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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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Minister of Languages; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

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(Aggu)
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(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)

Alexander Sammurtok
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Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)
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Hon. Joe Savikataaq
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Hon. George Hickers
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration

David Joanasie
(South Baffin)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasi, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut, members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier. (interpretation) Welcome.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 108 – 4(3): Mr. Tootoo**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my support to Mr. Hunter Tootoo, MP for Nunavut. As of last night, he resigned from Canada's cabinet and the Liberal caucus.

We are supportive in his move to take time to seek treatment for addictions. He has demonstrated courage and strength to make this decision. He has always worked hard and will work hard for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, please join me to extend your support to Mr. Tootoo and his family as he takes this time to heal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 109 – 4(3): 2016
Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier
Scholarship**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) is once again offering a \$5,000 scholarship in memory of Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier to a promising student enrolled in post-secondary education.

Students that demonstrate a strong academic record and commitment to community involvement are encouraged to apply for the scholarship by the deadline, June 30, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, like the many deserving students awarded this scholarship, Laura

Gauthier was an outstanding role model. She acted as a key contributor in creating the locally managed electrical utility that is today the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and in achieving her goals, she developed the foundation of the corporation.

With the annual scholarship, we hope to help a deserving student in pursuing their goals of completing post-secondary studies. QEC is a proud advocate of furthering education for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the task of choosing a scholarship recipient is challenging, as the quality of applicants continues to grow stronger each year. This gives me great confidence in our youth and their commitment to furthering their education not only to benefit themselves but for the future of Nunavut. If these applications are any indication, much like these students, the future is very bright, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 110 – 4(3):
Nunavut Government Employees
Survey**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues about an important initiative between the Government of Nunavut, Statistics Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

From April 25 to June 17, the Nunavut Government Employee Survey will

collect information about employees' job experiences, language used at work, access and barriers to job training, interest in career advancement, supervisor support, and issues related to recruitment and retention of Inuit employees.

Mr. Speaker, the survey is confidential and electronic for all government employees working in the territory, both with the GN and the federal government, in their capacities as employees of these governments. These employees have received email invitations from Statistics to participate in the survey.

Mr. Speaker, this survey is conducted under the authority of the *Statistics Act*, which ensures that the information provided will be kept strictly confidential and used for statistical purposes. This information will help government and Inuit organizations identify what is working well and where improvements should be made. Information collected will also help find ways to increase Inuit employment in government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank those employees who have already completed the survey. For those who have not, there is still time to make their voice heard and I encourage everyone to take part. Your opinions and information will contribute to a better workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 111 – 4(3):
Sealing Day on the Hill**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, this year's Seal Day on the Hill held on May 16 and 17, 2016, organized by the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, was once again a great success. The day was very well attended, including Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Parliamentary Secretary and Member of Parliament for Labrador, and Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture for Newfoundland.

The dinner and parliamentary reception brought together over 60 parliamentarians and industry stakeholders to show their support for the sealing sector and to highlight seal products. Together, we enjoyed seal meat and some char, throat singing, as well as the pop-up boutiques provided by NACA so that some designers could sell their products to guests.

Mr. Speaker, this important event served to emphasize the government's continued commitment to Canadian sealing and to educate and inform a wide range of parliamentarians on the issues and challenges facing the sector.

Speeches from parliamentarians and industry stakeholders indicated that seal harvesting is an important part of the traditional way of life in the north. It is a coast to coast to coast cultural industry

supporting the production and sale of clothing, fashion, art, and other products.

Mr. Speaker, our seal industry fuels an economy that works for everyone and we, along with the Government of Canada, believe that it deserves to be protected and promoted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Minister's Statement 112 – 4(3): Inuit
Qaujimajatuqangit Resources**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon and good day, my fellow Nunavummiut and residents of Arviat and Whale Cove.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share about the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Workshop hosted by the Department of Culture and Heritage in Iqaluit on March 15 and 16 of this year. This workshop brought together 50 Government of Nunavut employees. The sessions focused on different aspects of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, such as *inuusiliriniq* (counselling people in relationships), parenting, IQ and the criminal justice system in Nunavut, and IQ in governance in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the department was pleased to have the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit in attendance for this workshop. The elders contributed their knowledge and expertise and were available to answer questions from participants. The feedback from the

participants was very positive and an indication for the need to provide further learning sessions.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the IQ workshop, the department holds monthly Inuit cultural information sessions to support GN departments in gaining knowledge of Inuit ways. The sessions often include elders or knowledgeable Inuit and focus on topics around traditional and present-day Inuit culture. Topics of discussion include the culturally relevant counselling, the traditional roles of elders, men, women, boys, and girls in family camps, marriage and relationships, Inuit perspectives and how to apply them to the workplace, and sharing how Inuit learned traditional values.

Mr. Speaker, the IQ sessions are a way to start bridging the Inuit cultural ways to how the government provides services to better serve Nunavummiut. Thank you. *Qujannamiik. Ma'nalluavik, Uqaqtittijii.* Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 242 – 4(3): Generator for Grise Fiord's Community

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the status of Grise Fiord's new hamlet office/community hall complex.

Mr. Speaker, the need for a new community hall and hamlet office in Grise Fiord was identified many years ago. However, as is the case with many government projects, it was delayed a number of times and changes were made to the design and overall plan.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Grise Fiord was consulted several times throughout the development of this project. The community hall portion of this project was intended to provide a recreation area, a place for community meetings, movies, dances, and sports. Mr. Speaker, it was also intended to provide a safe shelter in case of a major community disaster.

Mr. Speaker, because the community hall was intended to be a safe shelter, the original plan included a generator to power the facility during such an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, the building itself has now been completed, but the required generator is nowhere to be seen. It didn't arrive on last year's sealift.

Mr. Speaker, Grise Fiord's community members have expressed concern and some frustration that this critical component of the hamlet office/community hall complex has been overlooked.

As I am running out of time, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member has run out of time and he is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I don't

hear any nays. Mr. Shooyook, please proceed.

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

I encourage the government to ensure that a new generator for Grise Fiord's new hamlet office/community hall complex will be included in this summer's sealift.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Grise Fiord deserve to feel safe and protected like any other Nunavut community.

I sincerely hope that the government will soon correct their oversight and ensure that Grise Fiord's new community hall has a new generator installed as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 243 – 4(3): Need for Direct Sealift Services to Kugaaruk

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, ministers, and fellow residents of Kugaaruk as well as the people of Taloyoak.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise concerns regarding the annual sealift resupply for the community of Kugaaruk.

As we are all aware, every community in Nunavut relies on the delivery of goods through sealifts, which take place during summer shipping seasons. The government itself relies on the arrival of

these vessels for its large materials and annual fuel resupply.

Community businesses, organisations, and residents ship dry cargo through these vessels to restock shelves. These goods are intended to meet the needs of each community throughout the year until the following shipping season.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Kugaaruk faces special and unfortunate circumstances regarding its annual sealift resupply.

Due to the lack of marine infrastructure in the community, large cargo vessels have had to unload supplies at Nanisivik. In previous years, these supplies had to be transported from Nanisivik to the community by the Canadian Coast Guard.

However, in the summer of 2014, the Canadian Coast Guard was unable to fully complete its transport of the cargo due to unexpected ice conditions. While efforts were made to deliver the goods to the community, a portion of those supplies did not make it to the community until the following shipping season in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2015 shipping season, Nunavut Sealink and Supply Inc. was able to navigate the waters and complete a direct sealift delivery to the community of Kugaaruk, escorted by Canadian Coast Guard vessels.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am about to run out of time, so I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

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

(interpretation ends) I emphasize that this direct route provides a more timely delivery of goods to the community and may provide more security in the annual resupply of dry cargo to Kugaaruk.

I will have questions concerning this issue for the appropriate minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 244 – 4(3):
Sanikiluaq's First Year NTEP
Students**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sanikiluaq's current group of NTEP students on finishing their first year of studies.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Deborah Thomas is a hard-working adult educator in the community of Sanikiluaq. I would like to echo her words of encouragement to these students, who are role models for those who will follow.

"This is a milestone achievement with many more to come. Remember, you are not only accomplishing your goal; you are teaching children and youth the power of hard work, confidence, and determination. When you graduate, you will be certified teachers, but the lessons you are teaching right now in the way you model and exemplify courage, sacrifice, and ambition will certainly be among the greatest and most influential lessons you will ever teach."

Mr. Speaker, I would like congratulate the following NTEP students from Sanikiluaq on completing their first year of studies:

Sarah Kudluarok
Meena Hoyt
Silatik Qavvik Cookie
Leah Meeko
Charlotte Crow
Alice Kavik Sala, and
Johnassie Kudluarok

I encourage these students to keep up the good work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 245 – 4(3): The
Need for Elder-specific Housing in
Naujaat**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to address the need for elder-specific housing in Naujaat. I recently received a letter from the Repulse Bay Housing Association which raises some very good points.

Mr. Speaker, Naujaat is one of the few communities across Nunavut which does not have housing dedicated to elders. I would like to encourage the government to consider constructing a multiplex housing unit in Naujaat that would provide dedicated accommodation for elders.

Mr. Speaker, a number of Naujaat elders have lived in their homes for a very long time. Many of these units are large detached houses which are good for young growing families but difficult to manage for older individuals or couples.

Mr. Speaker, mobility can also become a challenge for elders. They would be much safer in homes designed on a single level with accessible features to reduce the risk of injury from falling.

Mr. Speaker, another benefit of having a dedicated unit for elders would be the opportunities for residents to share meals, look out for each other, and share interests. An elders' multiplex would greatly enhance the quality of life for our elders.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling the letter that I received from the Repulse Bay Housing Association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 246 – 4(3): Site Clean-up of the Peter Pitseolak School

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut, as

well as all the people listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the wishes of my constituents in Cape Dorset, who experienced the traumatic loss of the Peter Pitseolak School last fall.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by recognizing that the community has made great strides in this past year to overcome the loss of its high school. Students, teachers, and many other residents have been working hard to continue with studies until a new school is opened in the community.

In times of such loss, it is important that those affected have the opportunity to seek closure, to place the tragedy behind them and look forward to new beginnings.

Mr. Speaker, I have previously raised questions concerning the clean-up of the site of the Peter Pitseolak School in this House.

It is important that the community of Cape Dorset is made aware of when this clean-up will take place in order to provide residents with the opportunity to hold events in tribute of the building, which saw many students, teachers, and residents pass through and provided happy and lasting memories for many residents.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions regarding this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 247 – 4(3):
Bernice and Justin Clarke's
Uasaut**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge a couple of my constituents for Iqaluit-Sinaa for their entrepreneurship, which instils pride as an observer.

