



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

1st Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 10

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Pages 425 – 478

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)
Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Monica Ell
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Health

Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Samuel Nuqingaq
(Uqqummiut)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Joe Enook
(Tununiq)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Justice; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	425
Ministers' Statements	425
Members' Statements	428
Returns to Oral Questions	433
Oral Questions.....	434
Tabling of Documents	458
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	459
Report of the Committee of the Whole	477
Third Reading of Bills.....	477
Orders of the Day	478

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 425

B.

Ministers' Statements

035 – 4(1): Nunavut Wins First Gold at AWG (Sammurtok) 425
036 – 4(1): Nunavut Food Price Survey (Ugyuk) 426
037 – 4(1): Baffin Island Caribou (Mike) 427

C.

Members' Statements

090 – 4(1): The Need for Medical Transportation in Baker Lake (Mikkungwak) 428
091 – 4(1): The Need for an Increase in the Polar Bear Quota for Western Hudson Bay
(Savikataaq) 428
092 – 4(1): Closure of Children's Group Home in Iqaluit (Angnakak) 429
093 – 4(1): Representation of Constituents (Hickes) 430
094 – 4(1): Tribute to Rita Paneloo Nashook (Ell) 432
095 – 4(1): Nunavut Seal Day in Ottawa (Mike) 432

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 039 – 4(1): Kivalliq-Manitoba Hydroelectric Development (Kuksuk) 433
Return to Oral Question 045 – 4(1): Medical Travel for Unilingual Clients (Ell) 433

E.

Oral Questions

096 – 4(1): Steps to Reduce Medical Travel Costs (Hickes) 434

097 – 4(1): Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Quota (Savikataaq)	436
098 – 4(1): The Need for Medical Transportation in Baker Lake (Mikkungwak)	440
099 – 4(1): Status of Suicide Prevention Strategy (Joanasie)	441
100 – 4(1): Closure of Iqaluit Children’s Group Home (Angnakak)	442
101 – 4(1): Search and Rescue (Sammurtok).....	443
102 – 4(1): Medical Travel for Unilingual Clients (Enook).....	444
103 – 4(1): Use of Telehealth Technology (Hickes).....	446
104 – 4(1): Seniors’ Fuel Subsidy (Mikkungwak)	448
105 – 4(1): A Comprehensive Elders’ Health Strategy for Nunavut (Angnakak).....	450
106 – 4(1): Medical Travel for Unilingual Clients (Enook).....	452
107 – 4(1): Government Contracting Practices (Angnakak)	453
108 – 4(1): Review of Income Assistance (Enook).....	454
109 – 4(1): Pond Inlet Airport (Enook).....	455
110 – 4(1): Baker Lake Airport (Mikkungwak)	456

F.

Tabling of Documents

027 – 4(1): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2012 (Taptuna)	458
028 – 4(1): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2013 (Taptuna)	458
029 – 4(1): Medical Travel Policy (Ell)	458
030 – 4(1): 2014 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut – Department of Family Services (Speaker).....	459

G.

Motions

Extension of Question Period (Enook)..... 450

H.

Bills

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Environment – Consideration in
Committee..... 459

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Justice – Consideration in Committee 464

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Family Services – Consideration in
Committee..... 467

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in
Committee..... 476

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Third Reading 477

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Tuesday, March 18, 2014****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Hon. George Kuksuk, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurток, Hon. Tom Sammurток, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Mr. Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Members, Ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and all Nunavummiut. Welcome. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Member, Mr. Sammurток.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 035 – 4(1):
Nunavut Wins First Gold at AWG**

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that my this statement is good news and a cause for celebration for Nunavummiut. I wish to start off with a good day greetings to Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) I would like to say “good day” to all Nunavummiut and in particular, to all 279 of our athletes, coaches, cultural performers, staff and people representing our territory at the Arctic Winter Games that is currently underway in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Winter Games is only halfway through, but I am very proud to rise today as Minister of Community and Government Services and say “good job” to all of our athletes for their hard work. It is inspiring to follow their journey and see Nunavummiut be so hard-working, determined and filled with team spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise and congratulate our first athlete, Drew Bell from Arviat, for capturing Nunavut's first gold medal at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

>>*Applause*

Yesterday, Mr. Bell of Arviat scored first place in kneel jump for his open male division and the distance was 146.1 centimetres, in English, four feet, five and a half inches. And not only did he win gold; Mr. Bell also won a bronze medal in one-hand reach for his division with a height of 162.6 centimetres, or five feet, four inches. Mr. Bell's accomplishment is a success for the whole territory, and I commend him for representing us so well on this northern stage.

Mr. Speaker, I am also happy to tell this House that Halla Crowley of Iqaluit won a bronze medal in the 777-metre individual juvenile female event in speed skating.

And I know many Nunavummiut enjoy playing basketball. I have the pleasure to report that for the first time, Nunavut's female basketball team has won a match at the Arctic Winter Games, when they defeated Yukon 50-33.

Mr. Speaker, we have also won medals in other sports as well. I look forward to hearing all the final standings as they come in.

Mr. Speaker, the Games are not over. There are still races to be won. To everyone at the Arctic Winter Games, I would like to say, "Good luck, we are proud of you, and come home safely." *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Member, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Minister's Statement 036 – 4(1):
Nunavut Food Price Survey**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the good people of Netsilik. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the high cost of food continues to be an issue in Nunavut. The well-being of families in all our communities is impacted when food is not affordable.

In 2013, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Family Services' Poverty Reduction Division undertook a pilot food price survey in 11 Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the communities surveyed, the average cost of one litre of

milk was \$3.19. The Canadian average price is \$2.31. Staple vegetables such as onions and celery were respectively, on average, \$4.33 and \$7.75 more expensive per kilogram.

In follow-up to this, my department is supporting a territory-wide food price survey which will be conducted this month by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. The results of this survey will allow us to monitor price changes throughout the year and to understand the impact of certain measures, such as sealift versus airlift on the price of goods.

Mr. Speaker, having reliable information on the cost of living across the territory is important to inform policy and programs that support easy access to healthy food for all Nunavummiut. The aim of this project is to train community staff so that people will be able to monitor prices in our communities on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, food security is a key element of well-being for all Nunavut communities. My department continues to consider this a priority, with food security being one of the themes for action in our Makimaniq Plan and upcoming five-year action plan on poverty reduction. We also continue to collaborate with other departments and Inuit organizations to ensure Nunavummiut have access to affordable and healthy food across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers'

Statements. The Hon. Member, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 037 – 4(1):
Baffin Island Caribou**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inuit knowledge and scientific information indicate that the number of caribou on Baffin Island is very low. Results from a 2012 aerial survey in the South Baffin area indicate a decline of approximately 90 percent since the 1990s.

On July 23 to 24, 2013, some 60 co-management partners met in Iqaluit for a two-day workshop to develop a proposed management process and suggested actions to address the caribou conservation need on Baffin Island. In response to the feedback that was provided during this workshop, my department is currently conducting a Baffin-wide aerial survey to estimate the abundance and late winter distribution of caribou on Baffin Island. Aerial survey activities are currently underway, having commenced in late February, and are expected to continue into mid- to late March.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this project includes a large amount of community involvement. Local Inuit hunters and elders provide valuable and extensive input and advice into the survey design and its implementation during recent consultations with community and hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs) in December 2013 and January 2014. As well, community members and HTO representatives from 10 Baffin communities are being included as “wildlife observers” in all aircraft during the survey. In addition,

the HTOs from Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River and Arctic Bay will be conducting caribou ground surveys by snowmobile concurrent with the aerial survey.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, caribou are an extremely valuable resource to Nunavummiut and an important part of the arctic ecosystem. My department is committed to working with all co-management partners to promote the recovery of caribou on Baffin Island. The aerial survey findings will be presented to the hunters and trappers organizations, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) as soon as possible after the survey has been completed. (interpretation ends) The survey results will be used to inform management decisions and community-based conservation actions to promote the recovery of the population.

In the meantime, I urge HTO representatives to work with their communities to share knowledge and take any immediate action that may be appropriate as a start to conserve Baffin Island caribou to ensure their future sustainability while we conduct the scientific studies and continue to collect *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* to inform on appropriate management action. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 090 – 4(1): The Need for Medical Transportation in Baker Lake**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring forward an issue that the residents of Baker Lake have been raising for some time: the need for medical transportation in the community.

Mr. Speaker, at a recent meeting of the Baker Lake Hamlet Council, a resolution was passed to request 24/7 stretcher service for those individuals who require transportation to the nursing station.

Mr. Speaker, we are aware that contracts are in place in other communities, such as Rankin Inlet, to provide 24/7 stretcher service. The community of Baker Lake would like to enter into a similar type of agreement with the Department of health to provide emergency transportation of a patient to the health centre when the need has been identified by the nurse-in-charge.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a new issue for my community, but it seems to be taking a long time for the Department of Health to address it. I encourage the minister and her officials to give the hamlet's resolution full consideration.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Member's Statement 091 – 4(1): The Need for an Increase in the Polar Bear Quota for Western Hudson Bay

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about the issue of polar bears, specifically the western Hudson Bay population adjacent to Arviat.

The western Hudson Bay polar bear population is harvested by the communities of Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet as part of the management zone. As people may be aware now, our community of Arviat experiences polar bear conflicts every fall as numerous bears invade our community and they are everywhere in adjacent areas.

These polar bears damage practically everything not protected, and some bears kill dogs, so not only are they destroying hunting equipment and cabins, when they enter a cabin they destroy everything. Some bears are now habituated with humans and don't fear Inuit anymore as they casually enter our community.

The local conservation officers are constantly harried by calls, and they work with the hamlet by-law officers to chase them away. The danger is such that we need night watchmen who work all night long chasing away polar bears. It is usually one person doing this work. Many residents in Arviat suffer hardship over this period as we prefer not to hunt polar bears at that time of year, so the practice is to try to chase them off.

