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

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
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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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2252
Speaker's Statement	2252
Ministers' Statements	2252
Members' Statements	2256
Oral Questions.....	2262
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	2279
Tabling of Documents.....	2279
First Reading of Bills	2280
Second Reading of Bills.....	2280
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	2281
Report of the Committee of the Whole	2307
Orders of the Day	2307

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, October 19, 2016.....2252

B.

Ministers' Statements

152 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing (Kuksuk)2252

153 – 4(3): International Opening of “Floe Edge” in London, United Kingdom (Ell-Kanayuk).....2253

154 – 4(3): Nunavut’s Literacy Award Winner (Taptuna).....2253

155 – 4(3): University Feasibility Study (Quassa)2254

156 – 4(3): Nunavut Fire Prevention Strategy (Savikataaq)2255

157 – 4(3): Donated Photos of RCMP Staff Sergeant Donald McLauchlan (Kuksuk).....2255

C.

Members' Statements

307 – 4(3): The Ongoing Need for an Elders’ Health Facility in Rankin Inlet (Sammurtok, A)2256

308 – 4(3): The Importance of Incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit into Government Services (Shooyook).....2257

309 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet’s Water Supply (Sammurtok, T).....2258

310 – 4(3): Staying Safe (Mikkungwak)2259

311 – 4(3): Appointment of Pond Inlet Resident Rachel Smale to the Prime Minister’s Youth Council (Enook).....2260

312 – 4(3): Successful Bowhead Whale Hunt in Igloodik (Quassa).....2260

313 – 4(3): Inuit Representation on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Commission (Okalik).....2261

D.

Oral Questions

402 – 4(3): Foster Parenting in Nunavut (Shooyook)2262

403 – 4(3): Motion Regarding the Establishment of a Board of Management for the Qikiqtani
General Hospital (Angnakak)2265

404 – 4(3): Community Justice Committee Appointments and Revocations (Joanasie)2266

405 – 4(3): Considering Options for an Elders’ Facility in Rankin Inlet (Sammurtok, A)2268

406 – 4(3): Storage and Disposal of Waste Oil (Rumbolt)2270

407 – 4(3): Proper Signage at the Iqaluit Airport (Okalik)2272

408 – 4(3): Issues with the Medical Boarding Home in Iqaluit (Keyootak)2273

409 – 4(3): Caribou Management in Nunavut (Mikkungwak).....2274

410 – 4(3): Medical Travel (Enook).....2276

411 – 4(3): Activities of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (Angnakak)2277

E.

Tabling of Documents

183 – 4(3): Resolutions from the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit
Association (Akoak)2280

184 – 4(3): A Copy of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Resolution (Sammurtok, A).....2280

F.

Bills

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – First Reading.....2280

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Second Reading2280

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Economic Development and Transportation –
Consideration in Committee2281

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, October 19, 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, 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 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) as well as the visitors, welcome to the House.

Before we proceed, I have a brief statement to make.

Speaker's Statement

(interpretation ends) I wish to take this opportunity to remind all members to use caution and sound judgment when referring to specific individuals by name during our proceedings.

Although there is no rule that covers all possible situations, a general principle is that members should be very careful

about making comments in the House about ordinary citizens that could call into question their reputations.

I thank the House for its attention to this matter.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. (interpretation) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 152 – 4(3):
Blueprint for Action on Housing**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, prior to commencing my statement, I wish to add a short addition to my planned speech. As individual people, all of us commit errors from time to time. I was erroneous yesterday in my statement and I sincerely apologize. I was not intentionally trying to do that and this matter will be cleared up shortly.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, yesterday I announced that I would be tabling the Blueprint for Action on Housing, which represents the GN's action plan to address Nunavut's severe housing crisis. I will actually be tabling this on Thursday, October 20 of 2016.

I look forward to regularly updating my colleagues and all Nunavummiut as we progress to improve the housing

situation in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Minister's Statement 153 – 4(3):
International Opening of “Floe
Edge” in London, United Kingdom**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to commend the talent of our master carvers and artists here in Nunavut.

Our Nunavut artists are being highlighted in London, United Kingdom at an exhibition entitled “Floe Edge: Contemporary Art & Collaborations from Nunavut.” Floe Edge showcases the collected works of 18 Inuit artists working in various disciplines, and London is the exhibition's first international opening.

Mr. Speaker, Floe Edge has been very well received in London by the press, the public, and in arts circles. The Royal Academy listed it as one of the top five art shows to see, and it opened during the Frieze London art fair.

