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**DAY 17**

**Thursday, February 25, 2016**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Aggu)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

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(Arviat South)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

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

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(Quttiktuq)

**David Joanasi**  
(South Baffin)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Thursday, February 25, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Ms. Pat Angnakak, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Shooyook.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and my fellow Nunavummiut. Welcome to the House. Item 2. (interpretation ends) Budget Address. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Item 2: Budget Address****Minister's Statement 059 – 4(3):  
Budget 2016-2017**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to provide Members of this Assembly with details of the government's budget for the coming fiscal year. Before I begin, I want to thank all members for the support you have given me, my departmental officials, and the government.

This is the eighth budget that I have delivered. Each Budget Address has given me an opportunity to step back and reflect on what we are trying to get done. Developing the budget is really about developing our future, about delivering services to Nunavummiut today, tomorrow, and well into the 21st century.

We are on the path named *Sivumut Abluqta: Stepping Forward Together*. We are developing a Nunavut that is strong and prosperous, a Nunavut where people look forward with hope, a Nunavut that works for everybody. We are making progress. Inuit values and traditional knowledge are taking hold in our government and our daily lives. Our children are learning in their own language about the world they will inherit. More people are finding jobs in the modern economy, yet we still have work to do.

In *Sivumut Abluqta*, we said Nunavummiut would be more self-reliant and optimistic. Our families and communities would be stronger, more resilient. Our natural resources would be used in sustainable ways for the good of Nunavummiut today and future generations, and our government would use its resources responsibly and wisely. This budget moves us forward toward realizing our vision.

**Economic Outlook**

In a moment, I'll step through the budget in detail. Let me first provide some context by looking at developments in the territorial economy.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Nunavut should see an

inflation-adjusted growth rate this year of 1.2 percent. That's acceptable performance when one considers the broader picture in global commodity markets. Metal and mineral prices fell more than 10 percent last year according to the Bank of Canada. Since 2011, they have fallen almost one-third.

The forecast for 1 percent growth assumes a few things: first, that Baffinland continues to ship from its mine at Mary River; also that three public sector construction projects remain on track for completion next year. They are the airport and the aquatic centre here in Iqaluit and the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Cambridge Bay. We should add the Nanisivik Naval Facility due to open two years from now. In my region, the Kitikmeot, we look forward to TMAC Resources starting up mining operations at the Hope Bay mine next year.

This steady, inflation-adjusted growth means more people are finding work and more people are entering the wage economy. Those are important steps forward. Last year, the number of jobs grew by about 3 percent, with almost all those new jobs held by Inuit. We're going in the right direction. At the same time, we will need to grow the economy faster in order to provide jobs to young Nunavummiut who will soon leave school.

### **Budget situation**

With that overall picture in mind, let me turn now to the details of this budget and to revisit the word "prudence." The members who have served with me since my first Budget Address in 2009 know all about prudence. It has guided our

budgets and it has served us well. We have used taxpayers' dollars cautiously and moved from deficit budgeting to producing modest surpluses.

For the current year ending next month, we project revenues of \$1.68 billion. Next year, we expect revenues will rise less than 1 percent to \$1.73 billion. We will generate nearly 9 percent of next year's revenue through taxes and other sources in Nunavut. I should note that we are not announcing any tax measures in this budget.

>> *Applause*

On the expenditure side, I expect our operations and maintenance this year will cost just under \$1.48 billion. That's up nearly 4 percent from last year.

Looking forward, we plan to spend \$1.54 billion next year on operations and maintenance. Again, our growth rate is 4 percent compared to this year.

Our capital budget next year is \$197 million. That amount is in line with our average capital budget over the past few years.

We will also put \$30 million aside for contingencies, things that will arise during the year that we cannot foresee today, and so our total spending next year for operations and maintenance, capital projects, and contingencies should reach \$1.73 billion. This brings me to the bottom line: a deficit of \$3.9 million. Let me focus for a moment on that deficit and then on our overall financial condition.

The projected deficit at \$3.9 million represents about one-third of 1 percent



of our total spending. In other words, it's very small. The more that we manage our funds prudently and the less that we draw on our contingency funds, the more likely we will be to show a small surplus at the end of the year.

You will recall that the federal government recalculated its funding to our government in December and announced that they were reducing their transfer by about \$34 million for 2016-17. My federal counterpart announced last week that \$26.1 million of that amount will be restored through changes to the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement.

I am pleased to see the new government's approach to working with its northern partners and with Nunavut in particular. I can only hope that this spirit of cooperation extends to other issues, especially to housing, where we truly face pressing needs.

For fiscal 2015-16, this year, I expect to close the books next month with a small surplus of \$16.2 million, just slightly lower than the original forecast of \$23.8 million that I presented at this time last year.

Now that we have the annual numbers in view, let us turn for a moment to the broader picture of our financial health. Government borrowing remains firmly under control. We borrow only for capital projects, those infrastructure projects that Nunavut badly needs like schools, public buildings, and airports. We never borrow to fund our operations and maintenance.

We will end the year with borrowings on our books worth \$324 million. This is well within our borrowing limit of \$650 million.

### **Resilient people**

Let me turn now to the details of our financial plan for the coming year.

In *Sivumut Abluqta*, this government said education is the key to our future. We would improve the basics of reading, writing, math, and problem solving. We would better help students to graduate and better prepare graduates for college, university, and jobs.

The education department's budget will rise 1.4 percent next year to \$205 million. This includes \$1.9 million to support inclusive education in our schools.

Over the course of the next year, the Department of Education will respond and work to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act* with the goal of amending this important legislation and overhauling its regulations. These steps will help ensure that we deliver quality instruction and help students to get better results.

The department will continue to encourage school attendance by working closely with the district education authorities and with parents. You will already have seen ads on TV and other promotional items. The government is working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to launch a family engagement website so parents can get better involved. By pulling together, we can help students to

improve their marks and get a better shot at college and university and good careers, either here at home or anywhere in Canada.

>>Applause

Our government continues to promote Inuktitut literacy. In learning Inuktitut, our children learn who we are. They learn about the traditions and skills and the self-reliance that enabled Inuit not only to live here, but to thrive. They learn skills that benefit them in both the traditional and modern economy.

To give our children a better start in life, the Department of Education will promote early childhood education. It is reviewing its programs and the *Child Day Care Act* and planning program updates and improvements in the coming fiscal year.

At the same time, the government will review the Adult Learning Strategy to figure out how we can better develop people to thrive in the modern economy. Family Services will review our labour market development programs to see that people get better information about where to find rewarding jobs.

As a government, we are committed to working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated as they establish the Inuit Training Corporation using funds from the settlement of their lawsuit with Canada. This corporation will bring unique opportunities to Inuit in obtaining higher education and training to further strengthen the territory's workforce.

We will also share access with the Government of Canada to \$50 million in training funds to strengthen our Inuit

workforce and enable us to fulfill our obligations under Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

### **Strong communities**

As we work to prepare people for a better future, we are also working to strengthen our families and our communities. We will provide the Department of Family Services with an additional \$13.5 million next year, a rise of nearly 11 percent. This will help the department to reform our approach to social assistance so we can make sure the people who get support truly need it.

The department's Children and Family Services Branch gains \$5.5 million to improve residential care, services to protect children, and reduce family violence. The branch will put in place family violence prevention initiatives, including hiring another family violence reduction specialist and increasing support to family violence shelters.

The Social Assistance Program, meanwhile, gains nearly \$8 million, a 20 percent rise. This \$45 million program helps people buy shelter, utilities, and food. We know that Nunavummiut need more.

Family Services has already held a poverty reduction roundtable on income assistance. It continues to engage the public in discussions that include possible changes to daycare subsidies and fuel subsidies for senior citizens. The government has decided that it will not include the National Child Benefit Supplement or replacement program when it evaluates social assistance applications. This will provide more help to the families that need it the most.

>> *Applause*

To further help families, our government aims to strengthen our communities through better services. The Department of Community and Government Services will receive almost \$8.2 million more next year. About \$1.5 million of this increase will flow directly to communities through transfer payments now approaching \$61 million. The remaining \$6.7 million will strengthen services to community governments and their ability to deliver services locally. This includes a \$1.6 million increase in emergency preparedness management.

Our government also plans to support our communities through clinical expertise to address mental illness and addictions. Our budget provides the Department of Health with nearly \$21 million more. This spending rise of 6 percent is focused almost entirely on improving frontline service delivery. The department will deliver greater support for home care and community care, hospitals and doctors, community health centres, and medical transportation.

The health department will spend nearly \$5 million to improve care for mental health and addictions. The department will also propose new legislation on public health and mental health. Extensive consultations on the mental health legislation will continue throughout the winter. At the same time, the health department is well on its way to filling all vacant positions for mental health positions in the communities.

Our government is also working through the Department of Health and its partners to strengthen suicide

prevention. The health department will bring forward a new one-year, fully funded action plan under the Suicide Prevention Strategy.

>> *Applause*

Strengthening communities also requires us to focus on cutting crime. Our budget provides an additional \$4 million next year to law enforcement.

The justice department is placing emphasis on restorative justice, which focuses on victims and the community as well as the offender. Justice continues to focus on best ways to bring offenders back into communities in ways that reduce the risk that they will offend again.

This government will provide further crime-fighting support through a new law to allow civil forfeiture. This would allow authorities to seize money and property from bootleggers and drug dealers, making sure that crime does not pay.

>> *Applause*

### **Economic growth**

*Sivumut Abluqta* guides us in a third area: the economy. Our investments in Nunavummiut and our communities will be rewarded when people have opportunities when they can shape their future.

Across the territory, we favour a balance between entrepreneurship and sustainable development. We have resources that can support and improve our way of life today. We develop them so that future generations can do the

same. This approach requires us to use sound regulatory processes to manage our resources responsibly. It means that our wildlife management system delivers benefits today and forever.

Looking first at hunting, the government is developing a hunter education program to teach harvesting skills and firearm safety. The environment department is making good progress in this effort and expects to put the program fully in place in the coming year. We will also bring forward new and improved programs and supports for harvesters in the coming year while remaining within the current budget.

We are also setting in place a well-grounded wildlife management system. Already, we have established management plans for polar bears, Peary caribou, and Baffin Island caribou. The government is consulting communities and partners now about grizzly bears. We expect to have that management plan in place next year.

Not everyone understands that our wildlife management system delivers good results. In particular, foreign governments and animal welfare interest groups need a better perspective on polar bears. Inuit have managed the polar bear population responsibly and sustainably for centuries. Together with other governments in Canada, we are developing a website and communications materials to show polar bear conservation as a success story. We are also preparing material for use in schools that will focus on polar bears, caribou, and ringed seal.

In other sectors, we will implement the 2016 Fisheries Strategy to develop

fisheries on and offshore that are healthy and sustainable. We will also implement the recommendations from our review of the Commercial Fish Freight Subsidy program. We will continue to lobby the federal government for the development of small craft harbours.

We are also advancing work to support our tourism sector more effectively. Through a tourism impact study, we will learn how and where we can attract more investors and visitors. We will gain some promotional opportunities by hosting the Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers' meeting this year.