The first person is Bernice Kootoo-Clarke. She wanted to use organic cosmetics that provide healthy benefits to a person, without all the additives commercial cosmetics have. She used to order cosmetics from the south, but due to a price increase in the products, she conducted research on how to produce her own.

She partnered with her close friends to try to develop different products, which included her husband, as they started to produce organic cosmetics with local ingredients and oils. They have experimented with bowhead whale blubber after a whale was harvested in Naujaat to see if the oil could be an ingredient in their homemade soaps.

Their findings were that this soap is very beneficial for people who suffer from dry skin. This soap provides the minerals that the skin needs. They have started developing various products with blubber from belugas. I would love to see them succeed as they are trying to provide products for people that are made in Nunavut.

I would like to congratulate Bernice and Justin Clarke. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 248 – 4(3):
Recent Graduates in Kugluktuk**

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Recently, I had the great pleasure of attending the graduation of the Inuinnaqtun interpreter/translator and fur production programs in my hometown of Kugluktuk. I also want to thank the Minister of Culture and Languages, Mr. Kuksuk, for attending a very important event.

These two are critical important areas in sustaining and growing Nunavut's unique culture. A good education gives Nunavummiut the opportunity to find work that is rewarding, to have what we need to live comfortably and also contribute to our communities, and help strengthen our economy.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of education can lead to careers and ventures that create greater economic development with fur and that provides language support and services while promoting and revitalizing our Inuinnaqtun language in the Kitikmeot. Revitalization of our Inuinnaqtun language is vitally important and having graduates from the program in Kugluktuk will help that process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating the graduates of the Inuinnaqtun interpreter/translator and the fur production programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 249 – 4(3):
Reflections on the Passing of
James Arvaluk**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my late friend, James Arvaluk, and to offer reflections on his passing.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I had the honour of being entrusted by the people of Pond Inlet with the responsibility of representing the constituency of Tununig in the Legislative Assembly following the retirement from office of James Arvaluk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, James Arvaluk's many contributions to Nunavut and its people have been a source of inspiration to not only me but many of our territory's next generation of leaders.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, James served Nunavut in many different capacities.

(interpretation) As President of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, James was one of the first and strongest voices that ultimately led us to our goal of signing the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and creating our own territory and government.

As a legislator, James was a strong and effective voice for the goals and aspirations of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, James never missed an opportunity to use his time in this House to push hard for such things as modern infrastructure for Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, after James passed away, I took the opportunity to re-read his collections of reflections titled, *That's My Vision*.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation) I don't hear any nays. Mr. Enook, please proceed.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

As I was saying, (interpretation ends) I took the opportunity to re-read his collection of reflections titled, *That's My Vision*. This book is part of Nunavut Arctic College's excellent series of lives of northern leaders.

Mr. Speaker, in talking about the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, James described question period as being, and I quote, "a civilized form of torture." Mr. Speaker, I have done my best to continue this fine tradition.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by offering my deepest condolences to James' many family members, his numerous younger brothers, his many sisters, his many relatives and friends, along with the colleagues he worked with over the years.

I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to Mr. James Arvaluk's many contributions to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 250 – 4(3): 2016 Pangnirtung Winter Fishery

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good day. I have provided updates on this event over several years now, but I will again update this House on the continuation of our local turbot fishery.

In Pangnirtung, the turbot fishery commences every winter when the sea ice forms. This year, the fishery began on February 3 and it ended around the beginning of May. If historical conditions prevailed, the fishery, as in the past, would have started in January and ended at the end of May, but the season keeps getting shorter due to climate change and this is obvious to us.

This fishery is very important to Pangnirtung and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all Pangnirtung fishers, regardless of whether they fish for turbot or char.

When the sea ice forms in the winter, there is a virtual mini-community right on the landfast ice comprised of turbot fishers. The fishers who obtained licences for this fishery totalled 68 and if they had helpers, then that means an additional 68 residents would also be involved. These people are very dedicated to their fishery, even in the midst of our cold winters.

Although the season was quite short, the catch of turbot this year totalled roughly 657,000 lbs. The fishers' revenue from this fishery, along with their helpers, tallied up to \$756,000. This provides a tremendous boon to a small community due to their hard work in this fishery. When the fishery opens, it also creates employment opportunities in the fish plant. This year, the amount of the catch helped to create 35 positions in the fish plant to process the fish.

Although the season is fairly short, it makes a large financial contribution to the community. I extend my immense gratitude to my fellow residents involved in the turbot fishery and their helpers, as well as the fishing industry managers who operate the fishery through the various boards and committees, along with the hamlet and HTO boards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): As I learn the vagaries of the proceedings, I find that it is easier to be the first to speak, as I note that you tend to be first if you raise your hand fastest.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize this individual who is the head of staff for the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. She has also been heavily involved in the sealing industry and markets, and she made presentations at the House of Commons. She was involved in the creation of the industry. I would like to recognize Rowena House, who is visiting us in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had the opportunity a couple of times now to recognize the Nunavut Housing Corporation's president, Terry Audla. I would like to again thank him for the work and the commitment that he has put in to helping the Nunavut Housing Corporation and me as the minister to achieve our goals working forward.

Sitting beside him, I would also like to recognize a member of the board of directors for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Percy Kabloona. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to recognize an individual who has been involved for many years in Inuit organizations as well as being a board member of (interpretation ends) the Nunavut Planning Commission. (interpretation) He has also served as the mayor of his hometown. I believe many people know him throughout Nunavut.

I would like to recognize Percy Kabloona. Now we have a Kabloona here as well as our own Joe Enook, so both cultures are present.

>> *Laughter*

I would like to recognize Percy Kabloona today and ask my colleagues to recognize him as well. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to recognize several individuals whom I had acknowledged previously, but whenever my constituents visit the House, I will take the opportunity to recognize them.

Among my fellow community residents, I will start with this young person, Lindsey Qanguq. Welcome to the House. I also recognize Eleanore Pitseolak, who is the deputy mayor of

Pond Inlet, along with Jimmy Pitseolak, who is the chairman of the Pond Inlet HTO. Please welcome them to the gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake... I'm sorry...Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am fortunate that I am ahead of my colleague representing Baker Lake, as I thought he would go first.

Good day. I wish to recognize this individual from my constituency community of Whale Cove and that is Mr. Percy Kabloona. Since he is here visiting the House, I wish him a warm welcome. He is well known, as he has been a member of various boards in Nunavut. He is very well known. I ask that we welcome Mr. Kabloona to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. I would like to welcome an individual who used to live in Baker Lake but has moved to Whale Cove. However, I can say that he has many relatives in Baker Lake. I would like to welcome Percy Kabloona to the House.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. For the other people who were not recognized, please feel welcome to the House.

Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 315 – 4(3): Full-time Dentist for Rankin Inlet

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Considering I have missed a couple of question periods, I hope you will allow me to dominate this question period today.

>>Laughter

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

Mr. Speaker, the need for a full-time dentist in Rankin Inlet has been noted by my colleague from Rankin Inlet South and myself on a number of occasions. A few weeks ago, we had the pleasure of meeting with the Hamlet Council of Rankin Inlet and this issue was also raised at that forum.

Can the minister confirm whether or not she has received correspondence from the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet regarding the need for a full-time dentist in the community and, if so, what commitment did her response provide with respect to

meeting this need? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that
question. Mr. Speaker, I have not
received that letter yet. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation
ends) A review of the *Hansard* over the
years will show that the need for a full-
time dentist in Rankin Inlet has been
raised on a number of occasions in this
House. Often the government's
responses have indicated a willingness to
meet that need. However, we still do not
have a full-time dentist.

Can the minister clearly explain what
factors are preventing the establishment
of a full-time dental position in Rankin
Inlet despite the government's best
intentions to do so? Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that
question. Mr. Speaker, you need to have
a number of hours that the dentist can
provide service to.

In the dental specialist days for the
region, Kivalliq has 34 orthodontist

days, 12 oral surgeon days, 184 denturist
days, and 10 paediatric dentist days, with
a total of 240 days.

I don't have it broken down per the
community in Rankin Inlet at this time. I
would have to get back to the member as
to how many actual days are required to
have a full-time dentist, but we do have
a dental therapist in place in that region.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation
ends) The dental health of our children
has long been a major concern. It is well
known that preventative care and
promotion of oral health goes a long way
to reducing the need for expensive dental
procedures at a later stage.

Can the minister clarify whether a full
cost analysis and business case has been
considered for establishing a full-time
dental position in Rankin Inlet? Thank
you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that
question. Dental clinics exist in Iqaluit.
They are private. For dental services in
other communities, they are funded
through the Non-Insured Health Benefits
Program, which is a Health Canada
program. They pay for the services that
are provided for dental day clinics.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 316 – 4(3): Generator for Grise Fiord’s Community Hall

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

Mr. Speaker, in my Member’s Statement, I noted the lack of a generator for Grise Fiord’s new hamlet office/community hall complex.

Can the minister provide an update on when a new generator will be installed in Grise Fiord’s new hamlet office/community hall complex? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. I will have to first conduct some research on the construction plans of the hamlet office/community hall complex and whether it was supposed to include a generator as part of the construction. I will first look into that and, if it turns out that a generator was not included, whether that equipment could be added. However, I don’t have access to the actual contract, so I don’t know if it is included, but I will look into this to see if it was supposed to be part of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned during my Member’s Statement, one important function of Grise Fiord’s community hall is that it can be used as a safe shelter in case of a community disaster. However, in order to serve that function, it requires a generator to provide power.

Can the minister clearly explain how the need for a generator for Grise Fiord’s safe shelter was overlooked? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, the gym or rather the (interpretation ends) community hall (interpretation) is quite antiquated now, at least based on the information provided to me. At this time, I am unsure if it is still open, but it was used as the local safe shelter in the past. It can still be used as a shelter, but I commit to looking into this issue to see if the newly constructed community hall requires a generator.

Based on the information provided to me, the old community centre has an existing generator and it can be used as a safe shelter in case of inclement weather, fire, or other hazards. That is what I understand, that it does have a generator. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. I am referring to the new complex with the built-in community hall that is missing this equipment.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the community of Grise Fiord was consulted a number of times during the development of this project. There was a clear expectation that a generator would be installed in this new facility. Will the minister commit to reviewing the commitments made by his officials during the community consultations and ensuring that they are met?

I would like to see them informed as to whether this promise of a generator will be delivered as the community feels it is a necessary piece of equipment when it is deemed a local safe shelter. They have stated that a generator is required. I wonder if a generator could be shipped up this summer. After the minister has looked into this matter, I would like to be informed of any findings he makes regarding this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier response, the new hamlet office/community hall complex was just recently completed. If a generator was to be included, then it will have to have one.