I had the privilege of attending the opening reception and introducing the Nunavut delegation of talented artists, including Niore Iqalukjuak, Igah Hainnu, Lavinia van Heuvelen, and Elisapee Aningmiuq. Their collaborative work was admired by the many art

enthusiasts and dignitaries that attended the opening of the exhibit.

This event is providing important international exposure for their work and the exhibit has been featured in British and international news sources, such as Blouin Art Info, Art Daily, London Calling, and the BBC.

Mr. Speaker, this event was made possible through support from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Kakivak Association, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, as well as the hard work of the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and the AXENÉO7 gallery in Gatineau.

Floe Edge is an excellent opportunity for contemporary Nunavut artists to be showcased and celebrated on an international stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 154 – 4(3):
Nunavut's Literacy Award
Winner**

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Good afternoon, members, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Saa Pitsiulak, an Inuktitut language program officer with the Department of Culture and Heritage, as the winner of the 12th annual Council

of the Federation Literacy Award for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this award was established in 2004. The Council of the Federation Literacy Award recognizes the successes of adults who have undertaken literacy training. The award also celebrates the valuable contributions made by Canadians across the field of literacy.

Mr. Speaker, each year the Council of the Federation celebrates achievement, innovative practice, and excellence in literacy. The annual award is presented to educators, volunteers, learners, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, and businesses in each province and territory. Each award recipient receives a certificate signed by the premier of their province or territory, as well as a Council of the Federation Literacy Award medallion.

This year I selected Saa for her leadership as an educator in Nunavut for 30 years and for her role in creating children's Inuktitut guided reading resources for Nunavut schools.

Mr. Speaker, Saa is an outstanding and dedicated educator, and she has taught hundreds of children and adults in Nunavut. She regularly goes above and beyond her day job, doing much of her work in her own time. On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I would like to extend my gratitude to Saa for her important work and her contribution towards literacy across our territory.

Please join me in extending my congratulations and appreciation for all the work that she has done here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Minister's Statement 155 – 4(3): University Feasibility Study

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, residents of my community and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to report to my colleagues on the joint venture that the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College have been pursuing to improve access to post-secondary education for all Nunavummiut.

The university feasibility study that was produced by KPMG and presented to the government offered several options for delivering university-level programs in Nunavut. A joint venture partnership between Nunavut Arctic College and an existing university was the chosen option.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a joint venture would allow us to increase the number and diversity of degree programs delivered here in Nunavut. It will provide an opportunity for Nunavut Arctic College and a partner university to share their respective expertise and establish a university in the Canadian Arctic.

Since selecting this option, our work to move this project forward has continued. In late August a team from Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education visited five universities across three provinces in order to explore best

practices related to joint ventures. Another round of visits by the team will continue in early November to acquire more insight into the creation of successful joint ventures and partnership models between post-secondary institutions.

Mr. Speaker, in September invitations were sent out to key stakeholders, including other government departments, Inuit organizations, and select partners in industry to form a strategic committee. This strategic committee will guide the work on the future of the joint venture.

The strategic committee's first meeting is planned for November 22 and 23 and will be co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Education and the President of Nunavut Arctic College.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 156 – 4(3):
Nunavut Fire Prevention Strategy**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide an update on the Nunavut Fire Prevention Strategy.

The Office of the Fire Marshal is helping to provide a safe environment for Nunavummiut through fire prevention inspections, firefighter training, and other fire prevention programs.

October 9 to 15 was National Fire Prevention Week and this is an important time for fire prevention education in municipalities across Nunavut. The theme this year was "Don't wait, check the date." It's a reminder to check your smoke detectors and to make sure you have a fire extinguisher in your home that has been inspected recently.

It's important that you and your family are doing everything you can to stay safe from the threat of fire. To help spread this message, students in Nunavut from kindergarten to grade 9 were invited to take part in the annual Fire Prevention Week colouring, poster design and essay contest. I am looking forward to seeing the results of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 157 – 4(3):
Donated Photos of RCMP Staff
Sergeant Donald McLauchlan**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. This past July Culture and Heritage was gifted 242 digitized images of photographs taken by the late RCMP Staff Sergeant Donald McLauchlan.

Beginning in 1937, this dedicated Mountie served 15 years straight in the eastern Arctic, mainly in Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, and occasionally in the Kivalliq.