For cultural industries, our recent consultations with the sector are leading to a new strategy. The immediate question we face is whether the strategy should focus on visual arts, as it does now, or whether we should broaden our vision to include all art forms. We are also determining whether we can support an art school and whether Nunavut Arctic College would be the appropriate home. Over the next few months, we will resolve these questions and move forward with stronger support for our cultural sector.

In all of the sectors that we have just talked about and more generally in all of Nunavut, the government is working to simplify rules and help businesses to grow. This approach raises two issues that we will resolve in the coming year.

The first of these is the NNI Policy. It's clear from the business community that we need to rework this policy to improve their opportunities for success. We will do so. We will also provide a guide written in plain language so that eligible

entrepreneurs fully understand the advantage that NNI provides them.

>> *Applause*

The second issue is about land that could perhaps be used in a better way to support economic growth. The question is whether our municipalities should be allowed to sell land that they control. Nunavummiut will answer that question on May 9 in a referendum across the territory.

Right now, our focus is to help people understand what this vote is about. A “yes” vote will mean that a community can sell certain lands to an individual or a company. A “no” vote means the community can lease the land, but keep ownership. Our government is holding information sessions in all communities to explain the options and their impacts.

### **Good government**

Our government continues to improve its capacity to deliver services effectively and efficiently. Through training and development, public servants can advance their careers. The government has put in place a leadership development program that will focus in the coming year on senior managers, emerging leaders, and supervisors.

We are also taking steps to ensure that our employees find the Government of Nunavut is a safe and productive place to work. We will continue to show zero tolerance for harassment. We have updated our policies and distributed them to our employees. Each and every employee must know and will know that bullying and harassment will not be tolerated...

>> *Applause*

...will not be tolerated in the government workplace.

Earlier this month, I participated in our first seminar on harassment. We delivered it in Cambridge Bay and linked to Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk by video. There will be many more, with participation by our deputy minister, the director of employee relations, the comptroller, and assistant comptroller general. The government’s entire management team will receive this training and we will provide anti-harassment awareness seminars to all government staff.

We are also making progress in our financial and resource management. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Department of Finance have launched an operational audit. It is looking at what we’re doing well and what we could do better. The first phase is complete. The audit looked broadly at the government’s operational efficiency and effectiveness. Moving into the second phase in the coming fiscal year, the audit will focus on specific programs and develop recommendations on what we need to improve.

At the same time, my department has launched an audit of grants and contributions by all departments. The audit has reviewed all departments’ policies for this discretionary spending. Next, it will examine our expenses to see that they follow the rules.

The Department of Finance has also launched a comprehensive review of our taxation system. We collect more than

\$100 million a year from Nunavut taxpayers. We need to know that the rates and structure of our taxes are efficient, effective, and especially that they are fair. We are well into this work and I look forward to providing an update in the coming year.

At the same time, we are working with all departments as they implement our new budgeting system. We are now all using the same system with a three-year forecast and standardized variance reports for operations and maintenance and a five-year plan for our capital spending. In these ways, we are delivering on our commitment to deliver public services for the best possible price and in the best possible way. We also demonstrate our capability to govern and to take on the additional programs and services that would follow an agreement on devolution.

We look forward to renewing our negotiations with the federal government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. In renewing our talks, the government would demonstrate a fresh start in relations with Inuit and all Nunavummiut. Our goal remains to reach an agreement that respects Nunavut's unique characteristics and needs.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Speaker, there you have it, a look ahead into the next fiscal year. Our fiscal plan provides the government with the resources it needs to move us ahead. Stepping forward together, *Sivumut Abluqta* is bringing us closer to our goals. We are building on our accomplishments, embracing our

challenges, and determined to make progress.

I want to thank all Members of this House for your continued support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Ministers' Statements. I have no names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

### **Item 4: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 129 – 4(3): Imminent Closure of the Mamisarvik Healing Centre**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, have a good day. My fellow residents of Rankin Inlet, you are in my thoughts.

(interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my disappointment at the upcoming closure of the Mamisarvik Healing Centre in Ottawa at the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, as long as Nunavut does not have its own residential treatment centre within the territory, clients who are trying to overcome difficulties and get their lives back on track must go elsewhere.

Nunavummiut have been very fortunate to be able to attend the residential addiction and trauma recovery counselling program offered by Tungasuvvingat Inuit in Ottawa. Over

many years, the Government of Nunavut has supported this program through a fee-for-service arrangement.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the fee-for-service contract does not provide enough financial stability for such an organization to continue offering its services, even though they are desperately needed and very successful. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame when highly effective and much-needed services cannot continue because of a lack of commitment to core funding.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that our government must renew its efforts to ensure that the people of Nunavut have local access to treatment and counselling in the areas of mental health and addictions. Until we have a Nunavut-based facility and adequate local programming, then consideration should be given to providing stable funding support to organizations which meet that need.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this later on. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 130 – 4(3): The Long-term Impact of Government Policy**

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind our government that Nunavut's current policies will have far-reaching impacts on our society and that lessons from the past should be carefully heeded to avoid

making similar mistakes that will affect our future.

Mr. Speaker, the legacy of the residential school system affects our society to this day. Government policy dictated that children were to be taken away from their families and communities for long periods of time. These children grew to be adults. Many lost their language and culture. Many never learned the traditional skills needed to survive and thrive. Many made and continue to make poor choices in dealing with the pain of their loss.

Now, some 50 to 60 years later, the government is paying for its misguided policy with costly restitution and apologies while residential school survivors continue to suffer.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will know, I am a strong advocate for keeping our elders at home in their communities to live out their final years. Our elders should stay in their communities, closer to their children and grandchildren, sharing their knowledge, experience, and wisdom.

However, the government's current policy is to send our elders away, away from their families and communities. Once again, government policy is depriving Inuit of the opportunity to pass on their language and culture to the next generation. In the past, they sent away the youth, those who needed to learn. Today, they are sending away elders, those who could teach.

Mr. Speaker, governments do have an obligation to ensure that services are provided to the population it governs,

whether those services are for education, health, or social services.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for 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. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

However, I caution the government to consider the very negative social impact of sending Nunavummiut away from their communities for services and care. That solution didn't work in the past and it will be harmful to our future.

I urge the government to work towards finding solutions to keep our elders at home instead. It is not just our elders who suffer from this policy; future generations of Nunavummiut will also suffer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

#### **Member's Statement 131 – 4(3): A Tribute to Joyce Lahure**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "hello" to Baker Lakemiut and to all the Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Joyce Lahure, who passed away this past November of cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Joyce and her husband, Allan, have been members of the Baker

Lake community for almost 40 years. Joyce was very active with the municipal council, the divisional school board, and as part of the Sunday school and other faith-based programs. She served as Justice of the Peace for close to 20 years and always refused to take a penny for her services.

In 2013, she was very proud to be selected to represent the Hamlet of Baker Lake on a trade mission to Finland with Agnico Eagle mines.

Mr. Speaker, Joyce and her husband, Allan, ran Baker Lake Contracting and Supplies Ltd. In 2012, they travelled to the Frozen Globe awards ceremony in Yellowknife, where their company was recognized for two awards: Nunavut Entrepreneur of the Year and Northern Entrepreneur of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Joyce was very passionate about many social issues. She participated in many working groups and initiatives at the community and territorial level. She will be remembered for her efforts and advocacy in the areas of youth education, training, and poverty reduction. She worked on suicide prevention as well as alcohol, drug, and tobacco committees.

Mr. Speaker, Joyce was a woman of strong faith and compassion. Her presence will be sorely missed not only by her family and friend but by the entire community and across the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for



South Baffin, Mr. Joanasia.

**Member's Statement 132 – 4(3):  
Recent Death of Constituency  
Assistant**

**Mr. Joanasia** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and remember a person who was my assistant in Kimmirut who passed away last year in the month of November during Remembrance Day. Qutaiqu Kootoo was found outside.

It was very hard for the whole community, including her family, and myself as an MLA because she was my assistant. I would like to express my gratitude to the people who shared their love and compassion through words to the people of Kimmirut and their families. They really expressed their compassion.

Mr. Speaker, when I became an MLA, Qutaiqu was my constituency assistant and she helped me a great deal with all the things I needed to do in the community. We will miss her because she passed away, but I would like to remember her. She was extremely friendly and a very good worker and really wanted to learn.

I remember her four children and think of them as well. I would like them to be taken care of well. I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I am thankful that the family has been well taken care of up to now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for

Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 133 – 4(3):  
Recent Death of Thomas Satuqsi**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "good day" to my fellow community residents and Nunavummiut.

In any place in Nunavut, there are more and more people passing away from cancer. I would like my colleagues to join me in remembering Thomas Satuqsi, who is still not an elder, who passed away due to cancer. Many people have lost their lives due to cancer. His relatives are in my thoughts. His wife and the people of Igloolik are feeling for this person.

He worked about 20 years for our school, even though he was still a young man. We really feel for the community and the students. We would like to have him in our thoughts because he worked for many years in the school there. I would like my colleagues to join me in remembering him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 134 – 4(3):  
Qilaut 2015**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung.

I just wanted to explain further about Qilaut. This took place back in 2015 to

promote the use of Inuktitut and to strengthen it further.

In my constituency of Pangnirtung, Qilaut held a songwriting contest on Inuit language or culture to promote the usage of Inuktitut. The local residents partaking had to write up a song that would be available to Nunavut.

I just wanted to clarify the participants and to express my pleasure in their efforts to take part in the Qilaut 2015 Songwriting Contest and promoting Inuktitut. There were ten people who were chosen as winners and I take pride in each and every one of them.

Particularly from my constituency of Pangnirtung, they are: my niece, Mary Poisey, and although her musician partner wasn't named, his name is Joey Nowyuk. They placed in first. Further, a person who is well known in and outside Nunavut, Tim Evic, came in third place during this songwriting contest. I wanted to take note of these participants and to express my pride in their successful participation.

These songs have been gathered and recorded on a CD, which is available for free. I was attending an event last night and grabbed a copy, which I am quite proud of. These people are not just working with language, but in celebrating our Inuit culture and how we can further retain our cultural identity and how we better utilize our language, to move it to the future, and to ensure the preservation and daily usage of Inuktitut as Inuit. Our language, culture, and songs are all examples of preserving Inuktitut.

I am very glad this contest was offered and that my constituents were in the winners' circles, and I take this opportunity to express my pride in their accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Item 6: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, my colleague from Baker Lake recognized Ms. Roxanne Ruediger, who is or, should I say, was one of his constituents. As my colleague informed the House, she recently obtained her certification as a certified general accountant, recognized by the NWT and Nunavut association. Ms. Ruediger is the first female Nunavut beneficiary to achieve this certification with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut association of CGA.

Mr. Speaker, Roxanne is joining us in the House today and I would like to welcome her here and congratulate her on her achievement. She is sitting right behind me.