However, I have not had the opportunity to review the contract, so I will have to research the particulars. If I find that a

generator was supposed to be included, yes, the complex will receive one. Nonetheless, I will commit to looking into the contract wording to see if it was included. Even if it doesn't commit to a generator, I will see if the complex can accommodate one.

However, the contract is the important part and if it was included as part of the construction, then the generator would be added. I will have to review the contract to see what was required. I will get back to the member with what I find. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 317 – 4(3): Status of Hospital Board of Management

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister will recall the motion which was passed in this House in November of 2014 calling on the government to review the merits and benefits as well as the logistic, administrative, and financial aspects of a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

In fact, it was the minister herself who proposed an amendment to the motion indicating that the government would report back to the House in the fall of 2015 on its review. Can the minister provide an update on the status of the review and what specific steps, if any, have been taken as a result of its findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the question, I don't have that information in front of me right now. (interpretation ends) I'll take it as notice. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has taken this as notice. I shall go on to the next question. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Question 318 – 4(3): Need for Direct Sealift Services to Kugaaruk

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the carriers that deliver sealift service are not owned or operated by the Government of Nunavut. However, the department is responsible for the coordination of sealift activities for the government.

I also note that individuals and businesses can benefit from the terms and conditions that the government negotiates with these carriers.

As I stated previously, it is important that Kugaaruk continues to receive direct sealift deliveries as was completed in the summer of 2015.

Can the minister indicate if he is aware of the sealift resupply plans for the community of Kugaaruk for the upcoming 2016 shipping season and, if

so, do these plans involve the direct delivery of cargo to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Kugaaruk, in the distant past, never used to get sealift during ice conditions. The ice conditions have changed and they started getting sealift. As far as CGS is concerned, which is one of the departments that use the shipping companies, there will be a sealift into Kugaaruk, but as everyone knows, we have no control of the ice and wind conditions. We will be at the mercy of the ice conditions, but my understanding is that it's business as usual with the shipping companies that normally go to Kugaaruk and the other places. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 11, 2016, the minister tabled his department's 2014-15 *Procurement Activity Report*, which indicates that the department contracted professional services to complete an annual sealift report. As of today, the department's most recent annual sealift report available on its website is for 2013.

Can the minister indicate if his department has completed annual sealift reports for the years 2014 and 2015 and, if so, will he make these reports available to the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. CGS has many tabling requirements and off the top of my head, I don't know them all. I will look in to see if this is one of the tabling requirements. There's certain stuff that is tabled because they are required and other times, stuff is tabled just for information, but I will look into this and see if it's a tabling requirement.

As for the sealift report, I believe most communities did get their sealift order last year. I know for a fact that not all supplies were shipped off here due to weather and ice conditions. When a community doesn't get their sealift orders, it's generally due to conditions beyond the control of the government, such as ice, wind, and weather.

I will get back to the member as to whether this is a tabling requirement and I will get back and give him the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 11, 2016, the minister tabled his department's 2014-15 *Contract Activity Report*, which indicates that the government "awarded several large multi-year contracts for Sealift Services" in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Can the minister tell us today which carriers the government has contracted to provide sealift services and when do

these contracts expire? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has many contracts that expire on many different dates and I can't tell the member right now when that contract will expire. I will have to get back to him.

As for carriers, I believe there are just two main carriers that come over to the eastern Arctic, but I will get back to the member on which carrier has contracts with the government and when the contract will expire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 319 – 4(3): Site Clean-up of the Peter Pitseolak School

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think today is CG&S day. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, during the fall 2015 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I asked a number of questions concerning the site clean-up of the Peter Pitseolak High School.

On October 30, 2015, the minister at the time indicated that there were some issues concerning the tendering process for this project.

Can the minister indicate if a tender for the site clean-up of the Peter Pitseolak High School has been awarded to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since that tragic school fire in Cape Dorset, both CGS and Education are doing all we can do and as much as we can to help with the community of Cape Dorset so that they can get a school as soon as possible.

Part of the process is to clean up the old debris from the school that did burn. I can tell and assure the member right now that the burned out debris from the Peter Pitseolak School will be cleaned up this summer. We are working with the proponent right now to have it cleaned up and hauled away from its current location. 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. On November 2, 2015, the minister at that time indicated that this site clean-up would take place during the spring and summer seasons of this year. Can the minister provide more specific information as to when his department will begin the site clean-up of the Peter Pitseolak High School? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government

Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the clean-up will start in the summer of 2016 and it will be completed before the end of the summer, before freeze up.

Part of the problem last year was that everything froze into place and it could not be properly cleaned up and that's why it was delayed until this summer. I can give the member some updates as to why I can't give him specific dates.

There's a piece of equipment that CGS is bringing into Cape Dorset that's called a metal shredder/baler. What it does is it cuts up or shreds large pieces of metal to make them into more handle-able sizes, compacts and bales it so that it can be stored in a compact manner. We're not sure when that is coming on sealift, but it is coming on sealift and it will be used as part of the clean-up, but the site will be cleaned up before freeze-up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for providing that information. My last question is in regard to another part of his earlier statement about the metal shredder. Can the minister explain what the process of this clean-up will involve from start to finish? 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 explain how the process should work or will work. When the school burned down, everything that was burnable burned. Only “non-burnables” such as metal are left on the burned site. We’re not sure when the baler is coming, so we will move the debris onto the metal dump location and have the baler there to shred and compact it and store it in a compact manner.

The reason we’re moving it from the location is because we’re not sure when the baler will be there and we would like to make sure that the site is cleaned up as quickly as possible for many reasons. The aesthetic part of the reason is it is a danger to have big scraps of metal all over the place. Kids could play on it and get hurt. At first, it will be hauled away and then it will be shredded, baled, and put away for storage until it can be disposed of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 320 – 4(3): GN Contracts for Medical and Duty Travel

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Health.

In 2011, the government awarded contracts under standing offer agreements for medical and duty travel. Section 2.2.8 of the government’s request for proposals indicated that, and I quote, “the term of the agreement will be for a period of three years with the possibility of three one-year extensions.”

If my math is correct, the latest that this could be extended is the year 2017.

For the record, can the minister confirm when the government’s current contracts for medical and duty travel expire? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The current contracts for medical and duty travel will expire August 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut spends money on medical travel for residents, duty travel for employees, and shipping cargo for its operations. Will the government’s next request for proposals cover all three areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Our department is working with CG&S and Finance to prepare for the contracting process and we will be evaluating the best procurement methods moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The northern airline industry is very different today than it was back in 2011. Back in 2011, one of the entities to be awarded work under this contract was the Nunasi Corporation, which no longer has an ownership interest in any of the airlines. Today, we are dealing with the codeshare environment.

For the purposes of the government's contracts for medical travel and duty travel, does the GN consider First Air and Canadian North to be competing with each other or cooperating with each other? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. I can't speak on behalf of the whole government, so I can't answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 321 – 4(3): Plebiscite/NTI Consultations

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Several days ago, I tabled a document to the Assembly and it was the response from the vice-president of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated regarding the agreement.

I would now like to ask the minister responsible for the land claims agreement, the Premier, why the NTI

position on alcohol was not discussed nor did any consultation occur with NTI. I wonder if the Premier can pause on this process in order to improve communication and to consult with Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to let the minister responsible for the liquor commission going back to the previous government and the consultations that he was responsible for respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik. My apologies. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Liquor, Mr. Taptuna. (interpretation) My apologies. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I read the letter yesterday that was tabled and it's a little vague.

As I recall the consultation process, there was a task force assembled by the Department of Finance. There were ten to twelve members appointed and NTI was one of the members. They went around for 27 months as members of the task force and consulted with all the communities of Nunavut. They prepared a couple of reports that were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has a

minister assigned to implement the land claims agreement, as the Premier has that authority, and it is outlined within our government mandate. I am trying to ask the minister responsible for administering the land claims agreement. The agreement is not being complied with and more consultations are required to hear the Inuit position.

This rushed attempt to open up a beer and wine store is what I was asking the Premier to put the brakes on so that we can complete our consultations of our fellow residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier, I designate responsibility to ministers that are selected by the House, and the minister responsible will respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I recall, the Government of Nunavut has not actually made an announcement about a beer and wine store. Mr. Okalik made that announcement after he left cabinet. It was reported through the media.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the letter is a little bit vague. Mr. Speaker, we all know in Nunavut and in particular, in Iqaluit, they have liquor establishments; they have a liquor warehouse and we issue

liquor permits; and there are personal exemptions and special permits. There was a treatment centre that was actually closed down here in 1999 out in Apex. Promises were made by certain people to reopen a treatment centre. We also have bootleggers who are serving the community of Iqaluit and many other communities.

Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of consultation on liquor and that's precisely why we did the task force. They made a number of recommendations and one of them was to open up a beer and wine outlet. The Government of Nunavut has proposed to open up a pilot project for three years and to monitor it. We know that there has been good success in other geographical areas such as Northern Quebec and Greenland. That has even been noted by the media and the Government of Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm disappointed to see that we don't have a minister for the land claims agreement and I know that my colleagues of Nunavut will be missing this.

I know that the minister alluded to the other countries and that they have liquor stores and treatment centres, but we don't have a treatment centre in Nunavut.

Even before we open a liquor store, we should perhaps hear from the public first and consult with the people before we

open a beer and wine store. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna. (interpretation) I apologize. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I don't want to revisit all the history, but I have done a lot of research into this and there was a treatment centre in Iqaluit down in Apex and it closed in 1999 for a lack of support or use.

In the years following, in the early years of the first government, there were promises made to open up a treatment centre. In fact, the member himself was at a conference in Montreal, I think, in September of 2002 where he promised that a limited detox treatment centre would be opened. That has never happened.

Over the years, the government, through the Department of Health, has helped the people in Nunavut for referrals to treatment centres. The Government of Nunavut has tested the pilot project for a mobile addictions treatment facility.

Again, as I say, there have been extensive consultations. The government continues to work internally to provide support to communities and individuals who have addictions issues. We know it's a serious issue.

The purpose of the beer and wine outlet, of course, is to try to offer low-cost beer and wine products with low-content

alcohol. That would disrupt bootleggers and hopefully reduce the impact of binge drinking in this community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Question 322 – 4(3): Expansion of the Iqaluit Medical Boarding Facility

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

Mr. Speaker, I always seem to ask questions regarding the Tammaativvik Boarding Home used by medical patients here in Iqaluit. In particular, I tend to visit the boarding home due to its location here on Baffin Island. Perhaps the MLAs from the Baffin region would take the time to visit the facility to see first hand the numbers of patients at the boarding home that come in from the various communities. Whenever I am in town, I take the time to visit the facility as many of our constituents stay at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home.