(interpretation ends) What is particularly striking about the donated images is the identification of Nunavummiut of the late '30s and 1940s, including RCMP Special Constables Sheutiapik, Silassie, and Kootoo, and especially of Sheutiapik with so many pictures of his patrols by dog team, (interpretation) or qamutiik, (interpretation ends) and with the special constable's family in Kimmirut. This is a much welcome addition to our photographic collection from this era.

Mr. Speaker, the digitized photos were donated by his daughter Margaret McLauchlan of Kingston. The Yukon-born Sergeant McLauchlan died in 2012 in his 100th year. The donation complements the historical record of South Qikiqtaaluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 307 – 4(3): The Ongoing Need for an Elders' Health Facility in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Once again I rise to address an issue that is close to my heart: the well-being of our elders.

Mr. Speaker, I will not rest in my efforts to encourage the government to work towards opening an elders' care facility in the community of Rankin Inlet. I have

spoken in this House on this issue many times over my term. It is frustrating to note how little progress has been achieved.

Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2016 the Minister of Health of the day tabled a very informative and compelling document titled "Continuing Care in Nunavut." That document lists 17 well-thought-out and sensible recommendations for addressing elders' needs in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, one of those recommendations under the heading "Increase capacity of residential long-term care" states, and I quote, "Repurpose existing infrastructure."

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will recall, I have asked a number of times if the government would consider repurposing the old children's group home in Rankin Inlet to an elders facility. Instead of exploring this option, the government brought forward plans to convert the facility into a mental health transition home instead. Even those plans have not progressed.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Sammurtok: Mr. Speaker, I encourage the government to identify and consider whatever options are available to open an elders facility in Rankin Inlet so that our elders can stay in their home community closer to their family and friends.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Member's Statement 308 – 4(3): The Importance of Incorporating Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit into Government Services

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings, my fellow residents of Arctic Bay and Quttiktuq, as well as our Premier and my colleagues.

I rise to reiterate a concern I have held ever since I first sat as a representative after the election, which I continue to harbour, including what I would like to see accomplished related to this subject.

The reason why I stand today revolves around the Department of Family Services, the RCMP, social workers, and the incorporation of *Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit*. I will be speaking to these issues and in particular family-related issues firstly in association with traditional social mediation techniques. I have stood to voice my concerns due to this reason.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply impassioned on this subject specifically related to *Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit* and traditional social mediation techniques, as it is critical to include Inuit today in this area. Inuit family relations, based on my own personal understanding, are based on keeping a family together through all their trials.

Even though that may be the case, what I don't believe in is the western practice of child apprehension from their families and in some cases the child is sent away from the community. With that being the current reality, it is agonizing to those of us whose adult children are subjected to

child apprehension and their families uprooted.

Mr. Speaker, today many parents are in mental anguish and they're hurting. The numbers throughout Nunavut are increasing where children are apprehended and placed in foster homes in a different community, with no avenue for visitation. This systemic collusion is causing mental distress in our families and it is very traumatic. It leads to the destruction of families, extended relations, as well as the children. With such traumatic impact on our families, it would behoove us to enact changes to the current legislation.

My time is running out, so I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member 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.

These apprehended children are being brought up outside of their family, one which they are unfamiliar with, as they didn't grow with them and this causes immense mental trauma to the child. Let all practitioners take note of this fact: this mental trauma can become episodic as they keep it internalized up to adulthood and their future revolves around personal pain. Prior to that person bearing their personal pain, their life will not improve.

Many adults presume that a child's mind is incapable, but in reality their minds are much stronger than us adults. Once a child learns or experiences a traumatic childhood, they tend to harbour that into adulthood and that is the cause of their lifestyle choices.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to incorporating the traditional Inuit social mediation or resolution techniques related to social services that have no basis on traditional Inuit values nor are adapted to the Inuit cultural practices. With the current emphasis on western practices, such as that prevalent in our court system, the justice system, and the RCMP, I urge these sectors to start incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into their corporate thinking, and let us partner together here in Nunavut.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): This challenge we face and the practices we are stuck with today are only resulting in family disintegration and destruction. It is very regretful to observe the system's destruction of our families. While I sit as a representative here, I am putting you on notice that I expect actual examples of this incorporation in our future.

Mr. Speaker, today, on another matter, I am of the last generation who lived the old ways, where we lived in igloos and suffered through hardships and hunger, when government was nowhere, but here I am within this government. The old ways included many hardships, but we face ever greater challenges in the current lifestyles we lead today. It has become very complicated.