>> *Applause*

For the information of my colleague from Baker Lake, she now lives in Iqaluit and is working in the Department of Finance as our manager of financial

reporting. I am very happy to have her working for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I take great pleasure today to acknowledge fellow residents of Baker Lake. I am very proud of their accomplishments. Although I rarely have the opportunity to recognize people from Baker Lake, obviously, I take great pleasure in introducing Roxanne, who is able to visit the gallery. Please welcome her. She was already introduced yesterday and that is great.

I take this opportunity to further encourage our youth to take their schooling seriously as good students are good role models. We want all our fellow Inuit to be successful in having a career here in Nunavut. Please welcome Roxanne Ruediger. Welcome to the House. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize several people. Although I travelled here with them to Iqaluit, unfortunately, they are not present. I wanted to acknowledge my sister as well as my wife, who are

travelling back home today. I wanted to thank them here. My wife, Katherine Qirngnuq, and my sister, Sidonie Nirlungayuk, are travelling home today, so I wish them safe travels and I appreciated their presence here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought the Minister of Finance might recognize one of his staff who is sitting behind me, but he's a constituent of mine. I haven't played as much this year, but he is a fellow hockey player here in Iqaluit who also just lives down the street from me. I would like to welcome Jeff Chown to the Chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I don't have any more names on my list. Moving on. Item 7. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

### Item 7: Oral Questions

#### Question 157 – 4(3): Amendments to the Justice of the Peace Act

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

On May 16, 2013, the previous Legislative Assembly passed Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace*

*Act*. However, as of today, a number of these amendments have not come into force. Mr. Speaker, once in force, these amendments will improve the transparency and accountability by which Justices of the Peace are appointed in this territory.

Can the minister indicate when these amendments to the *Justices of the Peace Act* will be fully brought into force?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I undertook a review of the amendments based on outside jurisdictions with similar issues. The amendments were quite similar. The governments outside of Nunavut are mandated to make judicial appointments, particularly related to Justices of the Peace. In reviewing the amendments, they deleted sections that outlined the rights of Nunavummiut, which is why I want to conduct further research on this matter and to draft up acceptable language that allows Nunavummiut to be an integral part of determining how each region appoints their Justices of the Peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what communities currently do not have a local Justice of the Peace? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my knowledge, perhaps three or four communities at this time don't have a local Justice of the Peace. Also, my colleague, it's regretful that the person passed away, so we will look for another Justice of the Peace in that community to make sure that the communities that don't have a Justice of the Peace get one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Mr. Speaker, section 3 of the department's Justice of the Peace Policy indicates that "The JP Administrator will send out a call for JPs by advertising in the newspaper, on the local community radio station, or Government of Nunavut Intranet, identifying where the services of JPs are necessary to adequately address the needs of the communities of Nunavut."

Can the minister indicate how his department decides when it will advertise a local Justice of the Peace position within a community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlet councils are the only ones who know what the communities' needs are, so we will go through the hamlet councils when they are looking for a Justice of

the Peace position within the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 158 – 4(3): Baffin Island  
Caribou Tags**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut.

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

When I asked him a question yesterday, he was very pleased as he wasn't sure he was going to be asked an oral question. Therefore, I would like to please him and ask him another question regarding caribou management.

Mr. Speaker, my first question will be based on the *Blues* from Wednesday, February 24, page 31 in English. Mr. Speaker, I know that this is not the final *Hansard*. I have a question to the minister with regard to his response. After I posed my question, the minister responded by saying, "We approved 250 tags to be used for male caribou. If they are all used up, 250 tags will be renewed in July."

Let me first ask: do I understand clearly that after 250 tags have been depleted, they would provide 250 new tags on July 1? Baffin Island people would like clarification on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question. Yes, this is very important. I know that caribou is very important to the people of Baffin Island. I know that it has been a great concern.

I would like to elaborate further on this. In August 2015, my office and the government had approved the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision to allow a total allowable harvest of 250 male caribou only. Ever since we started using this system, QWB has been involved. QWB made 250 tags available to affected Baffin communities. We're using that system for animal quotas. According to policy, they only go for a year. Once the tags have been depleted by June 30 or if the tags are depleted before June 30, 250 new tags would begin on July 1. That's how it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My other question is with regard to the 250 tags. When the tags are depleted by June 30, they will come up with new tags on July 1. For example, in Pond Inlet, what if they have depleted their tags currently? What steps would you take? Once we have depleted all of our tags, do the rest of the communities wait for July 1 too? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for that question. With respect to the 250 tags for caribou, QWB is responsible for the distribution as we allocated that responsibility to them. We co-manage wildlife issues with them. When we allocated the 250 tags to QWB, it was with the understanding that they would have the discretion in the Baffin region to allocate these tags to their individual HTOs and the number of tags allocated to each community. This is under the auspices of QWB.

If any one of the communities run out of tags, it is most reasonable to approach QWB. At this time, due to the number of outstanding tags in the region, QWB has the authority to reallocate tags if they wish to do so. They have that mandate and can manage this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my last question, at least for the time being.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask this question then. For the 250 tags applying to the Baffin region, when June 30 rolls around, if there are still surplus tags somewhere in one of the communities, in my estimation, I don't think it matters which community or if there is more than one community. If there are surplus tags left over and July 1 rolls around to renew the number of tags, does this mean that the communities have to wait until all the tags are finished? I am speaking about the period before July 1 if tags were left over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with our co-management partners in managing wildlife in the Baffin region. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board is our regional partner. This was based on the recommendation of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and it was their decision that led to this process. The GN approved of this allocation of 250 tags on a trial of one year. There were no other details listed in this recommendation related to any surplus tags and if they would be added onto the next year's number of tags.

The season usually restarts on July 1 here in Nunavut. If there were any surplus tags left on July 1, they would not be added to the new numbers. That is how the recommendation was provided to us, with no indication of the concept of unused tags, but I know they would not be added to the renewed numbers. The 250 would just restart on July 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

### **Question 159 – 4(3): Imminent Closure of the Mamisarvik Healing Centre**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

In my earlier statement, I spoke about the upcoming closure of the Mamisarvik Healing Centre in Ottawa. Over the

years, this residential treatment centre has provided very successful programming to help improve the mental health and well-being of many Nunavummiut clients.

I'll ask the question in English. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on what consideration, if any, has been given to accessing core funding to ensure the ongoing operations of the Mamisarvik Healing Centre after March 2016? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a private organization that is independently operated and the government wasn't involved, although we provided operational funding assistance and funding for clients to attend their courses.

I met with the senior officials in November to determine how we can offer more support or assistance, but based on the assessment of their needs, we tried to offer more assistance to last until March 31. After further discussions, we determined that we would provide more support. However, prior to that development, the organization closed down. The government cannot force a private entity to remain open even if we want it open. We wanted to see them remain open, but we didn't have much influence on this development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As long as Nunavut does not have its own residential healing centre, our government will have to rely on services provided outside of the territory. The Mamisarvik Healing Centre was well known for providing treatment and counselling in a culturally appropriate manner. Can the minister clarify how many other residential treatment centres providing services to Nunavummiut specialize in addressing Inuit-specific trauma and issues? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know of one Inuit-specific treatment centre, but there's hardly any outside of our territory. There are 11 treatment centres available if any one of the clients would like to go to either one of these treatment centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The idea of establishing a Nunavut-based treatment centre has been around for some time. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on what efforts, discussions, or plans are currently underway to establish a treatment facility in Nunavut? (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has stated that they would like to move towards this and we will start identifying treatment in the communities. I know that we will have to do follow-up treatment because, after the clients get their treatment, we would like to start off in the communities. We can plan for some time in the future to have a treatment facility in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 160 – 4(3): Fiscal Priorities**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance. I thank him for his Budget Address and I congratulate him for being the longest-serving finance minister in our territory's history.

>> *Applause*

The *Sivumut Abluqta Mandate Statement*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 20, 2014, indicates that one of the primary goals of the current government is to “Review government programs to determine what is working well, what needs improvement, and what we should stop doing in order to focus our resources on enabling Nunavut’s success.”

Can the minister clarify whether or not his budget reduces funding for any of the government’s current programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of government programs and services in Nunavut. I can’t remember them all and I could stand to be corrected, but I don’t believe we have cut funding to any of them or eliminated them yet. As I said in my budget speech, there are programs and services for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is planning to add approximately 120 new positions to its departments during the next fiscal year. However, according to the most recent employment figures released by the minister’s department, our government’s current vacancy rate is almost 30 percent. Why is the government proposing to add over 100 new positions when it cannot fill almost a third of the jobs that it currently has? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.



**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. If the member will recall, we met in Kugluktuk almost two years ago to discuss the priorities and mandate for the government under *Sivumut Abluqta*, what the priorities were and what Nunavut needs. Our government, as I said in my budget speech, is moving forward on that. It was something we all agreed to in this House and we are striving towards that.

With respect to the 30 percent vacancy, we recognize that there are issues there, but we also need staff housing. As I said in the budget speech, through the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College, we are pushing to educate our kids in school so that they can get their grade 12 and move into college and university training and trade school, perhaps. Even though those jobs are vacant, there are opportunities and careers out there for young Nunavummiut.

I should mention, even though those positions are indeterminate, they're not filled. They are being staffed with casual employees, consultants, or contractors. It's not like they are just sitting there vacant. Most of the programs and services attached to those positions are being provided through other avenues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was an interesting response we got from the minister. I am happy we will have opportunities later in

Committee of the Whole to perhaps probe that a little further.

It has been said that "if everything is a priority, nothing is a priority." Although I recognize that major ongoing projects that have been started by the government need to be completed, I also believe that we need to take a hard look at how we prioritize needs over wants.

Can the minister indicate what strategic direction the government is heading in over the next five years with respect to approving new multi-million dollar recreational infrastructure projects as opposed to new projects in such areas as health, education, or social services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am surprised by the question by Ms. Angnakak as she has been here for the last couple of years. As I said, in Kugluktuk, together as MLAs in Full Caucus, we set out the priorities for this government in this mandate. We are at the end of our second year and moving into our third year. There is a capital planning process.

Mr. Speaker, a call goes out every year to all government departments. For example, CGS works with municipalities and NAMIX. The health department works with CGS. I can't give you specifics today, but they clearly know what health centres are on the capital plan for the next five years. There is a process, Mr. Speaker.

If Ms. Angnakak suggests that the government doesn't have priorities or

knows where it's going, with your support, we are going in the direction that we have all agreed to in Kugluktuk at our Full Caucus retreat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 161 – 4(3): Government Policy on Elders**

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

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's Statement, I am concerned about the long-term impact of the government's policy on elders. It is my belief that too many elders are being sent away from their home communities. The Minister of Health has indicated that his department has been working on an assessment of long-term care needs across Nunavut.

Can the minister clarify whether this assessment includes a review of the government's policy of sending elders out of their home communities to receive long-term care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did a review on the elders and how we can give them further support. The study has been completed and, if at all possible, we will table the report on the review of this assessment. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health's assessment of long-term care needs has been underway for some time. Oh, he already answered this.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the results of the long-term assessment will show that certain communities are in desperate need of long-term care facilities which will allow residents to stay close to their families and friends. Will the minister commit to tabling the results of the assessment during this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

#### **Question 162 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues was asking questions about the Baffin Island caribou and I would like to touch on that

further.