Just recently, quite a number of patients arrived to see the optometrist and joint specialists in large numbers. When this occurs, the space at the boarding home is insufficient. I know for a fact that it is a fairly new facility. Nonetheless, I took the time yesterday to visit the boarding home and greet the medical patients. Some of the patients had no space due to the lack of capacity in the boarding home.

Other patients attending doctor appointments or awaiting birth board there. When large numbers of patients

arrive to see the specialists, it becomes almost impossible to accommodate them all. This highlights the fact that the boarding home capacity is no longer sufficient to meet the needs, especially since Tammaativvik is generally always full these days.

Can the minister indicate if any plans have been considered to add more space or find another facility to house these extra patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. The Tammaativvik Boarding Home for patients was contracted to the (interpretation ends) Nova Group of Companies (interpretation) back in 2009. Since that time, the number of patients has increased at the boarding home.

I discussed this matter with my officials just recently. They continually meet with the boarding home staff and contractors. Just recently, they met again in March, as they meet quarterly. Those regular meetings are still occurring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to my question. This is the situation we are in today. I wonder if preparations can be made prior to a new facility being constructed for medical patients. Has the department explored other facilities that could

accommodate the extra patients when the numbers are too high?

Some patients stay there for long periods to await their appointments while others are seen and leave quite quickly. Whenever patients are bumped off the plane, they also have to return to the boarding home and this exacerbates the situation at the boarding home, leading to overcrowding.

Some patients cannot be accommodated, without any space available, although they are here to attend to medical appointments. Since they are here for medical reasons, they should be properly looked after, especially patients who have been boarding for long periods. It becomes obvious that it is very stressful for patients in that situation.

I wonder if the issue of overcrowding can be resolved prior to a new facility being constructed. Has the department considered other facilities that could be used to house these patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. When the boarding home is filled to capacity, they usually ask the patients if they have relatives that they could billet with in the homes of Iqaluit. There are a number of hotels in Iqaluit that can accommodate patients that come in. The hotels are also used on occasion where the boarding home is full to capacity. This also occurs when patients arrive late at night where a cot is set up and the patient will be provided a room

the next day. That is the usual practice followed by the boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that practice being the case now, has the department contemplated any plans to build a new, larger boarding home in our future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. As per my earlier statement, discussions are ongoing with the contractor managing the boarding home and with the accommodation clerks. My officials have continued to keep in touch to resolve the issues. At this time, there is nothing concrete planned for our future, but we have started to look at negotiations with construction companies. I cannot state the details at this time, but plans are being developed.

Furthermore, with respect to medical patients you referenced earlier, sometimes a multitude of patients arrive to attend to specialists or for appointments with doctors. I believe you asked if consideration could be given to having smaller groups arrive simultaneously rather than large groups. I think you mentioned dental and joint specialist appointments where large numbers of patients arrive and if that could be dealt with. This is part of our

deliberations on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 323 – 4(3): Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure

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

During our recent winter sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved \$1.2 million in funding for the new Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure Project. The federal government has publicly committed \$30.0 million towards the project.

My first question to the minister is: can she confirm what specific studies and design work will be undertaken during the summer and fall of the current 2016 calendar year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Yes, it was very pleasant to hear the announcement about the Pond Inlet funding commitment announced by the federal government. It was sent in written format to our attention dated March 9, 2016 that the government would help fund the project.

This agreement was sent to us, as the funds will be under our control. For

fiscal year 2016-17, we set aside \$1.2 million to be used for the (interpretation ends) environmental and geotechnical (interpretation) phases of the project that will be started this coming summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, the Legislative Assembly has already approved an initial \$1.2 million towards the Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure Project. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$40.0 million.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm how much funding will be included for the new Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure Project in her department's upcoming capital estimates for the 2017-18 fiscal year that the Legislative Assembly will be considering during the fall of the 2016 calendar year? Can the minister indicate how much funding will be included for that project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. When we're dealing with the capital estimates in the fall of 2016 for the 2017-18 fiscal year, we will be asking for \$6 million to initiate the project for Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to ask the minister to confirm what the plan date is for the new Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure Project to become operational. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. The member is aware that we will be discussing this in detail in the fall session. When we're looking at the 2018 capital estimates, there will be another request for \$4 million and that would be the final part of the funding for that particular project. If it's not completed in 2018-19, we're looking at having the whole project completed possibly in 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 324 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet Elders Receiving Care Elsewhere

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

Mr. Speaker, I have risen on many occasions in this House to address the need for an elders facility in Rankin Inlet. Currently, there are no less than nine Rankin Inlet elders receiving care in

communities away from home. Four are in Baker Lake, one in Arviat, one in Gjoa Haven, and three in Ottawa. More than a dozen Rankin Inlet elders will be added to that list in the near future as their families will no longer be able to provide the level of care they need.

Can the minister clarify whether the number of elders needing care within a given community is given any consideration when the government considers opening a new elders care facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for always representing the elders. We have been discussing this in our department and what kind of plans we can bring forward to accommodate the elders. It's not an easy issue. To date, we are looking at whether we're going to be renovating or revamping the current facilities we have for elders before looking at other options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues will know, it is extremely difficult for elders and for their families when they are sent away to receive care so far away from home.

Can the minister clearly describe the approach taken by her departmental officials when they are coordinating the

transfer of an elder to a referral centre that is far away from the supportive environment of that elder's home community and family? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. I believe you're talking about making plans to transferring an elder to a referral centre.

The Department of Health has different ways of dealing with it. For example, first of all, we assess the elder's home and we try to make sure that they stay home as long as they can. Following the deterioration of their health, they would be provided home care. With further deterioration when they require 24-hour nursing care, it would be the last level. Since that type of service is not available locally, they're sent outside of their community.

There is close communication between the care providers and the clients before any steps are taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Mr. Speaker, in some cases, families have understood that an elder will be moved away from their community to receive care on a temporary basis, only to discover that the elder will remain in an unfamiliar environment for a much longer time than anticipated. This becomes even more

stressful when nobody in the referral centre can speak their language or fully understand the elder's needs for comfort.

Can the minister explain what steps are taken to properly and adequately communicate the relevant issues and placement plans with clients and their family members when they are transferred? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. There's a referral made to send our elders to a referral centre when their condition is too deteriorated and they need 24-hour nursing care and to make sure that they're in a safe environment. It's not only the safety of the elder but also the safety of their relatives.

There are usually close discussions with the elder. If they're sent to a referral centre, it's not only to facilities in the south but also other places like Igloolik where we have ten beds and some are sent to (interpretation ends) Gjoa Haven (interpretation) where we also have ten beds. There are also elders centres in Nunavut that are not under the direction of the Department of Health.

If an individual has to be sent south, we try to see if there are other people who speak Inuktitut. For example, there are usually other Inuit being housed in those types of facilities. We also try to provide interpreters for these elders. We do apologize that we have to send them out of the territory in order to provide proper care, but we have no choice but to do so.

As I just mentioned, our department is working with the referral centre in Igloolik and the health centre in Cambridge Bay in order that we do not overwork and allow the elders to stay in Nunavut. We are in the process of making improvements and see if we can add more beds specifically for elders. Other structures are being built by non-government entities and we're trying to access those assets as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on. Mr. Okalik.

Motion 026 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Uqqummiut, that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor to extend question period. The motion is not subject to debate. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Question 325 – 4(3): Government Purchase of a Metal Shear and Baler

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All right, we have more questions.

>> *Laughter*

I have further questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, his department proposed to allocate \$1.5 million from its Small Capital Fund to the purchase of a metal shear and baler in January of 2016. Can the minister indicate if this equipment has been purchased to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can state and let the member know that yes, this baler has been purchased and is awaiting sealift shipment to Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the minister's correspondence dated January 8, he indicated that this equipment would be initially used clean up the site of the Peter Pitseolak High School in Cape Dorset. This same equipment could be used to address metal dumpsites and be transported to other Nunavut communities as part of a revolving equipment approach once the site of the Peter Pitseolak High School has been completed.

Can the minister indicate when his department intends to begin transporting the metal shear and baler to other

Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This metal baler, as the member stated, will be used to clean up the Peter Pitseolak debris. From there, it will be further used to compact metals in Cape Dorset. Depending on how well it works, we will look at it from there, whether we should transport it and try it in other communities.

As I stated earlier, this is just a trial run. Before we make any commitments to move it anywhere or buy any more, we want to make sure that it works. Cape Dorset will be the trial run to see how well this piece of equipment works for compacting and storing old metal debris. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. As the minister will recall, during the 2015 fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly, he directed a number of questions to his predecessor concerning the possibility of using such equipment to clean up the metal dumpsite in his own community.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that every community in Nunavut could benefit from the use of this type of equipment to address metal dumpsites that continue to increase in size every year.

Can the minister indicate how his department will determine the locations

and schedule by which this metal shear and baler will be transported throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't put a carrot in front of the horse, as the old saying goes. First we will see how well this baler works and then we will evaluate whether we should continue with this type of compactor and baler.

This is a trial run. After it has all been well used and people are trained to use it in Cape Dorset, we will evaluate whether it's a good idea or not or whether we have to look at other options. CGS is committed to dealing with all the excess metals and old vehicles that are piling up in Nunavut. This is just one of the options.

If this piece of equipment works, then we will definitely be looking at putting it in other communities, but let's first see how well it works, whether it holds up, whether it's strong enough, and whether maintenance is an issue. All of this stuff will be evaluated once it has done all the work it is supposed to do in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 326 – 4(3): Nunavut
Permafrost Databank**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of

Environment.

I'll be asking about the letter that he introduced yesterday. On the first page of the letter, it states that as the land melts, they are "studying permafrost in Nunavut." I'm not sure which community they're referring to, but the letter refers to "numerous academic organizations." Can the minister explain what that means? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleague for that question. In Canada, many groups have been working on climate change. Academics from colleges and universities have come up here to do studies on climate change, especially on the permafrost, the ice that forms under the ground. They have been studying that quite a long time now in the Arctic and that's what the letter tries to explain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that our elders were not involved in this work. However, in the same letter, you have also indicated that the study will determine how climate change will affect the construction of infrastructure. With that, do you work with the Department of Community and Government Services on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. Community councils are usually consulted whenever their community is going to be affected by a study or information gathering.

Climate change has noticeably affected many things. We have seen land that was always frozen, such as where we live, affected by climate change. Also with the work that is being done on climate change, we're trying to see if we are going to be able to keep up and make adaptation. Different government departments are involved with climate change.