However, this population is growing and we see more polar bears these days, yet it isn't reflected in our quota, and specifically the (interpretation ends) TAH (interpretation) has to be increased for the western Hudson Bay population, as currently it is too low.

Back in 2007, our community was allowed to harvest up to 56 polar bears, but it was reduced to a lower number. For a period of three years, we were provided with eight tags, but these tags were used for human-bear conflicts or defence kills and the result was no hunter was able to harvest bears as no tags would remain in the western Hudson Bay population quotas. At this moment, the number of tags provided to the community number is at 24. This number is much too low.

I wish to cite some examples related to the southern Hudson Bay polar bear population shared by Sanikiluaq and Northern Quebec Inuit hunters. The overall numbers are very similar with approximately 1,000 bears in each population. The southern Hudson Bay population shared by Sanikiluaq and Northern Quebec is also about 1,000 bears. Western Hudson Bay population estimates also place the number of bears in it at about 1,000.

The total allowable harvest for western Hudson Bay is set at 24 tags, while the South Hudson Bay total allowable harvest is different as Sanikiluaq has 25 tags. At this time, the total allowable harvest for Northern Quebec was set at 60 tags. Simple math means this population has 85 tags for polar bears that can be harvested while our zone only has 24. That is too much of a discrepancy.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to continue with my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there nays? There are none. Please proceed.

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

Yes, as I was saying, the number set for our zone is too low. The western Hudson Bay TAH is set too low, and it has to be increased. Just recently, there was a population study on the polar bears in Hudson Bay and it shows an increase.

We also know since we heard about this matter that the department has undertaken a (interpretation ends) polar bear management plan (interpretation) and here I mean the Department of Environment is consulting the communities which started this fall and expectations are that upon completion, the results will be released.

Later on, when we reach the appropriate time, I will be asking questions about this matter to the minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 092 – 4(1):
Closure of Children's Group
Home in Iqaluit**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my sincere regret and concern that the Department of Family Services has decided to no longer maintain the

children's group home in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this move is misguided and ill-advised.

For almost 20 years, the children's group home has provided just that: a home to children who are medically fragile and have specialized needs. Recently, it has also provided a temporary home to other children in desperate need of a place to stay before a foster home can be found for them.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that the children who were being taken care of at the group home are all going to be placed in foster homes. We already face a shortage of foster homes for all the other children who end up in the care of Child and Family services. Finding a foster home that is willing and able to provide specialized care is going to be even more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, what will happen to these young, fragile Nunavummiut? They will most likely be sent out of the territory to foster homes in the south, even further away from their families, their culture and the society that they are familiar and comfortable with.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Department of Family Services will be converting the group home into a home for troubled adolescents. While I do not disagree that there is a need for such a service, it astounds me that the Department of Family Services would decide to simply replace one service for another.

Mr. Speaker, we need a place for troubled adolescents to be supported and assisted. We need more foster homes. We need a facility where our medically

fragile children can be cared for in a loving and supportive environment. We need to provide for our youth. We should not be juggling one priority over another, eliminating one service whenever another service requirement raises its head.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the government to reconsider this decision at the earliest opportunity. Our children, all of them, deserve to be cared for at home in Nunavut.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 093 – 4(1):
Representation of Constituents**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I first would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Finance once again for assisting homeowners with the home heating fuel rebate. I've had a number of calls thanking me for the small part I played in that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send a strong message to the government. All of us in this House have the responsibility and the obligation to represent our constituents to the best of our ability. For those of us who sit to your left, Mr. Speaker, that includes the duty to raise concerns, ask tough questions and hold the government to account.

Mr. Speaker, on any given day, we can all expect to receive a number of phone calls, emails and other communications

from our constituents. Since my election, many residents of Iqaluit have approached me with ideas, concerns and suggestions regarding ways in which our government can improve the way it serves the public. I value this input and use it every day in my work.

Mr. Speaker, unlike in many legislatures in the country, our role as regular MLAs is not to defeat the government or to treat every question period as an opportunity to call for a minister's resignation or to exchange childish insults.

Mr. Speaker, although we are here to hold the government to account, we are not here to bring it down. However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this message needs to be heard more clearly in some parts of our government's administration.

Mr. Speaker, although we all recognize the importance of ensuring that privacy rights of Nunavummiut are respected by the government and although we all recognize the need to allow the public service to do its work and provide confidential advice to ministers, that does not mean that residents should be afraid to approach their elected members from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, it's important for all of us to be mindful that Nunavut is a small jurisdiction. Over 3,000 Nunavummiut are employed by the government as public servants, teachers, health care professionals, first responders and other professions. Mr. Speaker, I would go so far as to predict that every single Member of this House has at least one close friend or relative who is employed by the government in some capacity.

Mr. Speaker, raising suggestions, ideas, questions and concerns with a Member of the Legislative Assembly is very different... .

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

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and all my colleagues.

As I was saying, raising suggestions, ideas, questions and concerns with a Member of the Legislative Assembly is very different from finding the nearest reporter or news camera to publicly criticize the government. It's also very different from a formal whistle-blowing process that involves allegations of wrongdoing or lawbreaking.

Mr. Speaker, muzzles and gag orders are not healthy for our government and they're not healthy for this Legislative Assembly. If we, as MLAs, do not have the opportunity to hear directly from our constituents on their ideas for how to improve the way we do business, we will all lose touch.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of losing touch with my constituents, and I have no intention of being "muzzled" in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell.

**Member's Statement 094 – 4(1):
Tribute to Rita Paneloo Nashook**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Iqaluit-Manirajak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a late constituent who passed away, Rita Paneloo Nashook.

Mr. Speaker, Rita was born in Pond Inlet, but moved into this area about 40 years ago. She lived in the Illaulittuq outpost camp that has existed outside of Iqaluit for many years. She moved to the city of Iqaluit later on and made it her home community for many years until her passing recently on February 2 of this calendar year.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Rita was the first host for IBC's *Kipinnuijautiit* Inuktitut Show. She has many relatives and had compassion for everyone. She always wanted to make sure that everyone had enough to eat.

Mr. Speaker, Rita was always willing to help others in any way she could. Personally, I very much appreciated her gift to my husband, the *Iqaqtiik* and *Pualuuk* she sewed, made out of waterproof material, to thank him for providing her with country food.

Mr. Speaker, Rita was a compassionate and caring woman. We will miss her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Member's Statement 095 – 4(1):
Nunavut Seal Day in Ottawa**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my pride in my fellow residents of Pangnirtung, and specifically Pilemonie Etuangat. He spent many years in his position up until he retired recently. He was a heavy equipment operator who worked as the local road maintainer for 27 years. As he worked tirelessly until his retirement, I wanted to express our gratitude to Pilemonie Etuangat, as well as to his wife and children. I ask that colleagues share in this celebration, which is why I rose to speak.

The other matter I wanted to speak to relates to the sealskin ban as this issue has surfaced again in the global community. Just over lunch, there was a news piece about a demonstration outside of the Parliament where students attending the Nunavut Sivuniksavut are demonstrating against the EU ban while wearing sealskin clothing and to have examples of the uses of seals.

I want to express my pride in these students, as they put it upon themselves to demonstrate their beliefs especially related to the seal issue, and to showcase their Inuit cultural attachment to seals. I wish to express a heartfelt thank you to the students and I urge my colleagues to share in expressing our thanks to the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. (interpretation

ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kuksuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 039 – 4(1): Kivalliq-Manitoba Hydroelectric Development

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to everyone in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 2014, my colleague had a question, the Member for Arviat North, Joe Savikataaq. His question was: (interpretation ends) “Can the Minister of Energy update the House today on what has been accomplished to date in the areas of developing power connections between Manitoba and the Kivalliq?”

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to provide a response today to the question asked by the Member for Arviat South on what has been accomplished to date in the area of developing power connections between Manitoba and the Kivalliq region.

In 1999, Manitoba Hydro completed a “Churchill to Kivalliq Region Transmission Pre-Feasibility Study.” More recently, the “Nunavut-Manitoba All-Weather Road Business Case” completed in 2010 included consideration of possible synergies between road and hydroelectric development.

As the member indicated, the memorandum of understanding between Nunavut and Manitoba signed in 2010 contains a commitment to share “best practices and technology” aimed at new

energy solutions and improved energy services.

On this, I can update the member that Manitoba Hydro issued a request for information in September 2013 for “technology solutions to reduce or replace diesel fuel for electricity generation and for heat applications in Manitoba off-grid communities.” Currently, Manitoba Hydro is finalizing the review of these submissions and once complete will share that information with my department.

Regarding the progress made to date on the potential transmission of power between Manitoba and Nunavut, I would like to emphasize that work on this issue is at a pre-feasibility or conceptual stage; there are currently no concrete plans to develop such power connections.

Progress has been made slower than anticipated, in part due to the number of stakeholders involved in these discussions. However, the member will be happy to know that the government will be seeking clarification and support for next steps during the upcoming Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table being held next month in Churchill, Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Minister Ell.

Return to Oral Question 045 – 4(1): Medical Travel for Unilingual Clients

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was raised by Joe Enook, MLA for Tununig,

No. 45, dated March 11, 2014, and the subject is medical travel.

(interpretation ends) My question today is sometimes the plane doesn't arrive at its final destination due to the weather. My question is regarding a situation where there may be a unilingual elder on board travelling for medical reasons, if she or he doesn't make it to their destination, they will have to overnight in different communities. Who would be taking care of this individual?"