Mr. Speaker, we're all aware that Baffin islanders have a quota to hunt caribou and we all know that we can only harvest male caribou in the Baffin region. I don't know who made the decision to hunt only male caribou, whether it was the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board or the Department of Environment. Who made the decision to just hunt male caribou? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Last year, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board proposed the management of harvesting Baffin Island caribou. All the stakeholders were involved in the public hearings on this issue and at the public hearings, the stakeholders, the wildlife and environment organizations, and the Nunavut government all made appearances in front of NWMB during that hearing.

Through that public hearing process, NWMB did a very good job in setting up the structure of this plan. QWB was involved, the elders who were hunters were also involved, and anyone who was concerned about Baffin Island caribou was involved in the public hearing process. After that public hearing, NWMB arrived at a decision to set up a certain structure and it was up to me to approve their request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Your first supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As traditional harvesters of caribou, we are aware that the young bulls are the main progenitors of caribou calves. If we are serious about preserving our caribou population, it seems backwards to be harvesting the male caribou that seed the cows.

In any wildlife, whether it is an animal or human, the seed comes from the male that starts pregnancy. All cows can only get pregnant if a male caribou is available during the rut and the bull caribou are the ones that pass on their genes. I'm talking about young bulls, as some cows are no longer able to produce calves similar to human menopause and when all animals get too old, they cannot produce any more offspring. Any old mammal, human, or animal loses their ability to reproduce at a certain age.

I believe that biologists have to review this male-centric harvesting conservation mentality if we are serious about preserving our caribou or any other wildlife. The barren cows are the ones that cannot reproduce and they should be included in this caribou conservation effort by being harvested. The young bulls are the main progenitors of their species, so if we want our caribou to repopulate the island, this practice of male-centric harvesting has to be changed.

I would like to know if this issue will be reviewed further when another population study is being contemplated by the Department of Environment and the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague has clarified some issues and some of these issues were identified earlier that my colleague specifically mentioned. During the hearing process, NWMB was tasked with coordinating the hearing and we heard many perspectives there.

When any wildlife is managed in this system, hearings about that species bring out all the interrelated issues. This is not the first time we have heard of such information. Nonetheless, the hearings allow the organizations to collect the data. As the management issues were being deliberated, the question of how the Baffin region would harvest caribou came up.

The biggest issue we faced was the concept of allowing only male caribou to be harvested. This was at the behest of NWMB and that is why it was included in the management process. It came from the information gathered at these hearings. NWMB made their conclusion based on the comments heard from the witnesses. With that being the case, the comments of my colleague were included in all the discussions.

Now, the question of how to allow caribou harvesting came up, so the deliberation was on how to handle the Baffin region caribou management issues. That is where the 250 male caribou tags was brought up and I believe it was the most informed decision we could arrive at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to caribou and past harvesting practices prior to the caribou moratorium, as the caribou population study commenced, it includes samples of harvested caribou that are identified in the sampling program. If it is a male caribou, certain body parts would be sent out for sampling through the conservation officers based on the population survey requirements.

The study samples were also a means of revenue for some hunters, but with the limited tag system, the hunters still have to provide samples of the harvested caribou following the list of body parts requested by the scientists. The hunters are no longer being paid for providing samples and they wanted to know why. My question is: why has the sampling program stopped compensating hunters for providing samples? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Actually with respect to our discussions on the 250 tags for harvesting caribou on Baffin Island, we reviewed the recommendations and the data used to arrive at the decision by our co-management partners.

As a government, we can only follow the process outlined. However, at this time, this concern that has just been expressed is something I can look into. Further, I will try to find out why compensation is

no longer occurring for samples and whether past sampling programs had compensation included. Upon completion of this review, I will ensure that I inform my colleague first prior to distributing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 163 – 4(3): Health  
Professional Positions in Nunavut  
Communities**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that recruiting and retaining health professionals to work in Nunavut is a significant challenge for our government. I also recognize that many health professional positions such as doctors and specialists are currently based in the regional centres.

Can the minister provide an update on what considerations have been given to establishing positions in Nunavut communities which are not regional centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we want to support the communities and distribute more qualified nurses. We used Pond Inlet as a pilot project and it was very beneficial. We would like to do that with more communities in the upcoming years and hire and have more trained nurses for the communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues are well aware, physicians and specialists travel to the non-central outlying communities a number of times a year. These visits are often not long enough for everyone in the community to get an appointment and to get the health care they require.

Can the minister clarify how community health professional visits are scheduled and what steps are taken to ensure that everyone who needs to see the doctor gets an appointment with a doctor or specialist? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, doctors are challenging to deal with and we need to have an agreement with them beforehand. We have to set up their visits in the most convenient way. When there is a problem and some people are not seen, they are usually sent outside of the community. It's unfortunate for those who had missed an appointment, but a lot of times, it's difficult and we hire more specialists to handle the appointments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I'm certain that

any community would benefit from having a full-time physician, it may also interest a health professional to experience life in a northern community of Nunavut that is not a regional centre.

Will the minister commit to looking into the possibility of establishing a full-time physician position in a small community such as Cape Dorset, for example, and recruiting interested candidates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dealing with medical doctors isn't a simple process. Doctors spend many years in education in their fields and we can't just place specialists into any old position. That is the difficulty we face as a department, even here in Iqaluit where we try to retain doctors in the hospital. As that is the case, we are looking at a joint review with outside agencies to see how we can advertise these positions electronically and whether we can use telehealth as that is becoming more widely used. This is especially true in communities that do not get many community visits. The doctors can diagnose the patient using the telehealth system. We are looking at ways to increase that, as we are well aware of the importance of this technology throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

### **Question 164 – 4(3): Status of Correspondence to Airlines**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Premier.

Last month, representatives from three airlines appeared before us during a special televised meeting of the Full Caucus. At the end of the meeting, the Premier stated that he would be sending a letter to all three airlines regarding the concerns that had been raised by the MLAs and that he would make the letter public.

Can the Premier indicate when he will be tabling his letter to the airlines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I want to thank my colleague for his question about our meetings with the airline representatives in November. We are looking at writing up our concerns in a letter asking about our financial concerns and how the funding is used in this regard. The airlines tried to inform us that they had difficulty accessing that funding. I was only able to express that we would submit our concerns in the letter that I will be tabling for the information of the members and this House as well as Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier used to be the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, so I know that he is familiar with the challenges facing the High Arctic in the area of affordable and accessible air travel. For example, it costs over \$6,000 to fly between Arctic Bay and Ottawa. Can the minister tell me what direction he has given his Minister of Transportation regarding the need for the government to produce an updated High Arctic transportation strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We initiated the strategy while I was the Minister of ED&T and we reviewed the strategy as it related to Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and Arctic Bay, including the very expensive repercussions to the residents that the member highlighted. (interpretation ends) In the past, we did a survey and a fact-finding mission on the high cost of High Arctic transportation. We know for a fact that trying to get into the High Arctic communities is a costly endeavour.

We did a study. At the end of the study, we determined that the only way to bring the costs down was through subsidies from the federal government. At one point, we did discuss that with the federal government and we had negative results on that. There's no doubt that there are more discussions being taken on the high cost of transportation in the High Arctic.

Once we hear anything more about that from the federal government... . As you know, there are some subsidies that are provided through the airlines already through medical travel and employment travel, GN travel, but for this part, we had no indication or any indication from the federal government at the time to actually help us out in lowering the cost of High Arctic transportation, whether it's for people, products, or goods and services.

We know for a fact that through our endeavour to figure out ways to bring the costs down, one of the studies that we did was a worthwhile study. At the end of the day, we did find out that we can only bring the costs down through major economic development, which we don't have up there, or else through federal subsidies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Residents in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay face many difficulties in accessing affordable air travel. These communities play an important role in asserting Canadian sovereignty, and I believe that the federal government has a role to play in improving the situation. Will the Premier raise this issue when he meets with the Prime Minister in Vancouver next week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when I have a future meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada, Prime Minister Trudeau, I will convey the concerns to him. Furthermore, we can work with our Member of Parliament, Hunter Tootoo, who represents us at the Parliament of Canada. He is well aware of the high cost of living that faces our residents in the High Arctic.

We are well aware that the High Arctic communities of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord were created by the (interpretation ends) federal government (interpretation) long ago in the 1950s when they relocated Inuit from Nunavik to the High Arctic based on this statement. We know that the High Arctic communities of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord have always been (interpretation ends) for the purpose of Canadian Arctic sovereignty. (interpretation) That's the reason we try to reiterate this to the Canadian government.

It is important that we try to raise the awareness of the high cost of living in the High Arctic communities. As well, the mining companies have a lesser cost when they work in the community of Arctic Bay. Once the airlines stop going into the communities, this is also a concern. It is something that we will bring up once we meet with the Prime Minister in Vancouver along with the premiers. This is something that we will bring up at the leaders' conference. As well, Minister Tootoo will be talking in regard to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 165 – 4(3): Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable**

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

Earlier this month, the minister co-chaired the most recent meeting of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable that was held in Churchill. I thank him for inviting me and a number of other Kivalliq representatives to participate in the meeting.

As the minister will recall, one of the resolutions that was adopted at the meeting concerns the establishment of a hydroelectric power transmission line from Manitoba to the Kivalliq.

Can the minister outline the next steps that will be undertaken by the Energy Options Working Group on this important project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question because it's our job to get the message out. I would like to thank Mr. Tom Sammurток and Alex Sammurток, both MLAs from Rankin, for attending those meetings that I believe were very productive and informative.

The whole Hudson Bay roundtable passed a resolution on the recommendation from the roundtable energy working group and the resolution read, "That the Hudson Bay regional



roundtable direct the Energy Options Working Group to access the required federal funding to undertake the next phase of the transmission line project between Manitoba and Nunavut.”

In short, it means that they would like to pursue federal funding to fund a proper feasibility study because the scoping study that was done was like a class “X” estimate and they want to get a more finely detailed study with costs tied down more. Everyone was in support of it and discussions were informative, like I said, and productive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister sort of read my mind on my first supplementary question here.

Last fall, a scoping study on the hydroelectric transmission project was prepared in partnership between the Kivalliq Inuit Association and the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba. When will the minister be tabling a copy of the scoping study in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That scoping study was not a government study. It was done for and through the Kivalliq Inuit Association, so I am sure that the member can get copies of it from there. If the member

feels like he should table it, then he is so welcome. It is not a study that was done for the GN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is obvious that a nation-building project of this magnitude will require significant federal investment to make it into a reality. Yesterday, the House was informed by the Minister of Finance that the government is seeking a quarter of a billion dollars from Ottawa for energy investments. Can the minister indicate whether funding for the Manitoba-Kivalliq hydroelectric project is a part of this request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can’t speak on behalf of the finance minister, but as the resolution was made by the Hudson Bay roundtable, they will be asking the federal government for funding for a feasibility study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 166 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou Tags**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have questions for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, I just want more information on a question I had about Baffin Island caribou. I don't want to stay on the same topic, but I want to clearly understand and I also want the people of the Baffin to clearly understand. I am not sure the last question I had was responded to properly. Maybe he responded to it properly and maybe I just didn't understand it.