I would like to further say that the study results are now available online. This has been worked on for quite a while now and compiled for viewing by anyone. You can see the results of the study, whether you live within or outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the same letter, it states that it "will have major implications to the foundation of infrastructure being constructed in the future in Nunavut." While we are in that situation, either the Department of Environment or the Department of Community and Government Services are the ones responsible for infrastructure construction in the communities in Nunavut. Which department will have the final say on

what is done about the effects of climate change during this construction? Thank you very much, 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. Indeed, climate change is becoming more and more serious. As I said, different jurisdictions and departments have been working on this and keeping each other informed and working together along with CGS.

As to what we should have available and how we should plan for climate change adaptation, when you look at the future building of infrastructure, we really have to get information as to how climate change is affecting the permafrost. We have to get that information in order to make appropriate plans for adaptation.

We have to know what is happening to the surface and subsurface of the land before there is construction on it for the benefit of developers. That is why various organizations are working together on environmental issues. CGS, I know, works very closely with all these parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 327 – 4(3): Dog Excrement at Sylvia Grinnell Park

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past winter session, I asked the Minister of Environment about the Sylvia Grinnell River where we get

water. It was being contaminated by dog waste. The minister said that he would look into the matter and inform the House in the spring session. I would like to know what the Department of Environment will be doing about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for following up with his question. With respect to dog waste in particular within parks, I have asked legal experts to look into the enforcement aspects of park regulations. Dogs cannot be kept out of parks as long as they are on a leash or tied up. That's how it is. There are also more notices posted around parks for people to know how to handle dogs within parks, especially here in Iqaluit with the city council with the involvement of their by-law officers. That's what we are trying to do at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Different people have their own rules to follow when it comes to dogs anywhere, even in the south. They are required to do things like collecting waste from their dogs or risk being taken to court. I wonder if those kinds of rules can be considered by the Department of Environment, especially when we're dealing with parks and where they are a source of water supply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My wife and I fetch water from that river and we haven't see any dog waste, for your information.

>> *Laughter*

I don't see any fecal waste of any kind either every time I fetch water.

Yes, his question does have merit indeed. For all those reasons, we are trying to deal with it properly through legislation. I don't want to try to take action just for its own sake when it comes to a park. People and animals do go to parks, including birds and dogs. They need to be closely controlled and that is made clear within the regulations.

Anyone going to parks should remember to ensure their dogs are on a leash and collect their waste. I urge people to keep doing so, especially at parks and around rivers where many people like to fetch water because of its quality. I want people to know there are regulations to follow and which are enforceable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtook.

Question 328 – 4(3): Appointments of Justices of the Peace

Mr. Tom Sammurtook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

To date, a number of sections of the *Justices of the Peace Act* are not currently in force, including subsections 2.1 and 2.2. Once in force, these subsections will establish a Justices of the Peace Appointment and Remuneration Committee.

Once established, this committee will have the duty to review the candidate applications and recommend qualified Justices of the Peace candidates to the Executive Council for appointment.

Can the minister clarify when the government intends to bring the *Justices of the Peace Act* fully into force?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. T. Sammurtok for the question. Mr. Speaker, I have been in the department for three months, so I'm catching up. A lot of outstanding items haven't been implemented. That is one item. I reviewed it a couple of weeks ago. The department is currently processing the paperwork for me to sign to take an RFD to cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully understand that the current minister has only been there for a short time. However, can the minister tell us today how many residents are currently appointed as Justices of the Peace in Nunavut and which

communities these judicial officials are currently serving? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tom Sammurtok for the question. Mr. Speaker, there is a long list; I could read them all off. I actually asked for an updated one because, even in Cambridge Bay, I know there has been a resignation recently. One of the JPs is actually on some form of leave because he is a hamlet councillor, so I have asked for an update. When I get an updated list, I could certainly table it for the benefit of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that while a number of communities may not have an appointed Justice of the Peace, other communities may have more than one. In these situations, it is not clear how a community's caseload is divided amongst the numerous judicial officers.

Can the minister explain how the Nunavut Justice of the Peace Court divides and allocates cases and assignments to officers within a community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. T. Sammurtok for that question. I can't provide the details. I can assure Mr. T. Sammurtok that the Justice of the Peace Program is very important to our communities. As we say, "Justice delayed is justice denied."

The Nunavut Court of Justice and the Justice of the Peace Program make every effort to ensure that the duties of JPs are carried out as expeditiously as possible. Where there is no JP, the Nunavut Court of Justice's head JP will make arrangements for the necessary paperwork to be processed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 329 – 4(3): Pond Inlet Airport

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

During our recent winter sitting, the minister tabled the *Nunavut Airports 20 Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment*.

This important report discusses the concept of, and I quote, "developing a jet-capable airport centrally located at or near Pond Inlet."

The report recommends that, and I quote, "a feasibility study be undertaken to determine the cost and benefits of constructing a new high arctic hub airport at Pond Inlet..."

I would first like to ask the minister: can she clearly indicate when her department will begin this study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. I believe you're asking if there would be a jet-capable airstrip in Pond Inlet. The residents of Pond Inlet have requested a jet-capable airstrip in their list of municipal priorities. It could be used as a central transportation hub for the High Arctic in Pond Inlet.

We are aware that the airstrip would have to be 500,000 feet in length in order for jets to be able to land. The study that was conducted by the hamlet... . 5,000 feet, my apologies, not 500,000 feet.

>> *Laughter*

It would have to be 5,000 feet. I think I'm being asked too many questions.

A study was done by the Hamlet of Pond Inlet in 2002 on whether the airport should be relocated. At that time, they were told that it would cost \$24 million. I think the highest amount was \$75,000. Perhaps the only way to extend the airstrip is to relocate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The second question that I

would like to ask is in regard to the military. The military has fast jets and they require long runways. It seems obvious that an airport will be built in Pond Inlet to suit military purposes. That's my expectation for the time being.

Mr. Speaker, the report that was tabled in the winter, the 20-year airport infrastructure needs assessment report, clearly states that Pond Inlet is, and I quote, "a site of strategic military importance on the Northwest passage." The report envisions Pond Inlet's new hub airport being used for both civil and military purposes.

As the minister will be aware, the federal government is currently undertaking a major review of national defence policy, and the federal minister was recently in Yellowknife to hear from northerners. I would like to ask the minister: as the minister, can you commit to approaching the federal government to share in the cost of constructing the new Pond Inlet High Arctic Hub Airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for making that suggestion as part of our considerations. The government can enter into negotiations with any organization. Regarding his suggestion, I will ask my officials to add this to their review.

If we are going to consider making Pond Inlet the transportation hub and spending

funds towards that goal, we will have to be very clear as to whether the hub would be used to capacity. As an example, we would have to canvass the mining company to see if they would use that airport. Today, the mining company has planes that can land in Pond Inlet without extending the runway.

If the runway was extended, we would need clear indications about who would use the runway and a business case prior to contemplating the extension and expending our precious funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I'm asking this is the minister tabled it in the House in the winter sitting. If I understand correctly, it's a study that was done by the Government of Nunavut. The people who did this study wanted you to consider whether Pond Inlet should be a transportation hub for the High Arctic and whether they could get a jet-capable airport. For that reason, we have expectations since this was brought out by our government.

I'll go back to the first part of my question. The report recommended that a feasibility study be done. I apologize if I misunderstood you, but I'll ask again, Mr. Speaker. When will you initiate the study that is recommended in the report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for clarifying his question. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 20-year assessment is just a document that was tabled and I want to make it clear that it is not part of the government's capital plan.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to make clear that we're talking about the idea of developing Pond Inlet into a transportation hub brought forth by the local hamlet's community economic plan as well as the hamlet's 2002 plan to study the concept of a hub.

Our department would only be working on the feasibility of the transportation hub that the community has requested and whether this would be the best option available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 138 – 4(3): 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to table the first Annual Report of the Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service. It covers the period from January 5, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, if I could do a little public relations, if any one of the listening public wishes to contact the ethics officer toll-free, it's 844-384-4272. He looks forward to receiving your calls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Kuksuk.

Tabled Document 139 – 4(3): FPT Report on the Ministers Responsible for Social Services, Edmonton, Alberta, February 4 and 5, 2016

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the FPT Report on the Ministers responsible for Social Services, Edmonton, Alberta on February 4 and 5, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Kuksuk.

Tabled Document 140 – 4(3): In-Demand Career Options in Nunavut, 2016-2017

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *In-Demand Career Options in Nunavut* 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member, Mr. Akoak.

**Tabled Document 141 – 4(3):
Resolutions from the 2016
Kitikmeot Mayors Forum**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month, I had the honour of attending the 2016 Kitikmeot Mayors Forum, which was held in Cambridge Bay.

I am pleased to table today copies of the resolutions that were formally adopted at the AGM. I encourage all members to review these with care and I anticipate that appropriate questions will be asked of the appropriate ministers at the appropriate time during our spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

**Tabled Document 142 – 4(3):
Correspondence from Naujaat
Housing Association**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today during Members' Statements, I spoke of the need for dedicated elders' public housing in the community of Naujaat.

I am pleased to table a copy of the letter that I received from the Repulse Bay Housing Association regarding this issue.

I encourage the government and specifically the Nunavut Housing Corporation to give due consideration to

the points raised in this letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 17 and 18 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with 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 15:56 and
Committee resumed at 16:21*

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

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

I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. 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 Bills 17 and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and again, good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the discussion on Tabled Document 149 – 4(2). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Tabled Document 149 – 4(2): 2013-2014 Minister’s Annual Report on Poverty Reduction – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Minister Kuksuk. Do you have officials that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Members, Minister Kuksuk would like his officials at the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Kuksuk, for the record, please introduce your officials. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today to my right is (interpretation ends) Irene Tanuyak, Assistant Deputy Minister (interpretation) of Family Services, and to my left, (interpretation ends) Lindsay Turner, Director of

Poverty Reduction with Family Services. (interpretation) Those are our witnesses. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Welcome to the House, Ms. Tanuyak and Ms. Turner.

We will continue where we left off yesterday and go directly into questions. Following the list of names I had yesterday, I’ll start with Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister Kuksuk and your officials, to the witness table.

I think I will start off with Ms. Angnakak’s comment in regard to poverty reduction. She used the examples of lack of food and housing. I would like to first get clarification from Family Services if they have followed up on that example. Have they come up with a definition for poverty reduction? That’s my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for the question. Is the member asking for the definition of the one word or the whole context of poverty reduction? We do have a definition within the department. I would like to respond by saying the definition of poverty reduction. There are quite a few definitions like working together, working with community residents, working on local economic, education and training, providing housing, income assistance, and healing issues. These are

the covered by the definition of poverty reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I just wanted to find out what the definition is for the word “poverty.”

As Ms. Angnakak stated yesterday, it reads in English, (interpretation ends) “For me personally, I think that being poor means that you are standing on the outside looking in, that your standard of living is lower than that of others around you, and that your basic needs are not being met.”