With the reality we face, this matter has

to be the focus and to have both the government and Inuit work together to resolve the issues. Let us kick out this western societal disregard and denunciation of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and collaborate on fixing the issues we face in equal partnership, especially before the last elders with this knowledge pass away. We have to repatriate our cultural practices and revive them today.

The reason why I am so impassioned about this subject is because Inuit released their parental rights and as the fathers, we are now treating social services as the father figure, which is regrettable. We should not be that way. No wonder Inuit society is in such a mess today.

We have to work together with those involved in social services, the RCMP, and the justice system and arrive at a consensus for the year 2017 and onwards to plan and work together within Nunavut to face our challenges. It is only if we partner together that Inuit social ills will start to become resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet.

**Member's Statement 309 – 4(3):
Rankin Inlet's Water Supply**

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about Rankin Inlet's water supply. For a number of years, Rankin Inlet's

water source, Nippisar Lake, has been visibly depleting.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the department has been working to solve this problem and has previously identified Char River as an alternative source to replenish the community's water reservoir. However, residents of Rankin Inlet remain concerned about the extent to which this solution can meet the community's needs.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, according to the population estimates provided by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics in 2015, Rankin Inlet is the second largest community in Nunavut and it continues to grow.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do not need to emphasize the importance of water; it is a basic and vital element to our survival and success as individuals and as a community. It is of the utmost importance that we do everything in our power to ensure that our communities have sufficient access to clean water at all times.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be tabling photographs of Nippisar Lake, Tasinnaaq, as we call it in Inuktitut, that illustrate the low level of water in the lake. Unfortunately the lake has been in this state for quite some time.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will also be asking questions on this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 310 – 4(3): Staying Safe

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Before I make my statement, I would first like to say that our eldest son is celebrating his birthday. I wish Derrick Mikkungwak a happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my fellow northerners and fellow hunters to stay safe when going out on the land or water.

Mr. Speaker, an important action to take to stay safe while out hunting actually happens before you go. Before you leave, make sure to tell someone where you are going, when you expect to be back, and who you will be going with.

Remember to make sure your gear is in good working order before you go out, keep an eye on weather, and take extra supplies and emergency equipment. It's evident that last year and the year before our government announced that SPOT devices are available and some of them are available at your local RCMP, hamlet, or HTA office to use while you are gone.

Mr. Speaker, every year our communities in Nunavut face the worrisome task of searching for someone who has gotten lost.

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

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues very much.

I have a public reminder to my fellow Nunavummiut, especially as we start to approach winter. When searchers have to conduct searches, it is quite palpable as a past searcher when a search is undertaken for hunters who haven't returned. With advance preparation, we can all play a role in keeping ourselves, our family members, and our fellow residents safe. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 311 – 4(3):
Appointment of Pond Inlet
Resident Rachel Smale to the
Prime Minister's Youth Council**

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise today in order to congratulate one of my constituents for a tremendous accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow community member, Ms. Rachel Smale, is one of only fifteen young Canadians to have been chosen to serve on the Prime

Minister of Canada's National Youth Council. Rachel was appointed to the council last month and has already had at least one meeting with the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the National Youth Council is to advise the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on policies and programs that are important to youth.

It is my understanding that one of Rachel's priorities will be to address the issue of suicide prevention among youth.

Mr. Speaker, Rachel is a mentor, a volunteer, and a scholar, having received the Governor General's Academic Medal in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, Rachel will be an excellent advocate for Nunavut youth and I ask all members to join me today in expressing our support for her important work on behalf of Nunavut youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Member's Statement 312 – 4(3):
Successful Bowhead Whale Hunt
in Igloolik**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, examples are always uplifting when traditional practices are revived in our community and throughout Nunavut.

Nunavut has repatriated the bowhead whale hunt and communities can now

harvest bowhead whales, as per the ancient Inuit cultural practices and customs are followed when harvesting these whales, which is extremely joyful. I grew up hearing stories about ancestral hunters who were on *qajait* (kayaks) who singly caught a bowhead whale all by themselves, and I doubt that would ever happen today. Nonetheless, the practice of harvesting bowhead whales is continuing.

Just this past summer in our community of Igloodik, the hunters were able to harvest a bowhead whale measuring 27 feet. Although it was coined as being small for the species, I assure you it is quite a large animal. I want to take this opportunity to name the main participants in the hunting crew.

