rankin Inlet,

Kivalliq, and elsewhere. I am deeply grateful for that. I am grateful to the staff at the elders' care facility in Ottawa for looking after our people. They shouldn't have to care for our elders as we should have started caring for them a long time ago.

When we got elected two years ago, every one of us said that we need an elders' care facility. We didn't say that we will only be satisfied if it's in our community or if it's not over there. We need an elders' care facility. What we're talking about today only states that it will begin in Rankin Inlet. It's not only for the residents of Rankin Inlet. It will be for all elders from the territory depending on the level of care that is required.

All of us know of people who should be in elders' care facilities, but there are many elders who haven't said that they want to go to those facilities. They are in a tough spot because they will be sent down south. If the facility was open and we can move forward with it, many elders will come forward who want to go to that facility and some of them have needed to go there for a long time.

I know that the motion will not stop this and I believe we all know that. It will free up the facilities that already exist to elders who require a lower level of care. Some of the elders in those facilities may require health care professionals. Some of the elders who need 24-hour nursing care have to stay in those facilities in the south because there are not enough facilities in Nunavut.

If we are going to be reviewing and stalling this, what will we do when we start talking about the Kitikmeot region?

Would we have stopped our debate if the project that needs to be undertaken in Iqaluit came first? I don't know. If we want our elders to be the priority, let's make them our priority. Let's not defer our vote on the funding that will be used for elders' care facilities. We shouldn't defer it; we should move forward with it if we want our elders' care facilities and elders to go first.

I wouldn't be worried if someone wants to open such a facility. Is it going to shut down the existing facilities? No. No one ever said that they would be shut down. Maybe sometime in the future, even if we're not here anymore, those facilities might be expanded and there may be facilities in other communities. When we don't know our future, when we're talking about what we know now, we should be in support of this. I want to support the approval of the budget before we're too late.

We're trying our best. Our colleague was emotional when she was talking about this issue. We can all become emotional when we're talking about this issue because we're working hard for our elders. If we're working hard for our elders, let's move forward with this project. Let's talk about how we can move forward with the facility for the Kitikmeot. How can we move forward with the facility that will be in Iqaluit? We should be deliberating on these issues and not how we can delay things, which is what we're focusing on now. Thank you for giving an opportunity to speak to the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. I just want to remind members that the motion before us is to defer; it's not to

delete anything. A lot of members are making some assumptions based on that, so if we could just stick to the motion, please. Next on my list is Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I guess, first off, just apologies for my emotions. I also want to state that I guess what the Chair said. We're not here to go against. It's not about against the facility being built in Rankin Inlet. It's about how we are doing it.

Sometimes it's easy to forget when you are in cabinet, and I have been there, it's easy to forget that the regular members aren't part of all the conversations that you're having. There's that natural separation there, but when you're not involved or having been consulted, what you think about this, and then you get something like this, "Oh, we're just going to build one in Rankin Inlet," without really knowing why... .

Like today the minister said that there is no other funding. He has gone to all these other places and nobody wants to be a partner. We didn't know that. We need information in order to make a decision because in my mind I'm thinking, gee, when Sailivik went to the Department of Health with their proposal, we had the financing, we had the lot, and we had it all there. In fact we still have the lot waiting. The city has been very supportive in providing us with the lot, a beautiful lot up in Road to Nowhere. The city passed a motion in support as well.

There has been a lot of support for this kind of thing and we do support the Kivalliq getting a long-term care. We're not talking about taking out that funding with this motion. I guess it's about, for a

lack of a better word, we're worried, worried that one, how long is it going to take for the other regions to get their long-term care facilities? It could take years. How are the other local long-term care facilities going to survive? Even in Iqaluit the long-term care centre there is hardly surviving.

These are real issues that we're thinking about, and I don't appreciate them being just like twisted around as though we've all got knives out to get everybody. We just want to be part of the discussions and we want to be part of the decision-making. We don't want to be rubber-stampers, "Oh, yes, we like this." We want to be able to be part of those decisions and know what's going on instead of papers being, "Here it is, changes," without knowing why.

I want to make it very clear: I'm not against Rankin Inlet getting the facility. I just really want to make sure that the other regions are also supported and that we know more information about why, how, when, and all of those things. Also, just to say that we did talk about three regions when we talked about *Turaaqtavut* and getting the three facilities. That was decided upon. Maybe we should have been a bit more... maybe have more details about what that really meant.