(interpretation) Is that what the Department of Family Services means by the word (interpretation ends) “poverty”? (interpretation) I hope I was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you and thank you for clarifying your question. Perhaps now that it’s a bit clearer, Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I now understand the meaning of the question. I believe everyone understands what poverty means. With poverty reduction, it’s self-explanatory. It is to reduce poverty. That’s the meaning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like there could be a more specific definition, but

I’ll move on to another subject. I believe it was mentioned yesterday that the Department of Family Services has three employees in the Poverty Reduction Division and \$1.1 million is identified for that division. Has there been any change to that or has there been any increase in staffing? We have the 2013-14 annual report and it is now 2016-17. Has there been an increase in the number of employees in the Poverty Reduction Division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was question about whether there was an Inuktitut-speaking individual working in that division. I can now give a full response to that question. In the Poverty Reduction Division, we have a total of six employees, three of whom are Inuit. In summary, there are six employees in total who work in the Poverty Reduction Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie, let me take this opportunity to state that you should put up your hand if you want to speak so that you will go in order. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are six employees and in your annual report, you indicated that you would use \$1.1 million. Has there been an increase to their budget to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We had to create another PY in the division. We have increased the budget because we had to create another position. There is \$450,000 that would be used for homelessness and the safe shelter in Cambridge Bay. Due to that, we have increased the budget by \$450,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. In your annual report on page 5, I will read it under “Government enacts *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*.” Further down, it indicates that “The use of the word “collaboration” in the naming of this Act acknowledges our understanding that the government must genuinely collaborate with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and other Inuit organizations, governments, non-government organizations, the public, and the private sector to ensure we work together to improve our social and cultural well-being.”

I have a question on this paragraph from the minister about whether they are genuinely collaborating with those various entities that are mentioned here in the annual report. Are they contributing financially? How are the Inuit organizations involved or collaborating with the government in order to work on poverty reduction? Have they been open to you or have you not heard much from them?

We did discuss what has been happening with this issue yesterday, but I would

like to ask for more information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member for that question. Yes, that question was asked yesterday regarding the collaboration with the non-governmental organizations and whether we have a close working relationship on the issue of poverty reduction.

Mr. Chairman, in our round-table discussions on poverty reduction, we do work together with the stakeholders and various organizations. For example, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, NGOs, and the private sector provide services at the community level and also create programs and services. As a government, we collaborate with those organizations. We have round-table discussions on education, for example. We also have discussions on harvesting.

The communities are going to be working together with us, for example, the hunters and trappers organizations. We are looking at ways and means of how we can alleviate the issue of poverty at the community level. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What I’m partly trying to get at with the roundtable or the other stakeholders is: what does their support look like?

Poverty has many facets to it and there are different areas that we look at in terms of trying to address poverty, whether it's housing, food security, and these types of things.

As an example, are there construction companies or retailers willing to participate? I know these are big stakeholders that are in the territory. What does their buy-in or support look like in this roundtable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about businesses, it's about small or large companies. Unfortunately, I haven't participated in a round-table discussion since assuming this portfolio. Ms. Turner can elaborate further and respond to your question, with your permission, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of business participation in the round-table gatherings, the two main grocery retailers in Nunavut, Arctic Co-Op and North West, are members of the roundtable as well as the Nunavut Chamber of Mines and the Baffin Chamber of Commerce.

In terms of their participation, the grocery retailers provide their information and expertise in terms of the food supply chain management system. They also pay for their own costs for participation in the round-table

gatherings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. In the report, subsection 2.4 includes a discussion on food security and it describes a number of programs to address the needs in this area. How have the local retailers been involved in this food subsidy initiative with a view to subsidize the costs of healthy foods? What more can you say about their involvement in this roundtable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will read it here and it's from my department.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the role of the Food Security Coalition is to inform how policies and programs can better support food security. The coalition supports community-based initiatives, but does not provide direct food relief.

Coalition projects to date include:

- Country food guidelines that make it easy and safe for government-funded facilities and community-based programs to serve country food;
- Funding for community-based food security projects;
- Core recipes that help Nunavummiut learn skills in choosing and preparing healthy foods within a small budget; and

- Making recommendations to the Nutrition North Advisory Board.

(interpretation) I hope I came across clearly regarding food security. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the response. On May 9 of this year, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition announced the participation of Nunavut food banks in the “Every Plate Full Food Drive.” Can you update us on how successful this initiative has been to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don’t know personally, so I will refer that question to Ms. Turner. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The “Every Plate Full” campaign is a campaign to raise awareness about food insecurity. One of the goals of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is to support community-based initiatives.

At the Department of Family Services, we often receive phone calls from individuals from the south asking how they can help or how they can make donations. In this regard, we developed a list of all of the food-based organizations in Nunavut with their contact information and published this as part of the “Every Plate Full” campaign as a

resource for increasing resources to community-based food organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. The role of food banks is increasingly important in many Nunavut communities as well as communities across Canada. How are the activities of food banks across Nunavut monitored and evaluated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, as the Department of Family Services, we’re not responsible for monitoring food banks. Those organizations run their own fundraising efforts, for example, by holding bingos and raffles in the smaller communities. They usually submit a report which shows the pertinent details of their licence or permit on where and how they will raise funds and what they’re raised for, such as for food. They do so through bingos, Nevada tickets, or other methods. They submit their own reports to their sponsors. That’s the only response I can provide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this media release that was issued from the Nunavut Food Security Coalition on May 9, they did provide the link which shows, broken down by each community, the different food programs

and contact information. My next question is in relation to that.

I looked through the list, and out of all the 25 communities, it looks like there are five communities without a food bank. Does your Poverty Reduction Division look at that and say how we can provide further support to these communities? Is there a need for a food bank or that sort of thing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member. I don't have the information on why those communities don't have a food bank. Perhaps Ms. Turner can explain if and how our department deals with communities that don't have food banks. She can fully discuss Family Services' role in the communities.

Our staff in the communities, including those in Income Assistance, are able to help out in communities that don't have food banks. Those communities can request assistance about food banks from our staff and office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will probably be my final question. My time is running out, I believe. On page 45 of the report, in subsection 2.5, (interpretation ends) in the annual report, it addresses housing access.

My question is relation to the public housing rent scale that was introduced in February 2014. To date, are you aware of any specific aspects of the new rent scale which are problematic for low-income tenants? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm not able to respond to that question because the paying of rent is also under the responsibility of the housing corporation. My ministerial colleague who is responsible for the housing corporation can probably respond to that properly. I would like to direct this question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, (interpretation ends) are you prepared to answer that question? Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Oh, sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

I got so used to seeing you in the Speaker's Chair, Mr. Chairman, earlier this week.

With regard to the rent scale, we haven't got any complaints or seen any major issues with it. If anything, it has helped bring some stability to people's rents, especially for the low-income families so that they know what their rent obligations are.

To answer the member's question, I'm not aware of any concerns and I haven't been made aware from the Department of Family Services that have any concerns from the Income Support side of things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. With 10 seconds, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the response. I will use my 10 seconds wisely.

My last question is on homelessness. What are the current numbers of homeless individuals in Nunavut? Can they provide numbers that list absolute homeless and then hidden homeless, if those figures are available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut, if we look at the number of absolute homeless people, there are 98. There are 68 individuals who have to rely on shelters. People living in places that are not meant to be houses are 30. There are 17 communities in Nunavut that don't really have absolute homeless people. I hope that makes sense.

However, the numbers change. The numbers don't just stay the same. Sometimes the numbers decrease and increase in the different communities. I want to point out that the number isn't static. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list of names, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials.

Yesterday, one of my colleagues asked a question about people who go through Family Services and career development officers, some of whom go for training. However, after they had started their training and they need more support, they hit hardships, along with the family they have left behind. Whenever they hit these hardships, they quit. My first question will be about that. If they did not finish what they signed up for, do they get billed for it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, with respect to his comment about people taking training, they get support with their training, including learning materials and other resources. If I didn't understand your question, I'll regret it and you will have to ask it again.

I can say that if there is tuition or travel to pay for their training course and that person did not pay all the expenses related to their training, those expenses are then treated separately and we can cover those unpaid expenses as per our policies. If it was a loan from somewhere else, then it's looked at as money that they owe. Once that is fully paid, we will be able to compensate them. I hope that makes sense. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Just to clarify the matter, if an Inuk wants to go for training, they have to get financial support before he or she goes for training. We know that the Department of Family Services helps people who are in need. I am talking about FANS, which has a policy that has to be followed.

I have been called in my community about students that didn't complete their course for whatever reason and these students did not complete their training, so they got a bill. How is that helping people get out of poverty?

Let's say the student deals with the problem that they had. After the problem at home has been taken care of and that student wants to go back to training, will the fact that the student quit the first time hold them back from getting reassigned to the training? How is that set up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I understand your question now and thank you for clarifying it. If a student owes money after taking training, you're asking if that student can get financial support from the government to pay for his or her bill. My assistant deputy minister has all the information about FANS. I would like Irene Tanuyak to explain that, about having bills and how they can get approval to get assistance for paying the bills. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like Ms. Tanuyak to answer my colleague's

question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Tanuyak.

Ms. Tanuyak: Thank you. The current practice right now that is in use is if any individual has been sponsored by FANS and they decide to quit their program for no reason and go home, normally, if they decide to go back to school, they will not be approved by FANS because they would end up owing money to the FANS program.

If they had quit their program with a very good reason, a good cause, it can be looked at. It's case by case, but normally, because they decided that they wanted to go home, they would need to speak with the FANS people if they want to get sponsored further. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I understand that completely.

In the report that you have tabled on page 5, the minister's requirement to table an annual report on the activities that have to be carried out and the policies that have to be followed, in the second bullet, I believe, I would like an explanation so that I can understand it. It states, "A description of budget measures and government programs, policies and initiatives to reduce poverty." How much work have you done with that and how many policies have been changed? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Turner respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Poverty Reduction Division has, in the last year, focused its efforts on reviewing the work to review and reform the Income Assistance Program, as well as our work to do some research and analysis on the federal Nutrition North Canada Program and make recommendations on that program. We have also been working to look at the grants and contributions policies that we give out for homelessness for the operation of emergency homeless shelters.

We have also been working, as the report mentions, with our partners to identify the right indicators and the right data to measure how well we are doing in reducing poverty. We are in the final stages of developing this list of indicators and will be including that analysis in the next minister's annual report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's obvious that this was intended for the minister. One of his officials talked about the federal government earlier.

The federal government's carbon tax will affect poverty here in Nunavut. As the Department of Family Services, how do you plan for this in the event that the cost of living increases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Although he asked a good question, as the Department of Family Services, we haven't had any consideration on the carbon tax. Perhaps it can be answered by someone outside of our department. I can guess, but I can't provide an answer because we don't have the information in front of us. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'll ask this question to someone else.