What is further inspirational is there was a woman involved in the actual hunting party and she was part of the group. Although she was the lone woman, it is very heartening. Lucy Qattalik was the only female during that hunt, but there were also many others involved whom I shall name.

The captain was David Irgaut, who is the president of the hunters and trappers organization. Theo Ikummaq was his co-captain.

The hunters were: Moses Iqqaqsaq, Judah Sarpinak, Donald Ittusardjuat, Levi Qaunaq, Tyson Qaunaq, who was the harpooner, Isa Irgaut, who was another harpooner, George Qattalik, Wayne Ungalaq, another harpooner, Terence Uyarak, who lent his traditional bowhead lance, if you know what an *anguvigaq* is. Dean Ittusardjuat, who held the bowhead lance, Killiktee Ivalu and Laben Kunnuk were also

harpooners, Andrew Irgaut, Ted Attagutaluk, Joseph Attagutaluk, Daniel Attagutaluk, Paul Nangmalik, Dennis Aqqiaruq, Steven Sarpinak, Paul Jr. Nangmalik, and Daniel Qattalik.

[Eugene] Ipkangnak was one of the elder representatives, Daniel Qattalik was another elder, and Herve Paniaq comprised the last of the elders. They had elder participants throughout the process of the hunt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Member's Statement 313 – 4(3): Inuit Representation on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Commission

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to add my voice to the calls for an Inuk woman to be appointed to the Commission on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Far too often Inuit women are the victims of violence in our territory. If they're spared their lives, they then live with physical and mental scars of their trauma for the remainder of their lives.

Inuit women have to live with the findings of the commission. Why are they not allowed to serve on the body that will be working on solutions for this very difficult problem that we are facing? It saddens me to have to explain this as a Liberal and as I was so hoping to see this as a tool to battle our

unacceptable statistics of violence against Inuit women in our young territory.

Mr. Trudeau, whatever happened to your promise to have a nation-to-nation relationship with aboriginal people? The Inuit of Canada are waiting for this to be honoured and implemented.

Pauktuutit, the very body my late mother was the founding member of, is there to represent Inuit women, as they should. They were then called racist by a so-called Nunavut Senator for asking for an Inuk to serve on the commission.

Mr. Speaker, Pauktuutit are not racist. As an example, their top employee is a qallunaaq. If they were racist, it would be very difficult for this employee to work for Pauktuutit. For them to be called racist is just ludicrous. Mr. Dennis Patterson, you owe them an apology. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Isaac Shooyook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 402 – 4(3): Foster Parenting in Nunavut

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Family Services.

Social work is a difficult issue with respect to the apprehension of children.

Have you and your staff discussed any future plans on whether the current Act is good for Inuit? There are some problem areas. With that being the case, as minister, have you taken this under consideration at all regarding foster care that follows *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and how it can improve? Can you elaborate that to me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question and asking for further elaboration. The business of having foster children and youth is the responsibility of the Department of Family Services. When that type of action is going to proceed, they are involved in providing assistance within Nunavut. They don't just decide out of the blue to put them in foster homes. Family Services doesn't suddenly decide to take this child and move them elsewhere as a foster child, but rather we provide support, especially for foster children.

With respect to the legislation we work under today on how a child or youth should be dealt with, parents are directly involved. When that is being done within Nunavut, the Inuit organizations are kept informed about it. The Inuit tradition of having foster children has always been the case, but having foster children today is a complicated process. They try to work carefully under the legislation and the parents are directly involved. They work together with the parents who will be fostering the child, and that's how we do things in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that statement. Nonetheless, I disagree with his statement about certain parts of social work. My reasoning for the disagreement is that in my constituency I have been informed by many parents who were not informed prior to the apprehension of their children and that occurred in several cases. Two or more, I am unsure of the exact number, but not all cases had prior parental discussions before the apprehension. The communication needs to improve.

I am referencing fostering children where parents are judged to be incompetent parents and their children are sent off to a different community through apprehension. This is not adoption, as this is apprehension of the children from the family. With that being the situation we face today, Inuit cultural practices are being neglected and if it were practised, it would help to resolve many difficulties.

I wonder if the minister has debated where improvements can be made to ensure parents don't undergo unnecessary mental trauma. Due to this mental trauma, as per my earlier statement, I wonder if any discussions or ideas have surfaced on resolving this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his clarification about the two cases where apprehension occurred that he is aware of and now asking about. I will want further details on the case if they were, indeed, apprehended without prior notification. I would ask that he be available to discuss this because I want to be very clear on that. This is the first I have heard of a case of apprehension without notification in my role as the minister. I would like to meet with him to clarify the issue and I will want further information from the member.