The response:

In response to the member's question, the answer would depend on a number of circumstances and would be treated on a case-by-case basis. For example, we would respond based on:

- Where the flight originated
- What was the scheduled destination
- What is the reason for the interrupted travel, for example, is the airline going to look after the passengers because of the change
- Depending on the individual, what is the reason for the medical travel
- Where is the plane going to instead of its original destination, for example, a major centre or a small community
- What facilities/services does Health have in that community

Health provides clients with emergency contact numbers in the form of an information folder. Once the client notifies the Medical Travel Office and based on the particular circumstances, Health would make every effort to ensure the individual was looked after due to the interruption of travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members, please note that the Member for Quttiktuq is absent from the House for now due to a medical appointment.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 096 – 4(1): Steps to Reduce Medical Travel Costs

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that the cost of medical travel is a heavy financial burden on our government and we need to take steps to reduce the need for travel. Far too often, I have heard of medical clients being sent south for follow-up appointments that don't take place or are sent to a series of appointments, travelling back and forth, over and over, to get all their tests done.

Can the minister clarify what steps her department is taking to improve communications and coordination with out-of-territory health care providers to ensure that appointments are scheduled with minimal changes and maximum efficiency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) As it is, in order to reduce the number of patients who are

sent outside Nunavut, which is an ongoing goal, we continually look at ways to bring more doctors to the territory. To cite this example where members spoke about (interpretation ends) specialists, (interpretation) doctors such as orthopaedic knee specialists or optometrists, and others who are brought into our territory, we want to increase the number of specialists to decrease the number of extra-territorial patients.

Nonetheless, patients who see specialists who also require surgical appointments or special medical treatment requiring medical travel south will continue. If any patient required eye surgery or other types of specialized surgeries, we don't have those types of specialized treatment options here, so unfortunately, in the foreseeable future, some patients will continue to get sent outside for medical reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut accesses health care service providers from other jurisdictions, but sometimes it feels as if health care providers in those other jurisdictions are the ones determining who travels out of territory for appointments and treatment. Can the minister explain why our Nunavut-based medical professionals are not communicating better with out-of-territory professionals to provide direct service to medical clients and eliminate the need for out-of-territory travel whenever possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We continue to search for ways to improve these services, but again, we have to work with outside jurisdictions providing their services to Nunavut, such as the example of the Ottawa specialist group called OHSNI, and we have to collaborate with them. They set the appointments, including any follow-up visits if patients have undergone surgery. We continue to negotiate with various jurisdictions to try to make improvements in every area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer as well. Mr. Speaker, all of Nunavut's health centres have been equipped with telehealth technology. Can the minister provide an update on how often the telehealth technology at our health centres and our regional centres is used to communicate with healthcare professionals outside of the territory to resolve health issues or make diagnoses and reduce the need for medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the specifics on the member's question, but I can tell you telehealth it is operating in all 25 communities and provided over 4,000 hours of telehealth services just last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 097 – 4(1): Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Quota

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Environment.

The minister stated earlier that the polar bear management plan is being made and he is doing consultation with the communities. I believe that each polar bear sub-population will be managed little bit different, because each polar bear population is different, it's not one big polar bear population in Nunavut.

Factors such as environmental conditions, media pressure, recouplement rate, or food source, outside pressures from Nunavut will influence how the management plan works out. This has been happening to the western Hudson Bay polar bear population. Outside pressures have been and are having on the TAH (total allowable harvest), that's the polar bear population the people I represent, Arviat, hunt from. It is important for them to continue hunting bears.

Back in 2006-07, the TAH, the total allowable harvest, was at 56. Without the Department of Environment doing any of their own studies, the TAH was cut down slowly and then eventually to eight. It was eight for three years, Mr. Speaker.

There was no huntable quota with a TAH of eight. All eight bears were always used for problem bears, defence

of life and property, defence of problem bears being shot. For three years, there was absolutely no hunting by the communities that hunt the western Hudson Bay population.

I stated that I believe that there are outside influences. Here is my reasoning for believing that. The Department of Environment has done a population estimate survey, their numbers state that it's roughly over a thousand bears in the western Hudson Bay. The south Hudson Bay polar bear population has also a little over one thousand bears in it too. The TAH for the thousand bears in western Hudson Bay is 24. The TAH for the thousand bears in southern Hudson Bay is 25 from Sanikiluaq and 60 from Quebec, which is a voluntary quota, which they may abide by it and they may not.

One population has a thousand bears and you can harvest 24 bears, the other population with the same number and the same general geographic area you can hunt 85 polar bears. In western Hudson Bay, the harvest level is at 2.4 percent, which is low, and I believe which is for growth of the polar bear population. The total TAH for southern Hudson Bay is 85 bears. That's 8.5 percent. There's a substantial difference in the two for the same bears in the same general area.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat has learned to live with an abundance of bears. Every fall, they damage property, kill dogs and some folks are scared to go out at night when it's dark, especially elders.

I commend the minister's staff for working hard every fall to keep the bears out of town, the hamlet by-law officers

for helping to keep the bears out of town, and for the night watchmen who work every night from 12:00 midnight to eight o'clock in the morning for two and a half months, seven days a week, every night to keep the bears out of town. But the bears do come into town all the time. They are in town.

Mr. Speaker, some of these bears have lost their fear of humans and they wilfully damage cabins and property. I have been told and have seen the damage to cabins that have no food or no attractant in or around them.

Mr. Speaker, last fall, two people were mauled in Churchill. These are the same bears that come to Arviat once they leave Churchill.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister make a submission to the NWMB to increase the TAH of the western Hudson Bay polar bear population from the current TAH of 24 to a reasonable amount of 48, which would be 4.8 percent of the estimated polar bear population? At a harvest level of 4.8 percent, it's well below the 8.5 percent that is currently harvested in south Hudson Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please be respectful of the other members and keep your preambles short and go straight to your question. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. I heard three different issues he raised in his question. One is the entire polar bear management system for Nunavut, which

is currently under development which he mentioned.

Additionally, he raised an issue regarding the management zone adjacent to his constituency community, and he also mentioned a different polar bear management zone offshore of Sanikiluaq and Northern Quebec. These three issues, as I understood them, were contained in his question as part of his commentary.

The newest iteration of the Polar Bear Management Plan for Nunavut we are consulting on currently includes our departmental officials, along with my ministerial office to develop this new plan. What I can say is that during this process, let us work together to resolve many of these issues by using Inuit Qaujimajangit, and further, any applicable scientific knowledge. As well, this new Polar Bear Management Plan will be based on what we have learned to date and our experiences.

Additionally for the western Hudson Bay polar bear management zone my colleague spoke of, and he also highlighted some of the human-bear conflicts and dealing with nuisance bears as part of the conservation officers' responsibilities. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank the member as he spent many years undertaking that exact duty in his community of Arviat.

I know you were involved in the monitoring of the bear situation there, and your dedication in providing public safety speaks for itself as nothing untoward happened to the residents of Arviat and I am happy the residents are carefully protected.

Yes, with respect to your question on the western Hudson Bay area, specifically the western Hudson Bay management zone for polar bears, my office and officials are committed to work with the communities. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is also committed, and that seems obvious to me. Based on the development process of these plans, the quota or total allowable harvest will also be reviewed.

The management plans have a term of three years, and this current fiscal year we are in, 2013-14, is the final year as it leads into the process for developing the new management plan. We have expectations that we will also be able to review the survey results from the area near Arviat, or during the southern Kivalliq polar bear management planning process.

All I can tell you is that only the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has the authority to initiate the process, and that is when we would begin and our department is committed to this process. Additionally, the member mentioned a number of 1,000 bears for the south or the (interpretation ends) southern Hudson Bay polar bear management plan (interpretation) will be quite complex for both the Nunavut Government as well as my department.

The reason is overlapping jurisdictions for the management of those bears, it is being dealt with now, but we have to consult the Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board as it is being reviewed by them at this time, and we have had past meetings on that population. What I can tell you is that a meeting was held in February regarding polar bear management issues related to Nunavik.

The Nunavik board held a meeting, and what I can provide, since it was released by my department, the Department of Environment in Nunavut, the results of the last population survey conducted in 2012 estimated a population of 1,000 bears from which hunters can take bears from. Our position, one which we have already provided, in order to ensure the successful continuation of polar bear management in the southern Hudson Bay is to have a total allowable harvest of 45 bears from that particular zone.

The Sanikiluaq HTO, with careful management of their harvest has been able to harvest 25 bears. I am not suggesting changing this amount; however, our position is that the total allowable harvest in that zone should be set at 45 bears. That is what we have released thus far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry for making my preamble too long, but I just wanted to paint the whole picture.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I understand that the minister stated that if the Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Board request for a TAH increase and using their population estimates which is in their published documents on May 14, 2012, the minister would put a submission in to the NWMB to increase the TAH of western Hudson Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, I had stated that the polar bear management process is just starting. The consulting group will be travelling to the Kivalliq region to talk about polar bear issues. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and our department, as well as the organization you named, will all be able to make presentations as part of our review. The zone in the (interpretation ends) western Hudson's Bay (interpretation) will be the subject of these meetings.

As per my earlier response, this zone is included as part of the review and it will be reviewed soon. I believe the identified time is in the fall, but it will become clearer once the subject of your question is dealt with. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Environment put a submission in to increase the TAH of western Hudson Bay once the polar bear management plan is done? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Actually, we need to review the latest survey results before we can identify the figure for the total allowable harvest, those groups involved in the

polar bear management plan. The survey results, including Inuit Qaujimagangit, as I know for a fact that is based on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and current Inuit knowledge for the area around Arviat, in the southern Kivalliq region, it has become obvious the number of bears have changed.

Many Inuit are stating that the population has increased, and this seems fairly obvious. That is what I can tell you. The recommendations, however, will be subject to review especially the facts that determine that decision, will need to be very clear to my ministerial office as well as to the NWMB. Once the NWMB has made their decision, then we will be able to look at that matter.

Another matter I wish to speak to, which formed part of his question earlier relates to (interpretation ends) southern Hudson Bay (interpretation) adjacent to Sanikiluaq, who would be affected as this includes the Nunavik hunters. The Quebec government and the federal government have environmental work in that area. As Nunavummiut, we work together on polar bear management issues and carefully monitor our harvests.