Also in your report on page 6, in the second paragraph, it states that "Through the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction we continue to engage with the public, organizations and the private sector to understand the issues, and take action together..."

However, it states further, "...to address the underlying causes of poverty." With it written that way, do you have an idea now whether this is a priority on reducing poverty? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will try to provide a short answer. There are many factors I referenced in speaking about this issue yesterday, as to which areas contribute the most towards poverty and homelessness, including absolute homelessness.

Housing encompasses many areas, especially if they don't own their home. With that being the case for the majority of residents, we have to instil pride in life even without any opportunities. There are various factors contributing to poverty and I am using this example. There are many reasons that play into the poverty prevalent in Nunavut. However, one of the biggest issues is housing in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that very same page, "Measuring the effectiveness of government programs," on that particular subheading, paragraph 3, "This report does outline, however, the government's social safety net programs that help vulnerable Nunavummiut in meeting their basic needs."

How do you identify "basic needs" in Nunavut? As we all know, in other parts of Canada, their basic needs are met by an annual salary threshold scale. How does the Department of Family Services identify meeting basic needs for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. He is asking about a big issue and we have to look further into it to provide a proper response. I can't provide a response off the top of my head as to how much of a benefit it is. Mr. Chairman, with respect to his question about different studies, Ms. Turner can provide a response. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our work identifies food and shelter as basic needs. Nunavummiut's most vulnerable have the public housing system and the emergency homeless shelters in Iqaluit as supports in that regard.

The Department of Family Services has been working in partnership with EIA through the Nunavut Food Security Coalition to support the Nunavut Food Price Survey. This survey takes place every year and it is helping us to understand the cost of food. This data would help to inform what the cost of living is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): I will move on to another matter on page 7. It seems obvious with the various meetings being held as well as the participants at these meetings, there are two main issues being dealt with, at least in following the written documentation. They are the *Makimaniq Plan* and the

Five-year Poverty Reduction Action Plan that was developed earlier.

With these plans already in place, what phase or stage are you on? Are you in the middle or have you just started the initial work, or has the other plan that was just completed become the focus? Which stage of the plan are you at in relation to these issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The *Makimaniq Plan* will continue with the planning work ongoing. The *Makimaniq Plan* is still being developed by the people we mentioned earlier whom we are working with.

Further, one of the most important parts of the *Makimaniq Plan* is the Income Assistance Program where recipients receive monthly funding for food assistance. This will be included in the review, along with recommendations to improve the Income Assistance Program, to see what progress has been made with respect to the *Makimaniq Plan*.

The monthly assistance amounts are also being reviewed as part of the *Makimaniq Plan* and how it will be included. It will be clarified later, but at this time, it is still under development. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With these meetings taking place, it will

be good to see the details on paper and I look forward to that.

Article 32 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* is mentioned here, which is good to see. Nonetheless, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated yesterday was mentioned by one of our colleagues. You responded that it was clearly written on page 10 that the Department of Family Services expended over \$400,000, if I recall your response correctly.

However, on page 10, it states that the Department of Family Services will pay for the “administrative costs of the roundtable.” It also states that “Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. contribute staff, staff travel and in-kind resources to the initiative.” They had signed a memorandum of understanding. Is that still in practice today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the memorandum of understanding is still in effect. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) With 22 seconds, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much. Twenty-two seconds is valuable.

On your document again on page 11, “Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2016 approved,” how far along has this been completed, the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and*

Action Plan? It's very specific, 2014-16. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will read (interpretation ends) some examples of actions (interpretation) concerning his question.

(interpretation ends) Some examples of actions that have contributed to the achievement of the objectives of the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan* include, (interpretation) as I had talked about earlier when there was a question about it, (interpretation ends) facilitating access to country food through the Country Food Distribution Program and Harvester Support Program, (interpretation) using that; (interpretation ends) the review and reform that I just mentioned a few minutes ago, the review and reform of the Income Assistance Program; and also the country food guidelines that make it easier to serve country food in government funded facilities. (interpretation) These are the various examples that can be beneficial. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 39 of your annual report, community-driven food security initiative, (interpretation) it is written in there that (interpretation ends) "Many of the government programs involve support

for the harvesting, storage, distribution and sharing of country food..."

(interpretation) My question is: how many communities in Nunavut are using those programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. Mr. Chairman, in regard to some parts of his question, as the Department of Family Services, we're not the only ones responsible for country food programs and we are working with other departments within the Government of Nunavut. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is mainly responsible for country food distribution. Mr. Chairman, through you, perhaps the Minister for ED&T can provide a response to the question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, would you like to respond to the question? Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): If the member can ask the question again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Sammurtok, please ask your question again so that the minister can respond.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 39 of the report, it mentions (interpretation ends)

government programs to support the “harvesting, storage, distribution and sharing of country food...”

(interpretation) My question is: how many communities in Nunavut are using those programs, such as (interpretation ends) hunter support programs, for distribution and sharing of country food? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that question has been explained. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The (interpretation ends) Country Food Distribution Program (interpretation) was realigned so that more communities can benefit from this program and allow harvesters to have a greater say.

This program has been heavily used in the communities. For fiscal year 2016-17, funding has just started with \$1,576,000 allocated. To date, since it's a new fiscal year, \$499,639,000 has been expended. I can tell you that each community is allocated \$30,000. We expect that this funding that is allocated will be fully spent in the 2016-17 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. (interpretation) My question was: of the 25 communities in Nunavut, how many communities are using this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Ell-Kanayuk, are you prepared to answer

that question? If you are, (interpretation) go ahead.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, each community in Nunavut will be allocated \$30,000. I expect that \$30,000 to be depleted in the new fiscal year. Under (interpretation ends) Schedule B, (interpretation) there are a number of different areas where the funds are spent.

A community may wish to make an adjustment, for example, if a community wanted to get a new community freezer. Sanikiluaq and Arviat are now in the process of that. Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, and Resolute Bay are also now working on these programs. We are also working with Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, and Sanikiluaq on their requests to get new community freezers. For Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet, Pond Inlet, and Pangnirtung, we are now working with the staff in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your report, you talk about storage. In some communities, it is usually run by HTOs and it costs money to store the food in the community freezer. For those programs that are going to be used at the local level, who pays for the storage? (interpretation ends) Your department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We are not responsible for the payment of storage. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): On page 39, it states, (interpretation ends) “Department of Environment supports harvesters through their various Harvester support programs when needed, and the Nunavut Development Corporation has guaranteed a set price for purchasing country food from harvesters.” What is the set price? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. NDC has regional development corporations which are operating these programs. For example, Kivalliq Foods in Rankin Inlet is responsible for that. They set a price for purchasing and they have their own board of directors. That is why I cannot respond to the question.

NDC is under the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and they set their own prices. With that, I cannot respond to the question, so I would like to ask my ministerial colleague to respond to that question because her department is responsible for the programs in question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for NDC, (interpretation) are you prepared to answer the question regarding economic development? Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to acknowledge Zacharias Kunuk, who is a member of the board.

I didn't quite understand the member's question. Is he asking a question in regard to funding for harvesters? I would like the member to elaborate further so that I can respond properly, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kunuk, welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Sammurtok, please clarify your question for the minister.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the report on page 39, it states, (interpretation ends) “Department of Environment supports harvesters through their various Harvester support programs when needed, and the Nunavut Development Corporation has guaranteed a set price for purchasing country food from harvesters.” (interpretation) My question is: (interpretation ends) what is the set price? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. He just clarified his question. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. Although I understand the question, I don't have the information on the (interpretation ends) set price, (interpretation) so I can't respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you will get the information at some point. (interpretation ends) Income assistance is discussed in detail under subsection 2.6 of the annual report.

Benefits provided under income assistance programs cost the government close to \$40 million a year. Has any analysis been undertaken to determine whether the number of individuals and families accessing income assistance benefits is increasing? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's not a definite number. It goes up and down, so it varies. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) During our recent winter sitting, members approved an additional \$6.8 million to allow the government to exclude federal child benefit income from social assistance calculations. In

other words, these funds would no longer be clawed back from low-income families.

Will the Income Assistance Division of the Department of Family Services be monitoring the impact of this decision on social assistance applications and, if so, how will it be measured? Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On April 1 of this year, the Government of Nunavut tried to exempt the family income that families receive. (interpretation) I'm sure that it's going to be very beneficial for low-income families regarding its exemption. As the member indicated, it's \$6.8 million that they will benefit from.

I don't know how we can monitor it, but we can say that it will be beneficial to low-income families. That exemption wouldn't be seen by Family Services as an income, so it's going to be a benefit for low-income families. That's how I can respond to your question, but I'm sure that it's going to be a little benefit to low-income families.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have to decide what we're going to be doing and we do have rules to follow. We will take a five-minute break so that the regular members can discuss what they would like to do at this time. We will take a five-minute break.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:34 and resumed at 17:39*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have arrived at a decision. Let's proceed now. Following my list of names, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short question on the (interpretation ends) minister's annual report (interpretation) related to poverty reduction. I wanted to ask about the finances after checking the figures. They seem clear, although I imagine changes will be made.

Keeping that in mind, the departments of Education and Culture and Heritage will be getting some funding towards this. In thinking about the departments of Education and Health on poverty reduction, it seems difficult to respond to this question, but I want to know which department will receive the most funds under this initiative. I am asking the minister that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a breakdown of the funding in front of me, but Ms. Turner can provide a summary. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the budget that is presented in this report, NHC represents the largest portion of the budget, Family Services represents the second largest portion of the budget, Health represents the third largest portion of the budget, and Education is a little further down the list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question regarding the funding allocated to Nunavut Arctic College. I don't know whether all those monies have been expended, but my question is on page 37 of the report. It doesn't indicate how much money will be used. That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question, looking at the chart, Nunavut Arctic College is somewhere in the middle. It is neither the highest nor the lowest. I don't have the exact numbers, but I can say that Arctic College and the Department of Education are somewhere in the middle in terms of the budget. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question regarding food. Of course, we are trying to reduce food insecurity, and it costs money to buy food in this day and age.

Regarding the retail outlets, the Co-op or Northern stores, they are provided a subsidy to reduce the price of healthy food. Does your department know if the retail outlets are using those subsidies properly? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. Very briefly, (interpretation ends) Nutrition North Canada (interpretation) is a federal program and we have no say in it, so I can't make any comments on it. I don't know whether they are being used to subsidize healthy food. They're the only ones who can respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask that question when we meet with the appropriate people. I have no more questions, so I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let me recognize Mr. Joanasié.