However, I want to restate that the Department of Family Services is committed to looking at ways based on this increase in foster children and further related to community communications in order to ensure communities are consulted about foster children. Meetings are underway here in Nunavut during this month with foster parents in the communities and representatives from every community in order to understand the situation. Furthermore, to extend our gratitude to the foster parents who are a bastion of support to the department, more work is being done to assist them.

What I can state now on this subject is that once Inuit families are involved, the case is identified and the communication trail is started. With respect to fostering children, the Department of Family Services doesn't just apprehend children forthwith, but in compliance with the legislation. There is even a requirement to sign off on a case if contemplation of apprehension of a child or teenager is involved, and then a form requiring parental signature has to be included

where the affected parents have to sign documents when either a child or teenager of theirs is being considered for placement in a foster home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that statement. As the minister responsible for this portfolio, you have to research this issue more deeply since Nunavut ought to be governed differently from the old NWT and our lifestyle today is completely different now in Nunavut.

As the minister, I urge you to formulate plans to resolve this issue specific to social work with the assistance of local Inuit experts in family resolution to work on a daily basis, to become employed in that capacity. By undertaking this type of local expertise usage, apprehension would no longer increase.

This practice we have today is obviously impacting lives today, the result of Inuit having willingly relinquished their parental rights, with no avenue for redress. No wonder our children are in a bind. I want you know that this has led to destruction of families as one of the factors.

As the minister, can you or your officials place more efforts on researching ways to get funding for interagency cooperation between the RCMP, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* experts, and social workers to look at the inclusion of Inuit experts on a daily basis? I would personally like to see a position such as

that where this person would become employed as the liaison specific to any cases involving children to ensure this process is fixed.

When verbal promises are the only reference to resolving this without recognition of Inuit practices, nothing will ever come to be resolved. I urge that funding be sought or requested to actually incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in a tangible manner so that it can become a position in the future to assist the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for providing the advice. This is the third year that the Department of Family Services has operated under the legislation the department was reorganized through. This legislation was put together by the Government of Nunavut.

As I stated earlier, the Inuit organizations are involved in the process and as a government, we identified seven positions in the communities to provide assistance to families. Arctic Bay is one of those communities. Under the legislation, Inuit organizations, the RCMP, the hospital and health centres, the Department of Family Services, and the municipalities can work closely together. This has been implemented.

Yes, I totally agree with you that it has to be considered as to how *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* can be more utilized or improved so that the business of having foster children can be decreased

instead of increasing. I have the same thoughts as my colleague in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. [Oral Questions]. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

**Question 403 – 4(3): Motion
Regarding the Establishment of a
Board of Management for the
Qikiqtani General Hospital**

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

Mr. Speaker, on November 6, 2014 Motion 16 – 4(2) regarding the establishment of a board of management at the Qikiqtani General Hospital was adopted without opposition in this House.

I moved the motion and I am sure the minister will recall that. For the benefit of my colleagues and the listening public, can the minister remind this House who seconded that motion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that the member and all of my colleagues and anyone who can read *Hansard* can find that information out. Mr. Speaker, I was the member that seconded that motion. Thank you.

>>Laughter

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the minister has a good memory.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the minister will recall that motion, as he has indicated. It was adopted in this House and it required the government to undertake a comprehensive review of the merits and benefits and also the logistics, administrative and financial aspects of establishing a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital and reporting on its considerations and findings on the first day of the 2015 fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly. That deadline was over a year ago now.

Will the minister commit to tabling this report at the earliest opportunity before the end of this current sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the passion that the member brings on this topic. At the time and I still think it is an important issue to explore. Unfortunately we have had a number of initiatives through the Department of Health that have had higher priority obligations from the department to utilize the capacity that we have.

That being said, I can assure the member that this is something I do speak to my officials on fairly regularly and it is not a

topic that is going to die on the order paper. I am very adamant that we will come to a conclusion on this report, but it is going to take a little bit of time. The report is not final right now. I have seen some very preliminary information from that topic and I have requested some further discussion on it. I can't commit at this time to having that tabled before the end of this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that's very disappointing because all sorts of things could always come into play and take precedence, and then you really never get to actually fulfilling the motion.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that when the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut adopts a motion, that motion expresses the will of the House. If it is the will of the House that the government undertake an activity or initiative, then it should be incumbent upon the government to do so.