That is the co-management system in play, but what becomes concerning is the way the zone in (interpretation ends) southern Hudson Bay (interpretation) polar bear management system. The marine area isn't entirely under the jurisdiction of the Nunavut government even though the population is one and the same. This population includes Quebec and Ontario interests, and due to that reason, this zone is particularly cumbersome to manage or to try to

deliberate on a total allowable harvest amount for that area.

However, what I can tell you is that polar bear management issues are ongoing, Mr. Speaker, and Nunavummiut have the opportunity to be involved, and this includes the people of the Kivalliq, as they also have that opportunity to voice their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 098 – 4(1): The Need for Medical Transportation in Baker Lake

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's Statement, the Hamlet of Baker Lake recently passed a resolution requesting 24/7 transportation for those people requiring stretcher service to the nursing station.

Can the minister confirm whether or not she has received a copy of this resolution by way of correspondence from the Hamlet of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. At this time, I have not received the letter or resolution that the member is referring to

and I will be patiently waiting for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister responsible for Health for the answer. Can the minister describe what steps must be taken in order to establish a contract to provide 24/7 stretcher service in the Hamlet of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague for asking that question. The hamlet initiated the process and the first submission from the hamlet to our department and my colleague from CG&S of that resolution will start it as the CG&S department works closely with local hamlets on the (interpretation ends) ambulance service (interpretation) as the hamlet would have to negotiate the transfer. This would lead to a common understanding on how we can move this forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate, in my first supplementary I mentioned stretcher service, not an ambulance. Will the minister commit to reviewing the issue of medical transportation in Baker Lake

and finding a solution to this pressing need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Stretcher service is part of an ambulance service. I would expect the hamlet to work with the Department of Health, my officials and also with CGS to resolve their wants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Question 099 – 4(1): Status of Suicide Prevention Strategy

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

Mr. Speaker, the issue of suicide is a serious concern across Nunavut. Too many Nunavummiut appear to be losing hope. The previous government, working with partners such as NTI and the RCMP, introduced the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Can the minister confirm whether this strategy is still a priority for this government or has it been abandoned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The Suicide Prevention

Strategy Action Plan, as we all know, is set to sunset at March 31, 2014. We are working with several partners, some of which the member mentioned: The Embrace Life Council, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the RCMP and other GN departments such as Justice, Family Services and others.

We are at discussions to move forward with that action plan and hoping to extend it another year. That will give us an opportunity to see where we have been with our eight action items so we can move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Suicide Prevention Strategy is still a priority for our government, when will there be an evaluation of the strategy's implementation to date and will that evaluation be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The implementation of the action plan was delayed so that it covers a period from September 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014. Extending the implementation would allow all partners to continue to work towards achieving the objectives laid out in the document. Those are the eight action items. A lot of progress has been made in those eight action items. We are still working towards implementing them. We could see where we are at in each of our action

items, so all the participating members can discuss how to move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe how often meetings occur between the GN, NTI, the RCMP and the Embrace Life Council to discuss the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Strategy, and when will the next meeting be held? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These meetings occur frequently and there is another meeting scheduled soon on how to move forward. I can't recall the exact days that are set aside as I don't have the information with me, but what I do know is that regular meetings are held where they deliberate on the (interpretation ends) commitment (interpretation) that are listed in the document called (interpretation ends) the Action Plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 100 – 4(1): Closure of Iqaluit Children's Group Home

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's Statement, I am really disappointed with the decision to close the children's group home in Iqaluit.

Can the minister specify what plans are in place to continue providing care and services to the medically fragile children who, until now, lived in the Iqaluit children's home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Niaqunngu for asking that question about the Ilagiittut Children's Group Home here in Iqaluit. My deputy minister and I were there visiting recently and now understand the reasoning behind these changes. It is quite clear.

The children, aged three months are brought to that home, housed and taken care of in the group home. The children are not subject to (interpretation ends) residential care (interpretation) and when they are cared for in an institution, as social workers quite well know, they are treated just as if they were growing up in a home as if they didn't have physical disabilities, unlike institutional care.

Social workers use the legislation, and yes, the children are being transferred to another facility here in Iqaluit and we are happy to see them get a new home, however, those who have physical disabilities or with continuing medical conditions are still housed there. Nonetheless, I believe that the transfer will be completed by this spring. We

know that the caretakers aren't too pleased to see their long term wards no longer in their care. This is part of the emotional attachment humans get and this is completely understandable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, there is a severe shortage of foster homes across Nunavut. Can the minister clarify what steps are being taken to ensure that Nunavut has enough foster homes for those in need and, in particular, enough foster homes that are willing and able to provide specialized care to medically fragile children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member from Niaqunnguu. The department has implemented a centralized placement plan and review committee to improve quality care and better manage costs. This transition started in 2012 for the children at the Ilagiittut Group Home. It is the social worker's job to recruit and find foster homes through the proper protocol to finding foster homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister explain how

the act of sending some of our most vulnerable children to foster homes outside of Nunavut, away from familiar surroundings and culture, can provide the same level of services that they received here, where they could be part of Nunavut society? The Ilagiittut house, I understand, was very much like a home setting and not so much as an institution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Niaqunnguu for asking those questions. Yes, the Ilagiittut Group Home has been running for over 20 years. Change is hard when it affects our fellow people. We understand that, but it is not proper to raise children in a residential placement. They have to be in foster homes, families and belong to the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 101 – 4(1): Search and Rescue

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Last week, the minister provided an update to the Legislative Assembly on his meeting with Baffin mayors. The minister informed the Legislative Assembly that his department has agreed to, and I quote, "meet with

municipalities to look at partnership options to supply equipment for search and rescue and we are also looking at transferring surplus equipment and snowmobiles and boating equipment for search and rescue purposes.”

Can the minister confirm that these meetings will also take place with Kivalliq communities, including Rankin Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We intend to meet with all search and rescue organizations throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government’s most recent annual report on emergency management describes some of the areas of co-operation between the territorial government and the federal government. As the minister is aware, the Canadian Armed Forces play an important role in conducting air searches in the north. Can the minister describe how his department provides feedback to the Armed Forces concerning such areas as equipment and search operations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through our Emergency Measures Organization, we are in constant contact with the military when it comes to how we can best utilize their services. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government’s 2011-12 annual report on emergency management was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in November of 2012. When will the minister be tabling the next annual report in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as the report is ready to be tabled, it will be tabled in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Question 102 – 4(1): Medical Travel for Unilingual Clients

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet, my fellow community members, and Nunavummiut. I say “good afternoon” to you. My question is for the Minister of Health for

clarification. I want to start with the response received earlier.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I often voice the plight of unilingual Inuit and how they can receive proper service if their flight doesn't reach the final destination. Earlier today, this response was provided by the minister, so let me start with this first question. The specific issue within the response states that it will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis individually. It states factors will be taken into consideration, such as the departure point of the flight.

Let me ask this question, Mr. Speaker, if I were unilingual who can't speak English, and I went on medical travel to Rankin Inlet from Repulse Bay. Alternatively, if I were an Inuk unable to communicate in English travelling from Pond Inlet to Iqaluit, if the flight didn't reach Rankin Inlet or if the flight I am on didn't reach Iqaluit, what use is it factoring in my departure point? What does it garner such significance in these factors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These examples he used, such as the flight flitting back from Iqaluit or was that Rankin Inlet? Is the member trying to ask if the patients on medical travel didn't reach their destination, why the departure point becomes significant? I can't quite grasp his examples, so perhaps the member can be clear in his question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Enook, please rephrase your question.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very clear. If I departed Repulse Bay for Rankin Inlet and we didn't land in Rankin Inlet, or if I was travelling from Pond Inlet to Iqaluit and couldn't land in Iqaluit, who is ultimately responsible for my care?

I raised that example in past questions about who is responsible in those cases. The response provided earlier, states that each case will be examined individually on a case-by-case basis. That is why I asked the question now, about why the service provided in this case may differ if I depart from Repulse Bay or even from Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, although the member eloquently stated his example, he never even used examples such as a patient from Arviat who doesn't land in Rankin Inlet but he doesn't say where the hypothetical plane landed in.

The member also states the case where a patient departing Pond Inlet doesn't land in Iqaluit but he doesn't say where the plane landed to. He doesn't indicate the alternative landing site, and medical travel patients are provided with documentation such as pamphlets identifying a call-in number such as a (interpretation ends) 1-800 numbers (interpretation) which includes numbers in various communities that may serve

as alternative landing sites as we have employees in every community.

The staff in the local centres can also take those calls as needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have in my hand a copy of the English version. If I were to try to clarify my question in English, the minister may be able to grasp the question. This is the same example I am using in English.

(interpretation ends) My question to the hon. minister is: in your response, you said that each individual case would be looked at case by case, including where the flight originated from. My question is: why does it matter where the flight originated from? Why does that matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it matters where the flight has been diverted to. It matters whether the flight attendants or the crew will be looking after the patient, be it wherever they come from or go to. It matters whether the plane is coming from a northern community to another northern community or being diverted to a southern community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) In the response, it indicates that it's very essential to know where the flight originated. So that's my question, Mr. Speaker. I'm not saying, nor am I concerned, about where they ended up. In your response, for example, we would respond based on where the flight originated. Why is the flight origination important in the whole matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Medical patients, no matter who they are, go from communities to medical centres because it is a necessity. All patients are given pamphlets and we have 1-800 numbers that are available and where they should go. I don't know how to respond to the question, and if the plane was diverted, they would be well taken care of, they would know. They can call the 1-800 number. It's in Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, English and French. It's in all official languages. They are available in the communities. There are usually phone numbers that are displayed at the air terminals. We have all the numbers here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 103 – 4(1): Use of Telehealth Technology

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope our Minister of Health doesn't feel picked on, but I am going to ask her another question today.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as I alluded to in my previous question, over the past decade or so, the Department of Health has made significant investments in setting up telehealth technology all across Nunavut. Initially it was hoped that the use of this technology would reduce the need for medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate whether or not her department has undertaken a cost analysis to determine whether the use of the telehealth systems has reduced the costs for medical travel across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I don't want to make assumptions and whether this has been a cost saving, but I can say that it looks as though it has a cost savings because you're making your appointments through a telehealth system rather than travelling to go see a doctor. I will ask my staff to provide the member with an analysis at a time when we have that available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate and look forward to that information from the minister. Mr. Speaker, the 2013 Canadian Telehealth Report shows that the number of clinical sessions provided across Nunavut in 2012 increased by approximately 37

percent since 2010. However, other jurisdictions such as the Yukon and the Northwest Territories respectively doubled and tripled their clinical telehealth use over the same period.