Committee Motion 007 – 4(3): Motion to Extend Sitting

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pursuant to Rule 6(2), I move to extend the sitting hours so that we can complete the item we are dealing with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to extend the sitting hours in order to finish the item we're dealing with. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you. We will continue dealing with Tabled Document 149 – 4(2) until it is

concluded. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. I can now proceed to my list of names. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the areas I wanted to talk about and an issue that I have raised in the House numerous times is the issue of school breakfast programs. I'm somebody that really does support that kind of initiative. One of the concerns I have raised in the past is the fact that the staff in the school, on top of their own jobs, have to do proposal writing and actively go after this funding. Last year, I was very happy to hear that the Department of Health had given every school \$10,000 that was put towards breakfast programs.

One thing I am unsure of, and perhaps this is my question to you, is what kind of conversations and discussions have taken place with the Department of Health and perhaps with Family Services and the Department of Education as to how this kind of funding can be an item in a budget and you don't have to write a proposal to get it. It's an automatic thing that's added to the budget to recognize how important it is that school-aged children have that opportunity to eat, if they didn't at home, if that makes any sense.

Have you had those kinds of discussions and can we anticipate that that funding will continue to be available to schools over the next years to come? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the question to my

colleague. Mr. Chairman, at this point, we are not in any discussions with the department that she is asking about, but we can. We are open to discussions with any of the departments within the government. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to hear that.

When we talk about poverty in Nunavut, there are definitely different timelines that we can look at. We have heard many people talk about the need to educate Nunavummiut so that they have more choices in life, where they could have the choice to either further their education more once they've got their grade 12 or if they want to have employment, then that means they will have more choices.

Some things are a little bit more longer term, but we also need to address the short term. We also need to address today. What kind of help can we provide Nunavummiut who are in poverty right now, right today, so that we do have some programs and services? I really do believe that the breakfast program, by being able to feed children at school every day, is something we can do right away. I would really like to encourage you to have that conversation.

I don't think that it would take too much to convince any of us that this is a really needed program, one that would be very useful, and one that provides a positive impact immediately. It has spin-offs too by being the incentive to even come to school. We have a real problem in Nunavut in getting kids to come to

school regularly. That's also a great incentive.

The other thing I wanted to talk about was, and I think it's only in the last few years and perhaps because we have been looking over to Greenland, I would like to know if the department, in their research about poverty, has looked at the impact of country food markets. In Iqaluit, that has just started, I think, over the last few years. It means that you need some money to be able to buy, recognizing the fact that hunting costs a lot of money. I understand that part, but what kind of impact has that had on Nunavummiut where, traditionally, meat was shared? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the question and the comments that you made in regard to the breakfast programs. I totally agree with you and I will urge my department to get into discussions with the other departments to at least come up with a short-term solution in terms of getting the kids a breakfast to start with before going into the schools. The other ministers are here and I'm positive that they are in full support of the idea that you are discussing.

In terms of the other comment that you made on the country food, as you said, the project was to examine Greenland's country food. It was examined and it's desirable and feasible in Nunavut. It found that Nunavummiut believe a market system could improve availability of country food, provide economic opportunities, (interpretation) (interpretation) and furthermore, would

allow them to get country foods and would lead to communities working together to combat poverty in their communities.

We will be implementing this in an effort to reduce poverty, so we will proceed with that. We have started talking with the local HTOs.

Additionally, we will be working with Nunavut Arctic College on further training of people who can hunt. That's my short answer and I hope it was clear. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I think, when we talk about the impact of country food markets, it could really go both ways. You have somebody that perhaps wants to be a hunter, but it costs money to hunt, so they want to sell their food. On the other end, you also have people that can't afford and have no means to go out hunting, and then they want to eat country, but maybe don't have the money to buy it. It's worth more discussion, I think, to see how best that could be supported.

The other area I really want to talk about with you, and I'm hoping that you can look at this, in the report, it talks about shelters. There was some discussion earlier about men's and women's shelters and that.

One of the things I have noted in Iqaluit is that with the men's shelter, anyhow, I'm not 100 percent on the women's shelter, where everybody is sort of tossed out at 8:30, "You're going to have to leave." I don't think they can come back 'til the evening. I feel, if this is

case, there is an opportunity being lost here where, perhaps, the government can work the residents of the shelters to look at some counselling, either in addictions or even encouragement to go to school or encouragement to do volunteer work or whatever.

Your department is responsible for shelters. Have you looked at that? By doing that, you could give that person more incentives, "If you want to stay in the shelter, we want to be able to work with you in these areas" sort of thing? Has the department looked at that?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, as to how the department can further support the shelter programs for the people of Nunavut and absolutely homeless people, the department is always assisting financially (interpretation ends) to support for the operation of the men's Oqota shelter and Sivummut House, (interpretation) the women's shelter, and for the youth in Iqaluit.

Our department works hard with the communities as well. We consult with the communities and other departments, such as the Department of Health and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We work with many departments with our programs to see how else we can help the absolutely homeless people. It's not just our department that has the responsibility. It's not possible for one department to handle that issue alone. In particular, the Nunavut Housing

Corporation and the Department of Health have collaborated closely with us on this matter. I hope that makes sense. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I'm getting at is there are opportunities there. Most of the people who are using the shelters don't have jobs and most of them are in real poverty. How can we get them so that we can help them to become more self-reliant and not only reliant on the shelters? What is it that we could be doing?

They're already in the shelters. There are different opportunities that could happen, counselling opportunities, I don't know, just to encourage those that are in those kinds of situations that there is help out there. Sometimes it's very hard to reach people who are in shelters and so that's a great opportunity when they come to stay there and in the mornings and that. I don't know.

I'm just thinking that you provide a contract to the different entities running the shelters. Maybe that's something that, working with the other departments, you can look at developing. Maybe there is an opportunity there. Is it something worthwhile to look at? I believe it is; I think it is. I think there are opportunities there to help people.

The other thing about shelters, and I have brought this up in the House before and I want to bring it up again here because, again, when we're talking about shelters, we're talking about predominantly people who don't have

jobs or even perhaps families. That's poverty to me in my mind.

I had somebody who came to me that had been thrown out of the shelter because of an alcohol issue. I began to think about this a little bit more because, in the shelters, they have zero tolerance that if anybody is under the influence, they are kicked out. If you think about it, who is using the shelters? Why do people get to those states? A lot of times, addictions make you lose your job. Addictions make you lose your house. Addictions might make you lose your family. That's why they're at the shelter. When you kick them out, what are you really saying?

I look towards Yellowknife and they have wet shelters. Because somebody is under the influence doesn't mean they automatically kick them out. They actually have shelters that can accommodate those who are down and out with addictions. I think we need to look at this. Iqaluit is getting larger and larger, more people, and that's an issue that I think as a department, I would like to encourage you to look at.

That's just a comment and I'm done. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that's just a suggestion and I didn't hear a question at all. Perhaps the minister will take it into consideration, but if you would like to comment on that, I would like to give you the opportunity, Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): I'll make it short as that's very clear. My officials understand you fully and this

can be considered. (interpretation ends)
Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, for the second time, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go right into the question here. The Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat commissioned a study called "Poverty and Prosperity in Nunavut," which was released in November 2013. That report proposed that a basic income could replace income assistance as a type of guaranteed income. What consideration, if any, has been given to initiating that practice in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to read and respond at the same time, so I'll get Ms. Turner to respond to that question. Ms. Turner, if it's okay with you.

Chairman: Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basic income is not something that has been considered at this time up until now for the Income Assistance Program. At the Department of Family Services, we have been working over the last year on a review and reform of the Income Assistance Program that will propose important changes to the program that will help to support Nunavummiut and social assistance clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at poverty reduction across Nunavut and all of these meetings that have been occurring and you have a lot of people involved in these meetings, what kinds of indicators are being considered to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of poverty reduction initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I want Ms. Turner to respond to that question as she has more knowledge on the indicators that the member is asking about. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're working with departments to finalize the list of indicators that will be incorporated into the second Poverty Reduction Action Plan. These indicators that we're looking at are going to measure the different things in the *Makimaniq Plan*; indicators that will measure our strength and support for healing and well-being; indicators that will measure whether or not the Income Assistance Program is more supportive. We are working to finalize this list of indicators and it will be included in the next Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that you will be identifying indicators. Like any other department or organization or anything, as the poverty reduction meetings and whatnot are occurring, will whatever you find that is not effective and not working be identified in the report and cease to continue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if we will be pinpointing what is not working or included as a report that "This does not work," but we will have in the report what we find will help in reducing poverty. That's what we're working on. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Any questions? Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it was already asked, please stop me, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) On page 62, "The Poverty Reduction Fund was officially created on May 16th, 2013, when the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* came into force." In your annual report, it states that in 2013-14, no investments were made to the fund and no initiatives were funded. Can you explain why this is the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you. Ms. Turner has that answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Turner, please give the answer.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When this report was drafted, we were just in the initial stages of developing the policies and the accounting structure around that fund. We are close to finalizing those policies. In the coming year, we will be developing communications materials to create awareness about the fund, which will hopefully increase donations into the fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How much money is currently in the Poverty Reduction Fund account? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): We can say there is \$1.4 million. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Can the money from the Poverty Reduction Fund be used to help individuals or families who are in desperately poor circumstances? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Unfortunately I was reading something

else and I missed his question. I would like him to restate the question and make it short.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok, ask your question and make it short.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the money (interpretation ends) from the Poverty Reduction Fund be used to help individuals or families who are in desperately poor circumstances? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Can that fund be used to help individuals or families who are in desperately poor circumstances? Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For his first question about the fund, I apologize to my colleagues and the audience that I made an error in quoting the figure. It is not at \$1 million. I erred in quoting the amount. Through donations, it is only \$1,405 right now. Can it be used to help individuals or families? Ms. Turner can summarize how these funds can be used. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* specifies how this fund can be used. It is meant to be used to support community-based projects that are consistent with the goals and

objectives of the *Makimaniq Plan*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I guess it didn't take long to run out of money.

>> *Laughter*

Any questions? I have no more names on my list. Members, do you agree that Tabled Document 149 – 4(2) is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk, thank you and your officials for being in attendance because this is very useful for Nunavummiut.

Minister Kuksuk, if you have any closing remarks, I would now like to give you the opportunity. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and my officials who were here in attendance today. My colleagues asked very good questions. If we weren't able to respond to certain questions, we can get back to you at a later date. There are many issues to deal with. I will just say "thank you" to everybody, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

As we have completed the item, I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 149 – 4(2) and would like to report that we have concluded the consideration of Tabled Document 149 – 4(2). Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Shooyook. All those in favour. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there is a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at 9:00 tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 2:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 18
 - Tabled Document 73 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 116 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 140 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 70 – 4(3)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 2, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:20*