Does the minister agree that the government has an obligation to meet the terms of the motion as agreed to by all Members of this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I appreciate the member's passion on this topic. I share the ideals that she is pushing for. A

motion in the House is just that, a motion in the House. There's an obligation for me as the Minister of Health to respond to that motion.

Unfortunately since I have come into this role, we have identified that the timing of the motion put forward was unrealistic with the level of detail and the level of thought. For the sake of just meeting the guideline and putting forward a report that is inadequate or may have not researched information is not how I plan on running the Department of Health.

When I bring forward a report on something, it's something that I have looked at, I have analyzed, and I can support. Until such time as I have a report of that nature in my hands to present to this Assembly, that's when it will come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 404 – 4(3): Community Justice Committee Appointments and Revocations

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

As the minister will recall, during our recent spring sitting I asked the minister a number of questions concerning the appointments and revocations of community justice committee members. In response the minister stated that he planned to look further into the issue and report back to the House. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate my questions today.

Can the minister indicate if community justice committees are required to provide information concerning the appointments and revocations of their members when they submit their reports and proposals for funding to his department? 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. Joanasie for the question and reminding me about the questioning in the spring. I have to commend the Cape Dorset justice committee, a very active committee up there.

Mr. Speaker, the justice committees are normally set up and established under hamlet councils and the hamlet councils would submit the funding agreements and proposals to the government. The contribution agreements are with the hamlets and then they flow the funds to the justice committees. The appointments and revocations are done by me. The justice committee itself does not send in these kinds of reports to our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the government, pursuant to the *Young Offenders Act*, may formally appoint members to these community justice committees to deal with cases involving Inuit youth. However, it is unclear if all members of community justice committees must be appointed under this statute. I know for a fact that the

department had a call-out for committee members this past August.

I would like to ask the minister if he can tell us today: is every member of a community justice committee also appointed as a member of a youth justice committee under the *Young Offenders Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. It is also my understanding that hamlet councils may sign agreements with the federal Crown counsel and the RCMP to provide community justice committees with the authority to deal with diverted criminal cases related to adult offences. Can the minister clarify the extent to which his department is involved in the development of such agreements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Joanasie for that question. Under clause 717 of the Criminal Code, this allows me as the Minister of Justice to appoint the members to the justice committee so that they could consider adult diversions when appropriate. Obviously, if there was someone charged with a real serious

offence, they're not going to be diverted to the justice committee.

We are very keen and supportive of restorative justice in the communities. If there is an adult case that can be diverted to a justice committee, where possible, the justice committee, the RCMP, and the department will try to do it that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 405 – 4(3): Considering Options for an Elders' Facility in Rankin Inlet

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

Mr. Speaker, the need to increase the level of elders' care in Nunavut has been expressed by a number of individuals and organizations, including myself.

The government must be proactive in considering options to open an elders facility in the community of Rankin Inlet. This summer I provided the Minister of Health with a copy of an appraisal done on a building in Rankin Inlet that could easily be repurposed into an elders facility.

Can the minister confirm whether or not he and his staff have had an opportunity to review the appraisal documents I gave him? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do recall getting that information from the member. We're still in the process of reviewing the details of it. It seems to conflict with some information that we had.

As I recall when I was a regular member, we did a tour of that facility in Rankin Inlet and the costs that were listed at that time to bring it up to code to use as a long-term care centre exceeded the costs of what the building's long-term value would pose, where the recommendation was to build a new facility.

The facility that the member speaks to is still being used for children. I can't remember the exact program that's being run out of there, but there is a daily program that's run out of that building right now for youth in the afternoons.

The goal is, and the member may be aware, I was just recently in Rankin Inlet about a week and a half ago speaking to the Kivalliq Inuit Association and other stakeholders, exploring how partnerships could be achieved to produce a long-term care facility in that community.

I understand the member's frustration with the capital planning process that the Government of Nunavut has with the conflicting and often dire need of capital infrastructure across this territory.

Right now it is my opinion that the best way forward with a facility of this nature in any community would be best dealt with on a fee for service from a society, as some of our existing contracts currently provide service to elders across our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I noted in my statement earlier today, the *Continuing Care in Nunavut* document which was tabled by a former Minister of Health in February recommended that existing infrastructure be repurposed to increase the capacity of residential long-term care. Does the minister agree with this recommendation and, if he does, would he not also agree that the recently appraised Rankin Inlet building would be ideal for repurposing into an elders' care facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's persistence with that specific existing facility.