Can the minister explain what her department is doing to try and increase the clinical use of Nunavut's telehealth technology? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. Telehealth is operational in all 25 communities and as I said earlier, it has provided 4,343 hours of telehealth services just last year. It plays a significant role in viewing medical travel needs for patients. As an example, telehealth has averted 50 medical trips since March 2012 for kidney clinic patients.

We are working to reduce more wait times. We are currently testing to provide more services, as an example, the use of endoscopes and, if I could say this right, stethoscopes and things like that. I think that more improvement will be available down the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that factors such as bandwidth accessibility as well as training qualifications affect the ability to use our telehealth system to its maximum effectiveness.

Can the minister update this House on whether any further investments into the relevant technology are being considered to increase use of the telehealth system and further reduce medical travel costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. Health has partnered with health care providers in Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Manitoba to expand telehealth programs and services and offer our staff with the best practices and mentoring services. We will continue to find ways to expand and improve telehealth services for patients and health care providers in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 104 – 4(1): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services. I would like to follow up on the issue of financial supports for seniors.

Last week when I asked the question about the Senior Fuel Subsidy program, the minister indicated that if a senior receives funds under Senior Fuel Subsidy program, then this might affect their senior subsidy or benefit.

For the sake of our elders, who may be listening to our proceedings, can the minister further clarify her comments on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Baker Lake for asking that question about the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program. Elders receive this subsidy apportioned to their level of income. The subsidy that assists them, (interpretation ends) using income tax (interpretation) returns as a basis that every citizen has to submit during the income tax return period.

This is used to calculate their overall income because the federal government pension has a limitation and if it surpasses that amount, they may lose their exemption. I hope that clarifies this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems very unfortunate that we could have a subsidy handed out to seniors by one hand of the government only to have another hand of the government reach out and take funding away from seniors as a result. This must be very distressing to elders, who often struggle to make ends meet.

Can the minister explain how her department officials work with seniors to assist them in applying for subsidies, such as the senior fuel subsidy, and to explain how their overall financial

situation might be affected by receiving different types of funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Baker Lake for asking that question. Yes, I completely concur with that concern, as it would be quite worrisome for elders if they lose their old age pension.

The (interpretation ends) federal government (interpretation) has their own legislation which this government has no say in. The federal government has to administer their own rules. Unfortunately, there is an upper limit for the level of income for senior citizens. They identify what they are eligible for, under which plan, and that is part of their regulations.

In the year 2013-14, there were less than 25 cases that were denied social assistance by the income support workers due to their being above the threshold. I hope that is clear, that people who don't receive assistance are ineligible if their income is above the identified threshold. That is regrettable, but a limit is placed on this subsidy.

If the household income is up to \$75,000, then they're eligible for the full fuel subsidy. If their income bracket falls between \$75,000 and \$100,000, they would receive 50 percent of their fuel expenses as part of this rebate. That is how I can respond to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that receiving a subsidy is almost like receiving a little bit of extra income. If the federal government considers a subsidy as income, then this could affect other benefits that an individual is entitled to receive.

Can the minister indicate whether she has had any discussions with federal entities such as the Canada Revenue Agency to have certain Nunavut subsidies, such as the senior fuel subsidy, exempt from being considered as income when it comes to calculating seniors' benefits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Baker Lake for asking these valuable questions on behalf of the elders. Yes, when elders' income levels surpass these thresholds, this is the only time they are refused.

Also, the federal government also places income limits under their pension plans and identify the limit where they become ineligible for the pension and they are the sole authority on these issues.

I personally haven't met with any representatives of the federal government in my portfolio, but I believe I will eventually get a chance to meet them in the future. Yes, the

subsidies are all subject to limits. If you go on a course and get financial assistance or income support, these funds provided to you are reported in the (interpretation ends) income tax (interpretation) process.

Your return dictates the GST and child tax credits you receive and many people utilize these financial assistance programs. I hope I have answered his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Motion: Extension of Question Period

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that the time for question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour, raise your hand. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) All those opposed, raise your hand. There is a tie vote. I vote in favour of the motion. Question period is extended by 30 minutes.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 105 – 4(1): A Comprehensive Elders’ Health Strategy for Nunavut

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a great vote.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health because she has not received too many questions today. I just want to add another one.

Mr. Speaker, a number of issues and concerns have been brought forward in this House with respect to the support of our elders, be it health insurance coverage, financial support, housing, end-of-life care.

As we know, health status is strongly linked to housing, poverty, nutrition, and lifestyle, among other factors.

Can the minister indicate what consideration is being given to developing a comprehensive Elders’ Health Strategy for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Any strategy would require input and coordination across many departments. She mentioned some of them. Health works with Family Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Culture and Heritage on the seniors’ file.

As you know, the elders’ program strategy 2010-14 developed by Culture and Heritage, that was then called “CLEY,” outlined the importance of a collaboration approach to addressing the needs and concerns of elders. Any

strategy would require input and coordination across many of these departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the majority of Nunavut's population is still very young, Nunavut's bureau of statistics projects that by the year 2036, 10 percent of our population would be aged 65 and older. Can the minister indicate whether or not her department officials have begun to plan for this projected growth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for her question. As of July, 2013, there were 1,244 Nunavummiut 65 years of age and older, which represents approximately 3.5 percent of the population. That means there has been a 54 percent increase in Nunavummiut aged 65 plus since 2006. I don't have my glasses on, Mr. Speaker.

Health is currently in discussions with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to explore many things that we can do with elders. We are planning to conduct a needs assessment to determine how best to meet the long-term care needs for Nunavummiut. The assessment will be including a care delivery model, such as community and in-home supports, models for supportive living and residential programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all recognize that preparing for the future is really a difficult task. There are many known and unknown variables to consider. However, as a government, we must work hard to anticipate for our future needs and plan for them instead of reacting with too little, too late.

Will the minister commit to work with her counterparts to develop a comprehensive elders strategy for Nunavut and keep this Assembly updated on her progress? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Health is committed to working with various departments to do an assessment, and then that eventually will lead to a coordinated approach, a strategy, if you might want to call it that. We are committed to working to see the assessment... would see things like care delivery models and other things that I mentioned earlier, other organizations outside the government, like hamlet councils and things like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Question 106 – 4(1): Medical Travel for Unilingual Clients

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

I need some clarification with regard to the return to one of my previous oral questions. There are quite a few responses in there and the minister has the copy and read it out loud.

My first question: when a patient is coming from a community, according to where they came from, if they do not reach their destination, why is the place where their flight originated from relevant in the case they do not arrive at their destination? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, clients on medical travel are provided with phone numbers for contacting the boarding home and medical travel staff for interpreter services that are available. If a patient is travelling from community to community, they have been provided with the phone numbers. These situations are dealt with case-by-case basis. It depends on the services available, interpreter staff, and many things come to play. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want elders or anyone who is a unilingual patient to be very aware of the process and I want them to understand fully. The response includes that they would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, including where they originated from. If the patient is going to Iqaluit, what does where they originate from have to do with not reaching their destination? Why do we need different services depending on where we originate from? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All patients are treated equally. In all communities, patients are provided with and information about what process they're expected to go through, along with a copy of the hospital's policies and what they should be expecting. It's all spelled out in the pamphlet.

The member had asked if the flight did not reach its destination and he was asking who would be taking care of those individuals. We had stated the relevance of the flight's origin and its destination and where it actually lands to what action would be taken. That's why they would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, just for that purpose. It doesn't matter where the patients originate from, because they're treated equally on that service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow will come for sure. Let me ask this question again. In the response here by the minister, it states, and it mentions a number of items... why has the flight changed? Why, for example, did the flight not arrive at its destination? If they originated in the Baffin region, we go to the hospital in Iqaluit. These cases would be looked at on a case-by-case basis. It states that the patients might be taken care of by the airline staff. There is no doubt that in a diverted flight, passengers would be taken care by airline staff.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: if I couldn't speak English and the pilots couldn't speak Inuktitut since most are non-Inuit, how am I going to communicate with them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been answering questions on what if, what if this, what if that on an airplane that might go here or might go there. Mr. Speaker, these are dealt with case-by-case basis. That's why we're saying it's a case-by-case basis.

The fact airplanes may not have people working there who are Inuit; last year, we praised an airline for having an all-Inuit crew, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 107 – 4(1): Government Contracting Practices

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

On March 1, 2012, the Legislative Assembly was informed that the Government of Nunavut would be conducting a “comprehensive internal review” of its public procurement practices. It is now March 18, 2014. Can the minister inform the House what the results of this review were? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member. However, I just don't have that information with me at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: I'll try my second question.

Although the government has a Contracting Appeals Board, its mandate is limited to hearing appeals based strictly on the application of the NNI Policy to a given contract award. This board does not have the mandate to hear appeals based on broader concerns. Can the minister indicate what his position is on establishing a new and independent appeals body? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a department, although we do use NNI, my department is not responsible for the application and development of the NNI Policy itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Annual reports on the government's procurement, contracting and leasing activities have not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since the fall of 2012. When will the minister be tabling the most recent annual reports on its procurement, contracting and leasing activities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as I have the report in my hands, I would be happy to table the report. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 108 – 4(1): Review of Income Assistance

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my

question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's 2013-14 Business Plan for the Department of Family Services indicates that there will be a comprehensive review of the department, in particular the Income Assistance program.