Let me say that I know that in Pond Inlet, we have depleted our caribou tags. Due to that, I would like to ask this question. Now, more than once, the minister has stated that in July, there will be 250 new tags. He has stated that more than once. I would like to ask this question: even if the 250 tags are not all caught and there are some left over after July 1 and then you add 250 new tags, will the old tags just be erased and no longer usable? I hope that is clearer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, you understand correctly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I understand that even if there are tags left over in the Baffin region, those leftover tags will just be forgotten. They will be gone and the Baffin region will get 250 new tags and those communities that have depleted their tags will have to wait until July 1 to get new ones. Do I understand that

correctly? 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. In the Baffin region, there are two communities that have harvested 30 male caribou. This is what I said earlier. As the government, we didn't handle how many tags each community gets. That was the Qikiqtani Wildlife Management Board. Those two communities that have taken 30 tags can request more from the Qikiqtani Wildlife Management Board because it is their responsibility. I trust that they can handle this matter on their own. It's just the two communities that have caught 30 caribou and all the other communities have not done that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my final question for the time being. I would like to say to the minister that on July 1, 250 new tags will be given to the Baffin region. That's very good to hear and we will have good expectations for it. What I would like to ask is: are we going to keep on doing this now or has the Department of Environment made any other plans with its caribou management partners to see how they will fix this up or change it? Is this the way we expect life to be for the time being? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): The decision that was made that would allow 250 caribou to be caught in the Baffin region will stay like that for now. Looking at the various studies that have been completed and the studies that will be done, it will take a number of months, perhaps a year. Right now, in the Baffin region, we will stay with the system until a new law has been introduced. We will change it, but I cannot say when I can expect any changes to that as the Minister of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 167 – 4(3): Water Delivery Services in Iqaluit**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Once again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

During its recent fall 2015 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved \$3.4 million in capital funding to be allocated to the City of Iqaluit under its contribution agreement with the Government of Nunavut.

On October 27, 2015 during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the department's 2016-17 capital estimates, I asked a number of questions concerning this contribution agreement. In response, officials indicated that the department meets with the City of Iqaluit on a quarterly basis and they meet to discuss priorities and needs in relation to infrastructure planning.

Can the minister indicate if his department has discussed the capacity and lifecycles of the city's water delivery equipment during these meetings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I don't know if they had discussions recently. I'm not aware of it, but I'm sure they have because CGS and the city work together and closely together. The city is different than the hamlets. They're more independent and they're more on their own and their funding sources are different than the hamlets. The hamlets get their funding directly from Community and Government Services and the city gets some funding from the government, but a lot of their funding is generated by their tax base. I can't tell you about any meetings that have occurred lately about their water infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed that when RFPs and that are issued, very often, the City of Iqaluit is not included. That's a concern for me and I think it should be looked at.

On October 27, 2015, I also asked a number of questions concerning the issue of water delivery services in the City of Iqaluit. In response, officials stated that the department had "undertaken a comprehensive review,

which should be finished by the end of this fiscal year, to take a look at the water, waste, and sewage programs right across the territory.”

Can the minister indicate if this review has been completed as of today and can he indicate when he will be tabling the results of this review in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The water/sewage review program is still ongoing and we’re anticipating it to be done by the end of the fiscal year. It is Nunavut-wide based. It’s just to see if the funding is not only adequate but whether the funding is being spent properly and prudently because, in the end, the government does pay for all of the services for the hamlets. We would like that money spent in a prudent manner, but we also don’t want the hamlets to go into debt in order to provide a necessity of water and sewage. The study is ongoing and it should be done by the end of this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister has been hanging around the finance minister a lot. I heard very similar words, “prudent,” so... .

>> *Laughter*

As the minister is aware, the issue of water delivery services has been an ongoing concern for residents in Iqaluit for a number of years. Specifically, residents are concerned that the city may not have the capacity to meet its current demand for water delivery services.

Will the minister commit to working with the City of Iqaluit to determine its current and future water delivery needs and to determine solutions that will allow the city to meet these needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, CGS works with all the municipalities, including the City of Iqaluit, to make sure water is available and safe, but each municipality is their own government and they provide their services how they see fit as long as safety is not an issue and people are getting water. It’s a municipal issue, but if there are safety issues, then the regulatory [bodies] will get involved. We will work with any municipality to make sure that the water and sewage is run properly, but in the end, each municipality, including the City of Iqaluit, runs their program the way they see fit how to run it for their people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 8. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Returns to Written Questions. Item 10. Replies to Opening Address. Item 11. Replies to

Budget Address. Item 12. Petitions. Item 13. Responses to Petitions. Item 14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Item 15: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 072 – 4(3): Resolutions Adopted by the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to table a collection of formal resolutions that were adopted at the most recent meeting of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review these important documents with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have some documents to table.

**Tabled Document 073 – 4(3): 2016-2019 Business Plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 074 – 4(3): 2016-2019 Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 075 – 4(3): 2016-2019 Business Plan of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth**

**Tabled Document 076 – 4(3): Election under Section 7 of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act**

**Tabled Document 077 – 4(3): Pension Administration Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2015**

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Members. I have five documents to table today.

The first document is the 2016-2019 *Business Plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

The second document is the 2016-2019 *Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut*.

The third document is the 2016-2019 *Business Plan of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth*.

The fourth document, as required under subsection 20-1 of the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, is a copy of an election made under section 7 of the Act.

The final document, as required by the Legislative Assembly's *Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, is the *Pension Administration Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2015*.

(interpretation) Thank you.

Item 16. Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Item 16: Notices of Motions****Motion 019 – 4(3): Referral of Tabled Document 70 – 4(3) to the Committee of the Whole – Notice**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 29, 2016, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tununiq, that Tabled Document 70 – 4(3) be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration with Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), and 140 – 4(2).

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Item 18: Motions**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Madam Angnakak.

**Motion 019 – 4(3): Referral of Tabled Document 70 – 4(3) to the Committee of the Whole**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Motion 8 – 4(3) was moved, considered, and adopted by the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of November 5, 2015;

AND WHEREAS this motion provided for Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), and 140 – 4(2) to be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration;

AND WHEREAS the 2014-15 *Public Service Annual Report* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 24, 2016;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tununiq, that Tabled Document 70 – 4(3) be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration with Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), and 140 – 4(2).

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 19. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Item 19: First Reading of Bills****Bill 10 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
4, 2015-2016 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Aggu, that Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2015-2016*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance.

(interpretation) Sorry. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order.

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 19. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 11 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2015-  
2016 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2015-2016*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The

motion is carried.

Item 19. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 12 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
1, 2016-2017 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 12, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2016-2017*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 19. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 –  
First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 13, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 20. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Item 20: Second Reading of Bills****Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 13, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make operations and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Speaker:** Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 13 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 21. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters. Bill 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and [70] – 4(3) with Mr. Irniq... . (interpretation) I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) ...Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:37 and Committee resumed at 16:07*

**Item 21: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings. Welcome to your committee.

We can now begin our meeting this afternoon. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) and Bill 13, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017*. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence the review of the 2016-17 main estimates, commencing with the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the 2016-17 Main Estimates for the Department of Health?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Health – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to welcome the Minister of



Health, Minister Okalik. Welcome. Let me first ask, as we proceed, if you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. Yes, I do want witnesses with me at the table.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree to bring in the minister's officials?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. As we begin our consideration of the main estimates, we will start with page H-6 so that you will know ahead of time. At this time, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me this afternoon to my right, whom you know, is my Deputy Minister of Health, Colleen Stockley, and to my left is Assistant Deputy Minister Rosemary Keenainak.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House, Ms. Stockley and Ms. Keenainak. Minister Okalik, if you have any opening comments, you may now begin. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. I am pleased to present the

Department of Health's main estimates for fiscal year 2016-17. The department requests a budget of \$338.22 million. This represents an increase of \$22.5 million. It also means the creation of 60.8 new positions.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health continues to address the commitments in *Sivumut Abluqta*, specifically healthy communities and good governance. The main estimates and business plan before you today will ensure clinical expertise and facilities are available to Nunavummiut, expand our mental health and addictions services, and deliver our services in an effective and efficient manner.

### Community Resources

The department continues to increase resources in the communities. The Department of Health presents the second phase of our mental health programming and services, which expands the mental health and addictions services across Nunavut. Specifically, Health is seeking 20 new mental health and addictions workers in 2016-17, positions that will be tailored to the needs of the community. The intent is to expand and standardize community-based mental health and addiction treatment options, such as detoxification, counselling and day programming, social-emotional learning programming for children and youth, readiness for substance abuse treatment programming, and peer support. In addition, the department will also be able to offer alternative services by increasing access to psychiatrist sessions via telehealth.

Today, Health is seeking to improve the care and safety of mental health clients

at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. The current practice of using contracted security guards to observe mental health clients is neither appropriate nor providing care in the best interest of the client. To ensure the right type of care, Health will be replacing contracted security guards with life skills workers capable of providing therapeutic services to clients in a hospital setting.

The department is phasing in more nurse practitioners across Nunavut. This year, we are asking for four new nurse practitioners for the communities of Arviat, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, and Nauyasat.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health recognizes that a strong public health program is effective in preventing illness and decreasing demands on community health centres. Therefore, Health is looking to phase in public health nurses across Nunavut. Health is proposing new public health nurses in Arviat and Gjoa Haven.

In many of our communities, our frontline staff, clerk interpreters, housekeepers, and caretakers have been dedicated in their service to our communities without the benefit of a permanent job. Additional full-time and part-time indeterminate positions will be created for clerk interpreters, housekeepers, and caretakers in all of the Kivalliq communities as well as Sanikiluaq totalling 12.8 positions.

The Qikiqtani General Hospital renovations are nearing completion and the plan is to open the new wing within the coming months. This renovated wing will need additional housekeeping positions to meet the increased demand

to maintain standards under infection control protocols. Six new positions will be required for this activity.

Absent in Baker Lake is a home and community care program. The department is bringing forward a request to create a home and community care program which includes six positions needed to build care plans for clients, improving access to treatment and reducing the workload of health care practitioners.

The safety of our health care workers and our clients is important, and unfortunately, there has been an increased risk, vandalism, and break-ins in health centres across Nunavut. Health is seeking approval of \$2.24 million for improving security measures in 10 communities across Nunavut. The intent is to contract these services in the following communities: Cape Dorset, Igloodik, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Kugluktuk.

### **Territorial Resources**

Mr. Chairman, I have highlighted a number of additional resources at the community level. I now turn to capacity at the territorial level. One of the areas that Health has really focused on the last year is the importance of quality improvement. This area has also been highlighted by the recent Cape Dorset external review. The department is seeking approval to create a continuous quality improvement program along with three PYs. The intent of the program is to improve the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care in Nunavut by improving service access and patient experience, as well as reducing

mortality, critical incidents, and risks of litigation.