I think there are other options. For example, the minister and I haven't talked at all about the option with Sailivik or the option with the Kugluktuk thing with Ms. Kamingoak. We need to discuss that and go from there. We're not here to stop things; we want more information. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.

To the motion. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what having these debates are about is to get more information, but the MLA, Ms. Angnakak, when she started off her statement saying, "I can't support this," she didn't ask any questions. She says she can't support it. MLA Mr. Main stated his reasons why and he's not going to state his reasons why he made the motion. If I understand his reasoning, it's because there is no strategy.

The Minister of Health says that he gave a verbal strategy and if the members expect a thorough strategy before this session is done, he stated that it's not going to happen. If he doesn't get a strategy and you can't support this motion without a strategy, by default you are voting to eliminate the budget.

An Hon. Member: A point of order.

Chairman: Thank you. Just a second, please.

To the point of order. Mr. Main.

Point of Order

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe that a vote for a deferral is a vote for a deferral, and then any imputed motives behind the deferral are speculation. I'll just refer back to the text of the motion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Again I will agree with the member that you're speculating on possible outcomes and we're here right now to deal with the

motion to defer, so I will ask the Premier if he wants to continue with his comments. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just stating facts that were said by several people in this Chamber. Most of us should be able to add one plus one, so that's why I was just restating facts that were said by members here.

In our mandate we agreed that we want to build elders facilities to take our elders home to Nunavut and to take care of our elders in Nunavut. We have to start somewhere and this is where we chose to start. I'm just pleading my case as to this is a starting point; it's not the end point. If we go back to not deferring Health and go back to passing this budget, if it's agreeable to the members, then it's a start. If the members don't agree about this budget, then I guess we will go back to zero because we would have to start all over again. I'm just pleading my case to ask the questions here. That's what we're here for.

The way it opened up was there were very few questions asked. It was a bunch of statements about how you can't support this as it is right now. Ask the minister. I didn't hear questions being asked to the minister of "Why did you do this? Why did you present the budget like this? Why was this location picked?" I didn't hear any of those questions. All I heard was, "I don't like this. This is not right and I can't support it." That's what this process is supposed to do. The minister presents a budget. The MLAs question them on why the budget is the way it is. That's the process. By deferring it, it's not going to change anything in my mind because I

didn't hear any specific, more information being asked of the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Premier Savikataaq. I will remind everybody that if I make a ruling on a point of order, it's not meant to be challenged, as you just previously did.

Moving on, to the motion. Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were all in Pond Inlet, every one of us agreed that elder care would be one of our top priorities. During my campaigning in my home community, elder care was the top priority in my community.

Through this process the last two years that we have been working on for elder care facilities, I believe this is a start. This is a start for at least one region to get a facility and in the future the Kitikmeot and the Baffin.

Elder care, I'm grateful and I'm very happy that we do have an elder care facility in Cambridge Bay, and I know that facility needs to be expanded. For that reason, I will not be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. To the motion. I have no more names on the list to speak to the motion. I will now go back to the mover of the motion and give him the opportunity to have last say on the motion. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier or during one of my three points of order, it's a motion to defer the budget and I will note for the record that

this project was a late addition to the budget. References to "This is how the process works," well, the normal process for capital estimates wasn't followed here. The regular members did not have a chance to have an in-camera meeting with the minister and question this project. Maybe that's something that will happen after this motion is voted on.

I would also like to clarify that the report that the minister mentioned was a needs assessment. I don't believe it was a strategy in terms of how to meet the needs. It had some recommendations in the report. In terms of how to get there, I think that's where the real questions are.

Finally, (interpretation) we all agree that we should not send the elders down to Ottawa. We all agree on that, but it's the process in how it's going to become a reality. (interpretation ends) When you have a very emotional issue like this, it's very difficult to have a logical discussion. The minister used that word "logical."

I really appreciate everyone's opinion, and I believe that our job as MLAs is to have a logical discussion, a logical, forward-looking understanding of what we are actually voting on here in terms of long-term care for the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. That closes the debate on the motion.

I will now ask all members in favour of the motion to please raise your hand. Okay. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

This department will now be deferred

and we will move on. First, sorry, I've got to step backwards a little bit.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker: Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 30 and would like to report progress and that one committee motion was 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? (interpretation) Member Kamingoak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Somebody muted me.

Orders of the Day for October 25:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 50 – 5(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 31

- Bill 32
- Bill 33

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 25, at 9:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 17:49