As the minister and many of my colleagues are aware, from time to time, we see clients who either misuse or abuse this program.

Can the minister indicate how the income assistance policy will be improved to reduce the abuse of the program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Tununiq for asking a question about the abuse of the program. Social services are not policemen, so they don't check to see whether the program is being abused or not. It's only if we empowered them with the authority to do so can they effectively deal with client abuse, but their job at this time is only in giving out social assistance. If you know that someone is being abused, we can take them to the Human Rights Tribunal where they would be investigated. All I can say at this time is that this was reviewed in the past year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand that the minister is saying that even if you know there is abuse happening, you can't do anything? Is that the understanding that I have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for Tununig for asking about the abuse of the program. We think there is abuse happening, but we can't actually tell them, "You can't do this." We can work with the Department of Justice to see what we can do under the law in regard to the Social Assistance program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I know it, it's already my final question. Sometimes the policies are interpreted differently. Some applicants for assistance are turned down when staff strictly follow the policy. At other times those same policies are interpreted differently.

Clients are given only have seven days to appeal an income support worker's decision. Can the minister indicate whether the income assistance review will be looking at how the policies are interpreted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Tununig. We know that Nunavummiut deserve equal treatment when applying for social assistance, since most do so out of desperation or if they have a disability. We also know that a lot of Nunavummiut who run out of food look after many children, but are fully employable. The policy is being reviewed and has being worked on for approximately a year. We are working with the Makimaniq Plan to see what we can do.

If there's anyone who applied for social assistance and they were refused, there is a Nunavut appeals board they can appeal the decision to. These boards were just approved in December. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Question 109 – 4(1): Pond Inlet Airport

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

The Government of Nunavut's transportation strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 5, 2009, officially recognizes three "hub airports" in the territory: Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a strong advocate of designating Pond Inlet as our fourth hub airport. Mr. Speaker, I have stated in this House on more than one occasion that Pond Inlet is located

within an hour's flying time of several other communities, and its proximity to the Mary River project makes it the right strategic choice for being designated as North Baffin's hub airport.

What is the minister's position on designating Pond Inlet as a hub airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. It's unfortunate and I apologize that I wasn't here when this was being discussed five years ago. If there are any plans, I haven't seen them as of yet. That's all I can say right now. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, before we proceed, I would like to recognize Peter Irniq, former Commissioner of Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

Welcome.

Your first supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Irniq, welcome.

Mr. Speaker, the document was introduced in 2009 and the minister was not part of it. Since you became the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, are you now planning for Pond Inlet to be a hub airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question asking whether our department is planning for Pond Inlet to be a hub airport. At this time, what I can say is that I haven't seen nor heard anything in regard to the topic that he is asking right now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me ask the (interpretation ends) hon. minister: (interpretation) can you commit to inform the people of Pond Inlet that there will soon be an airport hub? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I haven't seen any plans on either community in regard to hub airports. I haven't seen anything new for this. Thank you.

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

Question 110 – 4(1): Baker Lake Airport

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. All of my other

colleagues have been bringing up the issue of terminal buildings across the territory, so I would like to put in my submission.

The community of Baker Lake has a population of about 2,400 and we also have 400 to 600 people who reside at the Agnico-Eagle mine. So when you take into consideration the population size and you have a gold mine in place, but at the same time, you also have all of these exploration companies within the perimeters of the community of Baker Lake. When you look at the community of Baker Lake, it's in the geographical centre of Canada.

Can the Minister for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation take that into consideration and look into it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister rephrase his question? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mikkungwak, can you rephrase your question, please.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is: as the community of Baker Lake, will that be taken into consideration, considering the age of the building and the amount of traffic that is going on in Baker Lake, whether it be airlines or exploration companies or the mining companies?

Will his department take into consideration the age and the amount of traffic and renovation or possibly a new air terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The air terminal building in Baker Lake was built in 1986 and it's one of the older air terminals in Nunavut, but it's also newer than some of the air terminals in the other communities. It is slated to be renovated some time in the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. My reasoning also to this is when you look at the wheelchair access ramp and I guess the design, the design took into factor here is... This past winter, what the community has been experiencing is a sewage overflow with the sewage tank freezing. When it's overflowing, the flow is actually affecting the wheelchair access ramp, which I find is very inappropriate for the disabled people. Can they take that into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. Regarding renovations at air terminals or some type of infrastructure, usually we make sure that we include ramps for any buildings that are operated by the government. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like for the hon. minister to take into consideration, at the previous Assembly, it was also scheduled to have a renovation or a new building constructed in the Hamlet of Baker Lake for an airport terminal building. If his department could dig up that information also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again. Yes, I'll make sure that I look for the information regarding the air terminal and ensure sure that you receive copies. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Going to Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of

Documents. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 027 – 4(1): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2012

Tabled Document 028 – 4(1): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2013

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers for the period of March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Tabled Document 029 – 4(1): Medical Travel Policy

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Medical Travel Policy, which I committed to tabling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have one.

**Tabled Document 030 – 4(1): 2014
Report of the Auditor General of
Canada to the Legislative
Assembly of Nunavut – Follow-up
Report on Child and Family
Services in Nunavut – Department
of Family Services**

(interpretation) Thank you, members.
(interpretation ends) I wish to table the
2014 Report of the Auditor General of
Canada to the Legislative Assembly of
Nunavut titled “Follow-up Report on
Child and Family Services in Nunavut,
Department of Family Services.”
(interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) 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. Committee of the Whole on Bills and
Other Matters. Bills 2, 3, 4, and 5 with
Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:46 and
Committee resumed at 16:12*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good
afternoon. I would like to call the
committee meeting to order. In
Committee of the Whole, we have the
following items to deal with: Bills 2, 3,
4, and 5. What is the wish of the
committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill
2 and the review of the capital main
estimates and start with the Department
of Environment, followed by the
Department of Justice, the Department
of Family Services, and the Legislative
Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt.
Are we in agreement that we first deal
with the capital estimates for the
Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2014-2015 – Environment –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Now I would like to ask
Minister Mike, responsible for the
Department of Environment, to proceed
with his opening comments.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
members. Mr. Chairman and members, I
am pleased to be here today to introduce
the Department of Environment’s capital
plan for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

(interpretation ends) For this fiscal
period, the Department of Environment
is proposing a capital budget of \$3.4
million. (interpretation) This expenditure
will permit the department to
concentrate on two program areas:
Wildlife Management and Parks and
Special Places.

(interpretation ends) Within our Wildlife
Division, these capital funds will be used
to replace aging mobile equipment and
for improving and renovating aging
infrastructure. (interpretation) We will

start the construction of a new wildlife office in Pangnirtung and continue planning for the construction of a new wildlife building in Repulse Bay in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, our territorial parks and special places have an important role in the protection and promotion of Nunavut's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, (interpretation ends) and they provide positive recreation and tourism services to meet the needs of Nunavummiut and our visitors.

(interpretation) It is our intention that in the 2014-15 fiscal year, we will complete studies (interpretation ends) for potential new parks on Axel Heiberg Island (interpretation) and near Sanikiluaq in the Qikiqtani region, at Arviat in the Kivalliq region, and at Kugaaruk in the Kitikmeot.

(interpretation ends) As well, in keeping with our Umbrella Territorial Parks Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, we will continue master planning for a new destination park north of Clyde River that will focus on the area's outstanding fiord landscape. (interpretation) It is also our intention to monitor and maintain infrastructure in all of our parks and campgrounds throughout Nunavut

(interpretation ends) In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's capital plan is focused in the areas that clearly support the needs and priorities of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister of Environment, Minister Mike. Do you wish to have staff at the witness table?

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, please.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, committee members. To my right is Mr. David Monteith, Director of Parks and Special Places, and the Interim Deputy Minister, Steve Pinksen. Those are my officials.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Mike. Are there opening comments from the Regular Members' Caucus? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Environment's proposed 2014-15 capital estimates. Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2014-15 is \$3,407,000. The department's capital budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year was \$3.98 million and its capital budget was \$3,044,000 for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2014-15 capital estimates include \$1,807,000 in funding for the

construction of a new conservation office in Pangnirtung. The department's 2011-12 capital estimates included \$150,000 in funding for this project. The department's five-year capital plan also includes \$1.75 million in funding for replacement of the conservation office in Resolute Bay, which is projected to start in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Members look forward to receiving updates on these projects.

The department's 2014-15 capital estimates propose \$100,000 in funding for renovations and repairs to wildlife offices and research facilities across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2014-15 capital estimates include \$1.5 million in funding for small capital projects. These projects focus on the replacement of mobile equipment and the development of infrastructure in territorial parks. Information provided to members indicates that funding for park development studies is now included under the department's small capital budget. The small capital budget includes \$400,000 in funding for park development studies in or near Axel Heiberg Island, Arviat, Clyde River, and Sanikiluaq. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on these projects.

On September 23, 2010, the GN issued a news release which stated that the Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services are "working together to examine Nunavut's solid waste management practices as a whole."

Members note that the Department of Community and Government Services recently issued a request for information titled "Potential Planning for Solid Waste Management Methods for Nunavut Territory." It indicates that the department is "seeking information regarding potential solid waste management solutions for the Territory of Nunavut. The GN and the municipalities are seeking to deliver a sustainable waste management program for Nunavut's 24 non-tax based communities. The Territory is currently struggling to provide environmental and socially conscientious waste management solutions given that state of the infrastructure, operational issues, and the significant logistical challenges facing northern communities."

Members look forward to ongoing updates on this important issue. This is an issue that we also noted in our opening comments on the 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Do members have any general comments or questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening comments towards the end, it's having the "intention to monitor and maintain infrastructure in all of our parks and campgrounds throughout Nunavut." In the substantiation sheet for the Sylvia Grinnell Park, of which \$105,000 is allocated, I would just like

clarification from the minister on whether these funds are to be used for the planning and design for the new viewing platform, park pavilion, and continued trail maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official who deals with that, Mr. Monteith, will respond and I would like to refer the question to him.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monteith.