At the territorial level, there is also a need to ensure our medical professionals are providing the right services in support of our clients. To meet these needs, the department will provide access to needed training and professional credential renewals. This initiative will also include recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to include sensitivity training that is culturally appropriate.

Nunavut has one of the highest birthrates and the youngest population. Thus, Health is seeking to increase paediatrician coverage within the territory. Also, Health currently has midwifery services in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay and capacity being developed in Iqaluit. The request for two PYs before you today is seeking to increase support to existing service and the expansion of midwifery services in Arviat.

Mr. Chairman, as indicated, a priority for the department is to provide services closer to our homes. The department is continuing to work on long-term care for our aging population. At this point in time, Nunavut does not have the capacity to care for patients with higher level needs, such as dementia. The department is seeking \$420,000 to contract facilities outside of Nunavut that have the capacity, including specialized training. This is an area that I will continue to work on to build capacity in the territory.

The need for access to health care for Nunavummiut may be highly dependent

on medical travel outside of their community. Costs are increasing due to several factors, including population growth, increased airfare, and improved specialist services. The department has had to request additional funding to address shortfalls that have ranged between \$3 million and \$8.3 million. The additional \$4.88 million for scheduled and medevac medical travel will solely ensure that existing operations are more appropriately funded.

Nunavut health practitioners require ongoing access to the Ontario Poison Centre for advice on emergent/urgent treatment of intentional and unintentional poisonings. We will continue to use this important service for the next two years while, at the time, evaluating and researching other options. This has never been funded in the past.

The government's response to the suicide crisis is well underway, responding to the coroner's inquest recommendations and planning for the 2016-17 fiscal year. New resources, new partnerships, and long-term commitment will be needed and plans will be presented to you in the spring sitting.

In closing, our aim is to provide the best possible health care services to the population of Nunavut. We are committed in the development of a well-governed, integrated, collaborative, and quality health care system closer to home. Health envisions a health care system that empowers Nunavummiut to live healthy lives and is supported by a health system that is innovative, collaborative, and incorporates Inuit societal values. We are committed to a

model of health care that serves all Nunavummiut.

This concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have any opening comments? Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have reviewed the 2016-17 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Health.

The standing committee notes that the 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Health is approximately \$338 million, which represents the largest share of the government's total operations and maintenance budget for 2016-17.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut faces unique challenges in delivering health services across the territory. The costs of delivering quality health care and related services are driven up by the geographical distance between our communities, a reliance on expensive air transportation, and the distinct circumstances of delivering health care in remote and rural settings. The standing committee notes that the minister and his officials have been carrying out discussions with their federal and provincial counterparts to negotiate the necessary levels of federal funding for health care in Nunavut. The committee supports the minister in his efforts to access adequate funding to

address all aspects of health care and medical service needs across Nunavut.

Despite an increase of over \$20 million from the Department of Health's 2015-16 budget, the standing committee anticipates that costs for health care service delivery in 2016-17 will again exceed approved allocations and that supplementary appropriations for additional funding for the department will be brought forward as they have been in the past.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that in addition to basic health care coverage for all Nunavummiut, the Department of Health also administers a number of federal funding programs such as the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, which helps to cover costs relating to travel, food, and accommodation for beneficiary clients who are required to travel away from home to receive medical treatment and care. NIHB also covers various costs relating to dental care, vision care, and pharmaceuticals for beneficiaries. The standing committee notes that high pharmacy costs raise concerns for many Nunavummiut and encourages the minister to work with his provincial and territorial counterparts in their efforts to address the cost of pharmacy products across Canada.

The standing committee supports the department's ongoing efforts to increase resources and staff in such areas as mental health, public health, and long-term care. Members recognize that additional resources allocated to quality improvement are intended to address the need for changes to the delivery of services at the community and regional

levels as well as improving the overall quality of health care and patient experience. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide timely updates on any proposed changes to service delivery that may directly impact medical clients, their families, and the communities they live in.

While the standing committee recognizes that many of the approximately 60 new positions to be added to the department in 2016-17 will provide much-needed services to Nunavummiut, it must be noted that a great many of the department's current positions remain vacant to date.

The Standing Committee on Social Wellness continues to encourage the department to focus on the recruitment, training, and retention of health workers, especially at the community level. Members further encourage the department in its efforts to ensure that medical professionals hired from outside of the territory receive appropriate orientation and ongoing cultural awareness and sensitivity training.

Mr. Chairman, over the years, the department has made significant investments in such technology as the telehealth system and diagnostic equipment such as a CT scanner and updated X-ray and ultrasound machines. The standing committee encourages the department to monitor the effectiveness of these investments in providing a greater level of service at home and reducing medical travel costs with a view to acquiring additional equipment in the future, such as dialysis machines, which would permit more Nunavummiut to receive medical services in Nunavut closer to their families and communities.

Members of the standing committee have raised concerns about the number of medical clients who are sent out of Nunavut and away from their families to receive care. While it is recognized that, for certain types of care, the required type or level of services is not always available within Nunavut, members encourage the minister and his staff to work more closely with community groups and organizations to address local needs and support local efforts to provide support and programming. The standing committee was pleased to note the department's plans to address long-term care needs in the community of Baker Lake. Committee members look forward to receiving further information on the department's long-term plans to support Nunavut's growing elder population in all of Nunavut's communities.

At the other end of the population spectrum, the standing committee notes that the Department of Health is proposing to introduce a number of initiatives focusing on children and youth, such as programs in the areas of emotional and social development as well as ongoing oral health programming. Committee members strongly encourage departmental staff to work closely with school staff and DEAs to support students in addressing healthy lifestyles choices.

Mr. Chairman, health-related initiatives at the community level can be greatly enhanced with the support and participation of Health Committees of Council. The committee notes that 2016-17 funding allocations for health committees will once again remain equal and unchanged across all communities. More support could be provided to

Health Committees of Council to assist them in becoming effective in undertaking the important role of promoting the health and well-being of their communities.

During the minister's presentation of his draft 2016-17 main estimates budget to the standing committee, a commitment was made to provide information on the current status of contracted services with such entities as the Ottawa Health Services Network as well as contractors providing boarding home services and airline transportation. The standing committee looks forward to receiving updates on the status of such contracted services.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. You read well. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members that if you have questions, you will have an opportunity to ask them during the page-by-page review even if they are in the Minister Okalik's opening remarks. Do my colleagues have any general comments? If there are none, we will proceed.

Let us go to page H-4, but before we proceed, we haven't met for a long time and I would like to remind you, as we're in the Committee of the Whole, that according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not

until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that whenever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review and indicate which page you are referring to so that the minister and his officials will have a good idea where you're commenting from.

We will proceed with our page-by-page review and we will first deal with the Department of Health. Branch Summary. Directorate Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I almost said, "Mr. Speaker." One of the things that come to mind right away when we have the Department of Health before us is the motion that was passed last fall to establish a hospital board. I think that the department was supposed to bring that into the House in the fall of 2015 and we haven't seen anything. I'm wondering if you can explain to us why it hasn't come to the House and what the next steps are. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an ongoing process. I will have to look into this with my officials and we're still planning towards that and it's not complete yet. We want to set it up properly for the new board. Once we're done, we will be able to take it to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Just a reminder to the minister and officials, if you wish to

discuss amongst yourselves, you have a mute button. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is an issue that is something that I feel is very important. I think we're the only jurisdiction without a board and according to that motion we all passed, this was supposed to be in place by the fall. Why is there such a delay? Why aren't we where we are supposed to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still dealing with this today and we will carry on with it as per the motion and we will be establishing a board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe the minister answered my question. What constitutes the delays? Why don't we have a board in place now? What are the reasons? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be implementing this and we want to do it properly. Along with my officials, we're going to have to review it very carefully before we can present it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you,

Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still didn't get an answer. I keep asking what the cause of the delay is. (interpretation ends) You're in breach, really, of the motion and I think that's kind of serious, so I am really hoping that you can provide us with ... . Has the process even started? Let's start there. Has the process started to establish this board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process has not stopped. As I have stated, we will create a health board. We're trying to do that as we were asked to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us then when he expects this board to be in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Don't forget to mute your microphone if you're going to have a discussion. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are getting close to completion and we will create the board this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I'm just getting started.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health repeatedly overspends the budget. Every year, supplementary appropriations are brought forward to account for over-expenditures. What efforts have been made to ensure that your budget for 2016-17 is realistic and that requests for supplementary appropriations in the upcoming fiscal year will be kept to a minimum? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're always looking to improve, reduce, and create more efficiency.

As I stated in my opening comments, there are some areas that weren't even budgeted like security and other areas that should have been budgeted that aren't a part of our overall budget, so we're including them. That will have a reduction in supplementary appropriations for future years for sure.

I hope that we can prevent over-expenditures by doing more promotion throughout the communities. Part of the budget is to create more public health employees so that we can prevent illnesses and reduce our overall cost on health care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. That is good to hear, which brings me to think about the Canada Health Accord and that expired in March of 2014. That provides stable funding for all Canadian jurisdictions. Can you describe what discussions are underway with your federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts to ensure that we have adequate funding for health care in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I had the benefit of going to Vancouver with my colleagues and those discussions are very preliminary at this stage, so I can't pinpoint when we can have a new accord in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This funding expired 2014 in March, so what are we using now? Is money still coming in even though it expired or how does that all work? Can you explain it to us here in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, the old agreement still continues with nominal increases each year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully we will get a lot more than we usually do.

Your department plans to add 60 new PYs, even though you have difficulties, really, in filling current positions. To what extent does your department's consistent vacancy rate impact your departmental budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We end up contracting and using casuals and some overtime for employees where there are vacancies. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** According to your structural chart on page H-1 of the main estimates, 60 new positions will be added to the Health Care Delivery Branch, 17 new PYs in the Health Centre Division. Which community health centres will receive these new positions and how will individuals be recruited or trained to fill those positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) I think there were two or three questions there. If you want to answer them individually, fine, or however you want

to answer it. (interpretation) Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can answer some part of it in terms of the interpreter/translators. All the Kivalliq will get full-time interpreter/translators, which has been casual, so a lot of those are partially filled already. It's a matter of making them indeterminate so that they can have the benefits and security of a job. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Well, that's great news to hear because I think that's exactly the way we're supposed to be going. In fact, I do want to tell you that the problems that I brought up to you about the lack of interpreters at the hospital here, I think that you have addressed those problems very well. I am happy to see that as well.