Mr. Monteith: Thank you. My response is “yes” to each one of those items that you mentioned. It’s for trail enhancement. We’re doing some roadwork as well, some road improvement, and we’re looking at a potential enhancement to the existing viewing platform, so yes.

Chairman: Any other questions? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference alongside with my colleague, looking at the substantiation sheets also, the community of Baker Lake, Thelon-Kazan Heritage River development, can the minister elaborate more on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ll again refer the question to the official who deals with that, Mr. Monteith.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Mike. Mr. Monteith.

Mr. Monteith: Thank you. The money will be used for infrastructure projects that are sort of related to the Canadian Heritage River program. There has been a bit of a delay because we’re still negotiating an IIBA, an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, with NTI and KIA. The money would also be used for repairs to the existing campgrounds that are tied into the Thelon and Kazan rivers.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the official for the response. In reference to the dollar amount with the renovations, would that be a sufficient amount for the renovation aspect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My interim deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount budgeted, of course, is always dependent upon available resources. With the \$140,000 budgeted for this project, we will be able to accomplish a certain amount of the work. Whether or not it’s sufficient to do all that we would desire is something we can’t really answer, but in future years, we hope to be able to put additional resources into the project. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier, the response I also received, there are IIBA negotiations. How far along are the negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again I'm going to refer this to Mr. Monteith. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monteith.

Mr. Monteith: ... (inaudible) ... provide an update on the IIBA, the IIBA primarily is between Canada and NTI and the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Canada has asked us to be a part of that IIBA. Currently, the negotiations have stalled. There's a disagreement on funding between what Canada is prepared to offer for the IIBA. Most of the articles in the IIBA, though, have been negotiated and agreed to, so I would say that we're about 80 to 85 percent there. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. My question now here is: was all relevant parties, have they all consulted with the community people of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like

to refer this question to Mr. Monteith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monteith.

Mr. Monteith: Thank you. The negotiations have included Baker Lake. The community, I know the Kivalliq Inuit Association has represented the community of Baker Lake. Certainly, we bring to the IIBA table the recommendations of the management plan that was agreed and that was the result of consultations with the community.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments or questions? I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to page by page review of the capital estimates starting with I-3. Do members agree that we are... I'm sorry.

Environment. Branch Summary. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$3,407,000. Questions?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to I-2. Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$3,407,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister and officials. Minister, do you have any

closing comments?

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, MLAs for giving us the opportunity. I was worried about when it might end. Thank you for taking it easy on me. That's all.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the guests out.

I would now like to ask Minister Okalik, responsible for Department of Justice, to proceed with his opening comments.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole for a review of the 2014-15 draft capital estimates.

A total amount of \$900,000 is being requested for minor capital expenditures for the 2014-15 fiscal year. These funds will be used to cover building renovations and maintenance at Utaqqivik, the young offender's facility, and the Baffin Correctional Centre. As well, a new boat is needed to facilitate the activities of our Inuit cultural skills program which teaches our offenders land skills.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments, which are summarized. I would be pleased to answer questions from the committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Okalik. Do you wish to have staff at the witness

table?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes.

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

Thank you. For the record minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Acting Deputy Minister, Rebekah Williams, and to my left, Director of Finance, Christine Bens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there opening comments from the Regular Members' Caucus? Please proceed, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I will be reading my comments in English.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus concerning its review of the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2014-15 is \$900,000. The department's capital budget was \$8,975,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Members recognize that the decrease in the department's budget is a consequence of the pending completion of such projects as the Baffin Correctional Centre Overcrowding Relief Structure.

The department's proposed 2014-15 capital budget is allocated towards a variety of minor capital projects. These include upgrades and repairs to existing correctional facilities and the replacement of mobile equipment.

During the minister's recent appearance, members encouraged the department to explore ways in which minor repair projects in correctional facilities could be used as vocational training opportunities for offenders as part of the department's rehabilitation and skills training programs.

In June of 2012, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$4,373,000 capital carryover related to the construction of the new men's correctional facility in Rankin Inlet, which is now operational. Members note that the new men's correctional facility in Rankin Inlet is designed to accommodate approximately 48 medium- and low-risk offenders.

Although the opening of this facility has helped to address overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre, members recognize that a number of factors, including recently-passed federal legislation, will continue to put pressure on the capacity of the territory's correctional facilities.

Members encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of the new correctional facility in Rankin Inlet, including any initiatives on the part of the department to explore options for expanding the facility.

Members recognize the importance of effective healing and rehabilitation programs in correctional facilities that

will help enable offenders to successfully reintegrate into their communities. Members also recognize the importance of incorporating cultural components in rehabilitation. Outpost camps can play an important role in achieving these goals.

Mr. Chairman, members encourage the Minister of Justice to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the state of the territory's correctional system, including current and comprehensive information concerning the number of offenders in territorial correctional facilities, outpost camps and out-of-territory facilities, as well as an accounting of departmental expenditures incurred under agreements with other jurisdictions for the placement of offenders.

This information would be of benefit to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and would assist the government in analyzing and substantiating the need for new correctional facilities and resources. This annual report would also benefit from including detailed information concerning the effectiveness of the department's rehabilitation and treatment programs in reducing the rate at which individuals in territorial custody re-offend.

Mr. Chairman, as members are aware, the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services contains a \$2.0 million line item for "preplanning studies" for a variety of potential capital projects on behalf of a variety of departments.

A study being taken on behalf of the Department of Justice is for a “Baffin Correctional Centre Life Cycle Renovation.” Members look forward to reviewing the results of the pre-planning study and encourage the departments of Justice and Community and Government Services to work closely together to address the issue of safety and inspections at territorial correctional facilities.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Do members have any general comments or questions? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the minister did his opening remarks, total amount of \$900,000 are being requested for the Department of Justice for minor capital expenditures in the substantiation sheets. Can the minister please advise me or notify me if that is taking into consideration the aging infrastructure of the Baker Lake detachment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For correctional facilities, the police detachments are on contract with the RCMP. I am here for the correctional facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more members on my list for general

comments. Sorry. Mr. Hickeys.

Mr. Hickeys: My apologies, Mr. Chairman, I thought you were going into line by line already.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed into page by page review of the capital estimates, starting with E-3. Questions? Mr. Hickeys.

Mr. Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the pre-planning study for the BCC lifecycle renovation and core correctional facility, there is some money to basically look at a preplanning study. If memory serves me correct, with the overcrowding structure being put in there, what kind of study is it going to entail? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Baffin Correctional Facility is in need of repair. We need to do an assessment of how much repairs will cost to renovate the facility. Those plans will kick in once we have the new structure in place so that we can do renovations and improvements and temporarily relocate inmates to the temporary relief structure. So that's the plan that we have for this year, is to assess how much it will cost to repair the various sections of the Baffin Correctional Centre. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. Hickeys.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I forget actual day that the article came out on CBC. There was some concern that there already has been a report initiated by the department on what kind of deficiencies needed to be addressed. Can the minister comment on that, please? Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we have. We are working on the basis of the report. Now we have to figure out how much it will cost and how we can plan the repairs for the facility. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Comments or questions? Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$900,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page E-2. Department Summary. Justice. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$900,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank

my colleagues and my officials who were able to assist me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

I would like to now ask Minister Ugyuk, responsible for Family Services, to proceed with her opening comments.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, hon. Members of the Committee of the Whole, I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates for the Department of Family Services.

(interpretation ends) As the Minister of Family Services, I am looking forward to advance the mandate of the department to provide a range of programs and services that support self-reliance to those who are most vulnerable.

We are establishing an important milestone today as this is the first capital submission for the new Department of Family Services.

On April 1, 2013, when the Department of Family Services was created, it was created with no small capital budget. This has had an impact on the department's ability to adequately address small capital requirements. Accordingly, the 2014-15 capital plan requests ongoing small capital in the amount of \$600,000 to address minor capital, renovations, and planned

purchases for furniture, equipment, and vehicles. As the department evolves and builds capacity, I am confident that future planning will result in additional capital to effectively address our mandate.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss the Department of Family Services capital plan for 2014-15. I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ugyuk. Do you wish to have staff at the witness table?

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Yes, I would.

Chairman: Do you agree to let the witnesses go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Ugyuk, for the record, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my side, Deputy Minister Sandy Teiman. On my left, Director of Corporate Services Mr. Kolot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any opening comments from the Regular Members' Caucus? Please proceed, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the

Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services. Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2014-15 is \$600,000.

Members recognize that although Family Services is a newly established department, it incorporates a number of divisions and resources from other, pre-existing departments. The department's various programs and services continue to be delivered from existing infrastructure.

Members further recognize that the Department of Family Services still needs to work towards completing a full evaluation and assessment of its capital assets such as vehicles, offices and equipment.

Mr. Chairman, when the Regular Member's Caucus first reviewed the Department of Family Services' draft capital estimates for 2014-15, very little detail was provided for the proposed expenditures totalling \$600,000. Members appreciated receiving a more complete breakdown of the department's proposed projects and the details of their estimated costs following the meeting with the minister. Members expressed the view that prior to approving the expenditure of public money, it is important to know what it will be spent on.

Mr. Chairman, members have noted that with the establishment of the Department of Family Services, health care workers and social workers are no longer working under the same department, although in some situations

they continue to work out of the same office buildings and share access to GN vehicles. Members encourage the minister to work with her counterpart in the Department of Health to ensure that agreements are in place with respect to the use of office space, equipment and vehicles so that the effective delivery of all related services at the community level is not disrupted.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services. Individual members may have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Do members have any general comments or questions? I don't have any members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review starting with D-3. Questions? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need clarification. In regards to the \$600,000 that you propose for 2014-15, in the substantiation sheets that are given to us, it states that \$56,500, I'm just wondering what that money is going to be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the Cape Dorset MLA for asking the question. Mr. Kolot will answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the hon. member for his question. The Department of Family Services has prepared estimates for \$600,000. The needs that were submitted from the various regions came up to \$656,000. Unfortunately, we have had to develop a base figure. So we are going with the \$600,000 and as we proceed with dealing with the capital requests, if there are any shortages we will apply that to other areas but we will try to live within the \$600,000. There may be an opportunity for some savings in some of the items that we have identified. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kolot. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if I say it in English. (interpretation ends) One of the areas that falls under the responsibilities of Family Services is income support, which was previously managed under the Department of Education. In recent years, a computerized case management system was developed and introduced in Nunavut communities to manage social assistance payments and other programs under this division.

Are all communities currently equipped with the necessary computer devices and Internet access to be able to operate, deliver and monitor the system? And if not, is there a plan in place to inventory current devices and update or replace old devices and how much will that cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Funds for the case management system are taken out of operations and maintenance. We are purchasing service for some communities in order to deploy the system further. In order to roll out the system, we need to have a clean pile conversion before we start issuing so that we capture any outstanding overpayments that clients have to date. This process is time consuming.

We also have to work closely with IT technicians at CGS to determine their availability to assist us. Recently, the weather did not cooperate with us as we were trying to roll out in Rankin Inlet with the case management system.

When we are done with Rankin Inlet, we will be heading to Arviat, Baker Lake and then Cambridge Bay with the case management system.

With the cost, the cost of the system... .
With the cost of the system, I will get my deputy minister to answer Mr. Joanasie's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ugyuk. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cost of the system has been spread out over approximately seven years at the cost of about \$1.2 million, so it wasn't one big purchase. As far as the yearly maintenance fees go and for any enhancements, we have an O&M budget of \$300,000 a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the areas that fall under the responsibility of the Department of Family Services is the providing of residential care to medically fragile children and to medically fragile adults. The Department of Health also provides services at group homes and elder facilities in Nunavut.

Can you describe how you will work with your counterpart in the Department of Health to ensure that infrastructure and equipment needs and other such items as ramps, special washrooms, wheelchairs, lifts or mechanical beds at these facilities are provided for? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will work very closely with our colleagues at the Department of Health going forward to do the assessments that are needed. The Department of Family Services handles level 1 and 2 care, so most of our clients probably wouldn't need wheelchairs and ramps. We are committed to work closely with the Department of Health, and have been doing so since we started work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier today in the House I spoke about my concern about the

closing of the children's group home, Ilagiittut. I wonder in your capital planning why you did not identify a need to have an adolescent group home so that you wouldn't have to close down the children's group home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had a discussion about this earlier during Oral Questions. The new institution was not built for children and I think it's better if they are fostered out. We are going to be using that building for adolescent girls. It is not going to be closed, but it is going to be used for another purpose. I think it is better for the children if they are fostered in a regular home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since you are transitioning that children's group home to an adolescent group home, are there going to be any additional renovation costs associated to that transition? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we are not sure whether or not renovations will have to be

undertaken. We will work with CGS to do a facility assessment and then once we have that in hand we will go forward. I don't think, at this time, that we will be looking at renovations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that they are going to purchase a number of functional vehicle fleets. Can the department indicate how many vehicles they are going to be purchasing in total? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not completed the number of vehicles that have been requested but we are looking at around 22 vehicles under the family services department. There are seven vehicles that are slated to go to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the purchases be done in bulk before prior to the sealift season? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to be working with Community and Government Services how to proceed with the procurement of the vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Questions? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hon. Minister, welcome to you and your officials. I would like to make a supplementary question about the vehicles. We are the ones who approve the estimates and you indicated that you are still reviewing the requests for vehicles. There is going to be another change coming because you said you were still working on it. So we are trying to approve something that is not finalized yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list of vehicles coming over to the department has not been finalized. In reviewing the list we have been provided, we estimated approximately 22 vehicles should be assets of the Department of Family Services; 15 in the Qikiqtani, 3 in the Kivalliq, 4 in the Kitikmeot. Vehicles should be an asset of the Department of Family Services. For ordering vehicles, we will work with CGS to order seven new vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how I am phrasing my questions because nobody seems to be able to understand me. My question was, or what I asked was that you have not finalized the requests yet. Does that mean you are going to keep making changes after we have approved these monies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, the Department of Family Services and the Department of Health jointly use the vehicles; we don't know who these vehicles are owned by, whether it's the Department of Family Services or Health. I do know that we are going to be requesting seven new vehicles that will be going to be going to the communities. We are going to be doing that with the help of Community and Government Services. Is that more understandable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the \$600,000 and in your opening comments you indicated that, as the Hon. Minister indicated here, that with your new department there will be a need to purchase capital items and you will have to setup capital estimates for your department. When are we going to be seeing those types of requests for those capital items? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. My deputy indicated that we deal with level 1 and 2, and it's very expensive to operate those facilities. I will refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department doesn't expect to be coming forward with any new capital requests in the next little while. We

follow the capital planning process that has been outlined by CGS in every step of the way, but it's very important for us to do the facility assessments with CGS to get a handle on exactly what is transferring to the department. Some of those asset liability lists still have not been finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got several other questions here. One of the areas that falls under the responsibilities of the Department of Family Services is the Income Support Program, which was previously managed under the Department of Education.

In recent years, a computerized case management system was developed and introduced in Nunavut communities to manage social assistance payments and other programs under this division. Are all communities currently equipped with the necessary computers, devices, and Internet access to be able to operate, deliver, and monitor this system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I believe Mr. Joanasie already asked that question. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. Okay, seeing that it was already asked, now my other question here is: the Department of Family Services is providing residential care to medically fragile children and medically dependent adults, which services group homes and elders' facilities in Nunavut. Can you describe

how you work with your counterpart in the Department of Health to ensure that infrastructure and equipment needs for such items as ramps, special washrooms, wheelchair lifts, or mechanical beds at these facilities are provided? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Ms. Angnakak already asked that question. Mr. Mikkungwak.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. I understand those questions were already asked, but I guess my question here would be: can the department look into these matters for the community of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll refer that question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Baker Lake will definitely be a community that we will focus on with the Department of Health when we're looking at the assessments that we do in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seeing that it's a new program, will that information also be provided to the staff of Family Services,

not only to the one other department?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my understanding, we will work properly with the Department of Health in regard to the matter on hand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. (interpretation) To make perfect sense, health department officials fully understand how things have been working up to now and since the two departments have been separated, I want to make sure that the Department of Family Services is sure of what their responsibilities are now and what the Department of Health's responsibilities will be. Have you fully settled as to division of responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can only proceed well if we have good communication and good understanding, but I will have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very important that the two departments work together because of the separation of services. The Department of Family Services has to

dig back and ask for some of the historical documentation and the background information on several of the facilities and various programs that have been delivered over the years under the auspices of the department of health and social services. We still have some work to do. With the finalization of the list of assets and liabilities, those things should come clearer within the next few months, working with the Department of CGS and the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. Thank you for the response that I received. I understand that both departments fully understand at the territorial and maybe at the regional level, but basically my question was: do all personnel within each community within the territory fully understand their roles and responsibilities to provide these services in the respective communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Communications really has nothing to do with the capital estimates, so I cannot respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I remind the members to stick to capital. Questions? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're discussing capital, it was regarding vehicles and fleets. That's what I'm referring to.

Some departments within the respective communities, for example, in Baker Lake, they may be debating as to who has what vehicle. That's my question. Will the communication regarding the respective vehicles to each community be identified to all the personnel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. We have divided the two departments and the staff have been directed to share the vehicles properly. If they have to share one vehicle, they can also do it, share it properly. In the headquarters in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, they have been asked to keep sharing their vehicles for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You may overrule me on this, but in some communities where they're sharing a vehicle, which department has the final authority, the Department of Health or the Department of Family Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If issues present themselves regarding sharing of vehicles, we work it out at the senior level between departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Questions? No more questions? I have no more

members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the capital estimates starting with B-3. Family Services. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$600,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page B-2. Department Summary. Family Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$600,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed the Department of Family Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, minister and officials. Do you have any closing comments? Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my fellow MLAs for asking questions on behalf of the people of Nunavut. I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

I would now like to ask the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Qulaut, to go to the witness table and proceed with his opening comments. Opening comments, Mr. Speaker.

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2014-2015 – Legislative Assembly
– Consideration in Committee**

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. If it's okay, I would like Mr. Quirke to sit next to me.

Chairman: Mr. Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It is a pleasure for me to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will note, the 2014-15 capital budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly is \$305,000. Our capital budget continues to be modest and responsible.

Our priority areas for the coming fiscal year include ongoing investments in equipment and furniture for the Assembly and members' offices, in addition to enhancements and upgrades to the Legislative Assembly's audiovisual, *Hansard*, and information technology [systems].

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that members may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Qulaut. Do you wish to have your staff at the witness table?

Speaker: Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Speaker, please introduce your officials.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, and to my left is Mr. Mike Rafter, Director of Corporate Services.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome, Mr. Clerk and Mr. Rafter. Do members have any general comments or questions, including ministers? Turn to A-3. Page A-3. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Assembly Operations. Total Capital Expenditures. \$290,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: To page A-5. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Capital Expenditures. \$15,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page A-2. Department Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$305,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Office of the Legislative Assembly is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and your officials. Closing comments?

Speaker: Thank you very much and *Taima*.

Chairman: I will now ask members to go Bill 2 in your legislation binder. Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015*. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital Appropriations. \$149,979,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page 1. Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 2 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would now like to report progress.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Uqsuqtuuq, Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and would like to report that Bill 2 is immediately ready for third reading. And, 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? Mr. Rumbolt. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion has passed and Bill 2 is ready for assent.

Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) I must be tired. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder to all members that there's a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 19:

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 11 – 4(1)

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 3
- Bill 4
- Bill 5

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 19, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:40*