I want to get into a little bit about concerns about the status of various contracts that are held by the Department of Health for services such as the medical boarding homes, emergency medical travel, and scheduled medical travel. What processes does your department follow to ensure that services, conditions, and other obligations are being properly provided for by the different contractors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) We do meet with the contractors that deliver those services to our clients. It always helps to learn from the clients on the issues they may be facing. We appreciate the feedback and then we introduce them for improvements to these contractors. Please, if you have issues, continue to let us know so that we can improve the services with the contractors.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Before I proceed, Ms. Angnakak, I know that you really want to ask questions and it's interesting, but please keep the interpreters in mind because they need to keep up with you and that goes for all of us. We have to go through the interpreters, so we should keep that in mind, as they are assisting us. Ms. Angnakak, please proceed.

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes, I'll try to slow down. I get so excited when Health is before us. My goodness me, what great opportunities here.

When we're talking about different contracts that the Department of Health has for services such as the one like the boarding homes and that, how many will be renewed or put out for tendering in the upcoming fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to slow down.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll answer slowly to try to assist my colleague in

normalizing the speed and tone.

The Winnipeg boarding home, for example, their term is ending this May, I believe, and the possibility of an extension for another year. The Edmonton boarding home will be up next, next year. The term will be up in 2017. The Iqaluit boarding home will be due up in March of 2020. The Ottawa Larga Boarding Home will be March 2028. The Yellowknife boarding home is also October 2028. Those are the boarding home contracts that we currently work with the federal government on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to slow down.

From those contracts that you spoke of, what is usual term? Are they all the same? Do they all have a five-year term with a five-year extension or 20-year terms? What are the terms? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Some of them are shorter and depending on the contractor as well, so each case is different. We also make sure that they're following the terms of the contract by meeting regularly with these contractors. They are challenging at times, but we try to work with them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which contract is the longest contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The longest contracts are with Ottawa Larga and with Yellowknife as well. Those are contracts that we work out, with the federal government providing the funds, and we work out the terms with the contractors. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I'm on 111 in your business plan and you talk about "a comprehensive training and development strategy to address both technical and soft skill gaps in the workforce." I would like to know more information about the soft skill gaps in the workforce. What does that mean? Which PYs would fall into that category? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe this is more in line with the recommendations of the review that took place. There needs to be more cultural awareness for our employees, so we look forward to providing this training along with

ongoing training for our health care professionals to support their work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again just above that, you talk about "umbrella legislation to allow the regulation of multiple health professions currently not regulated in Nunavut." Can you explain what you mean by that? When do you expect this legislation to come our way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are some professionals that aren't regulated currently like chiropractors and other professions that provide support services for health care. I look forward to working on this and hopefully, next year, we will be in a position to introduce legislation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. We're on page H-4. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to ask a question on the opening comments where it speaks to three positions that they want to create under the (interpretation ends) quality improvement program. (interpretation) I believe it was in response to the review that was conducted by Ms. Katherine

Peterson. I would like to know what the roles or duties these three positions will be performing. What kind of jobs will they actually be doing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three researchers who carried out the study further stated that these supervisors need more monitoring to ensure they're working properly. We will be adding those three PYs. One of them will be a researcher to monitor their work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the recommendations, it stated that there should be a full-time chief nursing officer position. That is under recommendation 2. Is that included in the three PYs that you are requesting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We already have a chief nursing officer in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the department for their efforts in

implementing the recommendations from the report.

Let me move to another topic. This issue was partially referred to in a previous question about the contract last month, when the airline companies appeared before the Full Caucus. We directed questions on the contract with the government. One representative from Canadian North responded that the contract had been extended, that contract held by the Department of Health. What is the final date of closure for this contract? Can we get that information? Further, are you in negotiations with the companies? I will stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We added a year to the extension of the contract to allow more time for other airline companies to apply, as currently, it would have been comprised of the existing carriers. In looking at the outside world, there are not many airline companies operating in Nunavut, but it was to allow more companies to submit bids by adding an extra year up to August 2017, when the tender will open to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have heard via the news media through print and the web that a new airline was established just recently that will fly from Iqaluit to Ottawa and east to Halifax and it is called Sarvaq Aviation. Has this

company been included in the discussions about the contract to see if a cheaper price can be submitted for the contract and whether they would be interested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, am quite pleased that another airline will be available, perhaps leading to a better price. However, this contract is still in force and it will open for public tender in 2017. I would encourage all airlines who wish to bid, if they have the appropriate aircraft, to submit their bids and we will be open to all submissions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on page H-4. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get back to Ms. Angnakak's line of questioning where she spoke of renewal of contracts. In particular, the Inuit Kivalliq Centre in Winnipeg, I believe it was discussed that the contract will be renewed or extended in May. I would like to know what the status of this contract is. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This contract is in the interim period and we may have to extend it for another year based on the operational requirements of the companies. They have to work together to try to resolve these issues, so we will

most likely wait on this by extending it another year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Sammurtok, are you finished? Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to ask the minister for clarification with regard to the opening comments on page 2, second paragraph. It states, "This year, we are asking for four new nurse practitioners for the communities of Arviat, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, and Naujaat." Will there be four new nurse practitioners in those four communities or will there be one for each of the four communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the four communities will each get a nurse specializing in prescription drugs, able to fill out prescriptions and provide more information on the patients, as they have more authority than regular nurses. We had a pilot project in the past, which provided many benefits and that is why we are trying to expand it to other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is evident now that it's going to be very beneficial for Baker Lake. Last year and this year, we've had a shortage of nurses in Baker Lake. Even before I came here, we had a shortage of nurses and they

could only see patients in emergency cases. I don't know what it is like right now, but we had a shortage of nurses.

In your opening comments, it states that in all of the Kivalliq communities as well as Sanikiluaq, there are a total of 12.8 positions. I would like to get clarification. Are the current employees going to be considered first? I refer to the people currently working there who are not indeterminate but in largely casual positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, they have been hired as casuals and we want to hire them as full-time employees. I know that they will be able to apply for the full-time, indeterminate positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want clarification on your opening comments on page 3. Earlier on, you stated that "Absent in Baker Lake is a home and community care program." I was looking at the six positions that your department wants to create, which will provide a lot of assistance to the community. This includes building "care plans for clients, improving access to treatment and reducing wait times."

With respect to these six positions that serve the entire region, do they have to be nurses or are they mainly administrative staff supporting the

department? If you can understand, I wonder if you can elaborate a bit further on the six positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the manager will be a nurse. However, the other employees will be trained and we would prefer them to be Inuit from the communities, as they tend to hold these positions. They will receive training and assist the nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. Also just underneath that one, there is another paragraph I want clarification on. Obviously, in 10 communities in Nunavut, we require security measures to ensure our health care workers are working in a safe environment. It is obvious that would help.

Have you done any studies related to smaller communities? It seems obvious that smaller communities facing emergencies or injuries have difficulties trying to move patients through the doors. Sometimes in an emergency, in a smaller community, when you are transporting patients or an injured person, it was difficult to enter. Is this not a concern? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities we have focused on face particular challenges, such as break-ins of health centres and vandalism, which we want to cut off. We believe having security in the health centres will lower these incidents. Health centre equipment and operating our health centres is very expensive, so we have to protect them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on page H-4. Do you have any questions on that page? Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my next question in English for clarity. (interpretation ends) One of the priorities in your 2016-17 draft business plan is to "Introduce the revised Extended Health Benefits policy." Can you describe some of the changes to the policy and explain how they will benefit eligible Nunavutmiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are planning to introduce this new policy this fiscal year. I can't identify exactly when, but we will. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Once the revised Extended Health Benefits Policy is completed, will

regular members be able to see a copy of that policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. He said, "Absolutely."

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Yes, now I understand, absolutely, of course.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) The need for health-specific privacy legislation, (interpretation) as it seems obvious that within the health department, when we deal with medical cases, there are confidentiality issues, as legislation exists to protect privacy. When information is considered confidential, anyone or any of the family members wishing to get the information... .

I will switch to English. (interpretation ends) It has been addressed by the Information and Privacy Commissioner over a number of years. Can you provide a brief overview of the status of this initiative and when you expect to bring forward the recommended legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) Right now, the focus is trying to pass the various legislation that we have before you. The *Public Health Act* is coming up. Those are areas we are trying to target right now, but we are doing very preliminary work on the privacy legislation at this time. We also have the *Mental Health Act* that we will be submitting. It's something that we will work on, but it's very preliminary at this stage.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation):

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Regarding these issues or these pieces of legislation that have to be revised, you indicated that there are three pieces of legislations that you're working on. I'm sure that they're all very important, but which one do you place as a higher priority as the Department of Health?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one most advanced is the *Public Health Act* that I'm sure we will be able to introduce during this sitting and right next to it is the *Mental Health Act*, which is very important to the territory of Nunavut. Once it's available, we will make sure that it's placed in front of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on page H-4. Mr.

Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pat Angnakak asked this question to the Department of Health. It indicates here that there are 60 new positions that you are requesting to add in 2016-17. Even though that's the case, there are quite a number of positions that have been vacant for some time. Why are we not filling those positions? Is it because people do not want to fill those positions? Why should we put an additional 60 PYs when there are a lot of vacant positions in your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really respond to your question because I'm not the human resources minister and I don't deal with vacant positions. If this is approved, we will be able to fill those 60 positions that we are requesting. Most of them will be in the communities and most of the vacant positions are in Iqaluit. It's going to be in the communities and they will be filled by beneficiaries if at all possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments under (interpretation ends) Community Resources, (interpretation) "Health is seeking 20 new mental health and addictions workers in 2016-17..." I'll be asking my question in regard to that.



In the smaller communities, there are people who are unilingual and I can only use my community as an example, but I'm sure there are some in other communities. Of course, it's going to require money and I know this money will be going to the communities. Of course, they will have to hire an individual that is fully trained to fill that position.

Beneficiaries and elders who have life experience are very capable of providing counselling by way of language and culture. Have you considered filling those positions with those types of people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the new member-elect and welcome him to the House.

We have 11 in total that will be mental health workers. For Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Cambridge Bay, there will be three mental health workers in total and eight mental health workers in Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Cape Dorset, Baker Lake, Arviat, Taloyoak, and two positions in Iqaluit. There are nine total positions broken into regional groupings that will assist the communities. Five are working in Qikiqtarjuaq, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Sanikiluaq, and Iqaluit. There are also three youth counsellors assisting youth in Igloolik, Coral Harbour, and Kugluktuk. Further, there is one addictions counsellor position that will assist people with addictions. Those are the main positions that will be created in this fiscal year.

Outside of that, we are also trying to give support in Clyde River for Iisiasivik where they do cultural healing, which I'm very proud of, and I would like to see more of those types of services being made available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. I am very pleased with it.

Firstly, I want to ask about nurses that are scheduled to arrive into Nunavut. In the smaller communities, we also have local nurses, which we call "caregivers" in our dialect. The nurses often provide pharmaceutical products to patients in the community.

Obviously, the medication does not originate from our community and sometimes there is a shortage of medication. Some people have to wait for their arrival. In some cases, they have to leave for treatment. Some nurses also are rotated and many nurses who cover for the main nurse are usually not familiar with the clients and some nurses become overwhelmed.

As stated by our minister earlier, if there are any concerns, he wants to be apprised of them. Since I understood that, I am conveying one of the problems we face in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would

like to see more nurses in Nunavut, especially Inuit. I think there are 14 and I am very pleased that there are 14 Inuit that are taking the foundation year of the Nursing Program. I would like to urge other Nunavummiut to take on such health profession type of courses. We would be more than pleased to help them out, especially in the Kitikmeot region where we use agency nurses or a rotation of nurses. We have to make sure that there's proper code of conduct being followed by the nurses and we're going to start implementing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Are you done? We're on Health. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$29,718,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Turn the page. Moving on. H-5. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on this page. The minister indicated that one of the pieces of legislation that they're proposing is the *Public Health Act*. They're also going to be setting up new regulations and policies on this subject. Could the minister elaborate further on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This legislation is almost ready for tabling

and we expect that very shortly. It will try to incorporate amendments allowing us to update and improve our current legislation and regulations, especially as it relates to safe practices and safety awareness. It includes information sharing with other jurisdictions. Currently, our legislation is well behind our peers, so we will try to conduct that review soon. We expect to be able to bring it forth to the House and table it in this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is understandable with the reasons provided. However, in addition to all of that, it seems obvious that the minister is well aware of this issue as members continue to pepper him with questions starting from last year and continuing to this year. It is obvious that legislation requires further drafting based on the questions of the members who want to update the legislation. They wanted to understand the reasons.

With respect to this issue, I would like clarification on whether this legislation that will be updated and amended, including the regulations, will be done to try to bring them up to date. This issue that members tend to speak to and raise questions on is related to the medical escort policy. Is this included in this updating and amending process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Act is

for procedures and it doesn't affect travel. We won't be addressing that through the Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. The response is clear that it's not included in there. It's addressed under a separate item. Our concerns as MLAs are our constituents who go on medical travel. In that case, I would like clarification on the *Public Health Act*. Do you know how many sections or provisions will need to be updated or changed? Do you have the information about the breadth of this review if it were completed or is this still ongoing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite get his question. Could he restate his question so that I can respond? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Mikkungwak, reiterate, please.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask in English so that it's understandable. (interpretation ends) In your *Public Health Act*, you are introducing new regulations so that it can be up to date. With the new *Public Health Act*, do you have a definitive idea as to how many regulation adjustments or amendments you have in the *Public Health Act* or is that still a work in

progress? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik, maybe that's clearer.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am sure that you will quickly realize that this new *Public Health Act* is an overhaul of the current Act, so it's quite extensive and the regulations will fall after that. We will have to first pass it and if there are amendments from members, then we will have to reflect it. After that, the regulations will be put in place. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you. I just have a few questions. In your business plan, the one I have, is on page 114, you talk about implementing the "next phase of the Tobacco Reduction Framework for Action." As we know, we have very high lung cancer rates here and we still have a lot of people that smoke. I'm wondering: how are we doing with the fight to stop people from smoking and to try to get some leeway there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the fight for tobacco, we're not gaining much traction. I hope that will change because it's one area that is totally preventable. We need to do more, I suppose, and find better tools to prevent more increases of

tobacco use in our territory. I hope that we can come up with better cessation promotion issues to reduce the number of use of tobacco in our territory (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. (interpretation ends) Ms. Angnakak, please.

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Did you forget me?

(interpretation ends) I guess my follow-up question to that is: what have we done or what work have we done to engage with other jurisdictions across Canada that might be more successful than what we have been doing? Maybe it's something we can learn from others that have faced the same situation in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We do work with other jurisdictions and try to find the best practices to reduce the use of tobacco. So far to date, we haven't had much success, but we will be training local people to try to assist us in reducing the use of tobacco in our communities throughout Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What do you think is the reason for why it's so hard here in

Nunavut to combat this use? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) I think it is just far too normal for people to light up and others see it, so they follow. It's very discouraging to see the younger generation pick up the habit. It's the one that we have to do whatever we can to turn the tide. I am encouraged by those who quit. Whenever I get a chance, I hammer each of my colleagues and encourage them to "butt out." It's not helping them or their families. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Me too, I always go after people as well because I used to be a smoker for a long time and I also quit. I understand the difficulties of quitting, but it's totally doable. It's really something that you can do. You just have to believe in yourself.

What would be an example maybe of a fine? I understand that if an entity sells cigarettes to underage Nunavummiut, there's a fine or some kind of penalty that happens. Can you tell us something about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We don't have that

information in front of us right now. We will need a bit of time to get it. I commit to providing it tomorrow if I'm still before the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my last question in regard to tobacco reduction. Compared to five years ago, where are we going with the numbers in terms of the number of smokers in Nunavut? Are we going up or down? Are we the same or what? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately, it's up since five years ago. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's discouraging, isn't it?

I want to go on now to just underneath that on page 114 of your business plan. You talk about monitoring the "implementation of the Sexual Health Framework for Action." In here you say, "New resources were created and training was conducted to support the identified gaps." Can you tell us what did you identify in that area as the gaps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have studied the various rates of infections throughout our territory. What we have found is that there has been a significant increase in syphilis in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the department doing to address that outbreak of syphilis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have been working with the Department of Education to promote health care relations and safer ways of sexual health. We have been working with the Department of Education and there has been very good collaboration with our schools. We have also trained local representatives on sexual health and provided more training to the local staff. We are providing more resources to our youth on safer ways of sexual practices. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Syphilis is a very concerning disease, I think, to have, if you want to it

a disease. When did this first come out and how long have you been addressing the issue? I guess my third question is: since you have been addressing the issue, have the numbers gone down? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) It's very hard to say how high it might go at this point, but it has gone up and down. Since 2012, there were 31 cases; in 2013, there were 58; in 2014, there were 98; and for most of 2015, there were 57 cases. It goes up and down, so it's hard to say where it will be at this coming year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are alarming numbers, really, because that can grow.

I want to go on again to your business plan on 114 where you talk about the Food Security Action Plan. It says here that you're going to evaluate the Food Security Action Plan 2014-16 and commence development of a follow-up plan. I understand the follow-up plan is for 2017-19, which is a little ahead of us. As the Department of Health, what has been your role in this and how do you work within the Food Security Action Plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) All we have done to date is provide technical support. The Department of Family Services has been taking the lead on this issue. We have been providing support on making sure that we promote healthy foods and make sure that we do our part in supporting the department and the other partners that are on this coalition. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you. I'm going to move on to something else and that's the health committees. I understand that every community has a health committee, but I don't understand what the real mandate and role is of those committees within the communities. Can you explain a little bit better just so I have a better understanding? What is the role of the health committees? Are they there to tell you or to advise you on priorities in dealing with health or to report sickness? What's their role? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I found these committees to be very useful. When I meet with them whenever I travel to the communities, they let me know of the challenges they face in their communities and more or less for medical travel purposes, for example. Some of these committees are the most productive in some communities in terms of promoting prevention and

healthy living. They apply to various programs, whether it be federal or territorial, and they provide such great service for their communities. I encourage them to keep up their good work and they do make a real difference in their communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell us who sits on these committees and do they get an honorarium? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The hamlet identifies the people that will serve on the committees and we provide nominal honoraria through the \$10,000 we provide to each committee each year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on page H-5. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to ask another question. My colleague, Ms. Angnakak, asked this already in regard to health committees in the communities. That \$10,000 funding has not been changed for many years. Is there any way that the funding that health committees get could be increased? I know that the health committee in Baker Lake really does a lot of things and they

keep the community clean as well, but the money is always running out every year. It only takes a few months for this money to be depleted. Is there any way to increase this funding? That's what I would like to ask the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we know that the funds help a great deal and we will look into it to see if we can do that probably in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know that you will be working on this in the spring. Right now, we're looking at the budget. Can we expect a supplementary request from you for that this spring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, we're talking to all the communities and we will want to get their help in things like suicide prevention. They are a very good avenue to use for that purpose. We will look at the finances again, as I said. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Maybe I wasn't clear enough, so I'll ask the question in English. (interpretation ends) Right now, we're dealing with O&M and the budget regarding this and a health committee is in here under Public Health. As the minister is indicating to possibly increase or provide additional funds in the spring sitting, are we anticipating a supplementary appropriation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: Yes, as I said, we will be asking for additional resources to support our efforts in reducing suicides in our territory. We will be coming forward with a supplementary appropriation in the spring session. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): We consider this very important. Will the (interpretation ends) health committees (interpretation) be involved in the work that you're talking about to prepare for the spring session? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to present a complete document, so the health committees will help produce that document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are on page H-5. Branch

Summary. Health. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$18,937,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Turn the page to H-6. As soon as we turn the page and if you have a question, feel free to raise your hand so that your name will be written down. Mr. Alex Sammurток.

**Mr. Alexander Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister probably remembers that when I first got elected in the fall of 2014, I questioned the minister at that time in the House to see if we can get a permanent resident dentist in Rankin Inlet. The minister agreed. However, up to now, we just keep getting visiting dentists. They come in for two or three weeks at a time. With respect to the permanent dentist that we were asking for, I would like to ask the minister if there has been any more consideration on the matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The dentistry is run by an independent contractor who gets contracts from the government. We have met with the dentist who goes to Rankin Inlet to see if we can get him there permanently. We are working on this, but nothing has been settled yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. A. Sammurток.



**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) According to your business plan on page 117, your department has completed the residential long-term care needs assessment report. Can you provide a brief overview of the findings of the report and which communities, if any, were identified as needing a new residential care facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll table that report tomorrow. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you. I'll be looking out for it.

In your business plan on page 118 in your priorities, it indicates that for 2016-19, you're going to be implementing the "next phase of long-term care enhancement." Can you describe what this next phase is and how it will be implemented? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the report will provide much-needed direction on this matter, so I look forward to tabling it tomorrow. Once it's tabled, it will provide all of us a good starting point for

more discussions on this matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back because it's relevant to what we're doing about health care delivery through his opening comments.

On the first page, you talk about the 20 new mental health and addiction workers. "The intent is to expand and standardize community-based mental health and addiction treatment options." You gave some examples such as detoxification, counselling and day programming. One of the things you say is, "social-emotional learning programming for children and youth..." Perhaps you could just explain the rollout for this. Is this going to be happening in schools or how do you anticipate addressing this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I said earlier, we're hiring three PYs for child and youth outreach workers in Igloolik, Coral Harbour, and Kugluktuk. We're working with Education very closely on this matter because they will be a very effective partner in making sure that we do our part in addressing the mental challenges of our young people in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Pursuant to Rule 6(1), I would now like to recognize the clock and report progress to the Speaker.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

**Speaker:** Item 23. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Item 21. Committee of the Whole. No? Item 22. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

### **Item 22: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and the main estimates and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Hickes. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 23. Third Reading of Bills. Item 24. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 24: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for February 26:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 10
  - Bill 11
  - Bill 12
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 13
  - Tabled Document 73 – 4(2)
  - Tabled Document 116 – 4(2)
  - Tabled Document 140 – 4(2)
  - Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)

- Tabled Document [70] – 4(3)
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
  22. Third Reading of Bills
  23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Friday, February [26], at 9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:03*