With that being said, when the Department of Health surpluses a building such as a health centre or any other infrastructure that it has, the responsibility of that infrastructure then goes to Community and Government services that then do an evaluation on potential further uses of that building and different uses.

One of the priorities that this government has put forward is that when Community and Government Services looks at infrastructure that has been surplus by other government departments, one of the first things they

look at is the potential for it to be used as an elder care facility.

That being said, I do appreciate the member's persistence on this issue and I look forward to working with the member and with any other stakeholders that have real proposals that can be brought forward to provide long-term care in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that plans are underway to repurpose a section of the Kitikmeot Health Centre in Cambridge Bay to provide long-term care beds. Has the minister considered repurposing a section of the Kivalliq Health Centre in Rankin Inlet to provide long-term care beds so that some of our elders can come back home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I was in Rankin Inlet about a week and a half ago, I had the pleasure of touring the Rankin Inlet health facility there and had a chance to meet the majority of the fantastic staff that are working in that facility. One of the overarching themes that I got was that there is a need for space, even just for existing programs out of that facility, but I did have staff with me at the time.

I can commit to looking into that to see if it is feasible. Right now I can't comment whether that would be a path I would take. The Cambridge Bay health

facility was a different scenario than what is currently in Rankin Inlet, but is something I can explore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Question 406 – 4(3): Storage and Disposal of Waste Oil

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Yesterday I tabled a number of photos that illustrate the manner in which drums of waste oil and empty oil drums are stored in my community. Mr. Speaker, these photos show the numerous steel and plastic drums in which Sanikiluaq's waste oil is stored. These drums currently sit in a lot near the community dump.

As the minister is aware, his department's Petroleum Products Division is responsible for the "cost effective supply and delivery of fuel products to all Nunavut communities in a safe, efficient and environmentally responsible manner."

Can the minister indicate what specific steps the Petroleum Products Division takes to ensure that waste oil in the municipalities are stored and disposed of in an "environmentally responsible manner"? 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. I might have to answer this question as the environment minister on part of it, but the Petroleum Products Division brings up fuel like P-50 diesel fuel, naphtha, and aviation fuel. My understanding is that we don't bring up any oil *per se* like motor oil and engine oil. Most of that is brought up by the hamlets and the retailers.

With that being said, the hamlets do produce waste fuel because they have equipment that is used all the time and anyone that uses heavy equipment like trucks knows the oil has to be changed and the policy is that whoever uses the fuel is responsible for the disposal of it. There should be storage space and it has to be adequate storage space. The hamlets would have to be responsible for their own waste oil.

There are really only two ways of disposing of waste oil in Nunavut: you either ship it south or you burn it in a waste oil burner, which may be a furnace or burner. We work with the hamlets to try to mitigate the chances of this waste oil spilling. Once it's spilled, the Department of Environment gets involved because it's a contaminant and there should be no contaminants on the ground. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the municipalities may be responsible, but municipalities depend on funding from our government. I think, indirectly, our government should

be a little more responsible for their waste oil.

It is my understanding that the government's guidelines on the disposal of waste oil stipulates that all containers used to store substances must be inspected for leaks and damage. Can the minister tell us how often his department conducts inspections on the waste oil containers in communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The inspections are usually done by Department of Environment staff and I'll speak with that minister to make sure it's done.

The containers have to be leak-proof. I know there are regulations in terms of quantities too. The more petroleum product you have stored, the more stringent the regulations are in terms of storage. It is a problem that is not specific to Sanikiluaq; it's a problem all over in Nunavut. We have to work on it as a team to get the problem done because we want our environment to be clean and pristine and we have to work together to try to achieve that goal.

If the inspections are by CGS, they don't have the expertise to do environmental inspections and that is generally done by the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope both ministers get a chance to sit down and talk to each other on that issue.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, it is also my understanding that the government's own guidelines on the disposal of waste oil stipulate that steel drums should only be used to store substances until treatment and disposal options are identified and that "storage is not acceptable for the long-term management" of this type of waste.

Can the minister indicate what specific plans his department has to treat and dispose of waste oil in our communities, if there are any? 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. The disposal of waste oil is a very broad and big issue in Nunavut. The parties that use the oil and make the waste oil are responsible for their disposal, whether it be the hamlet, the power corporation, or a private business. Each entity is responsible for the disposal.

With that being said, we don't have an overall plan on how to dispose of it, but as I said earlier, right now there are really only two ways, that is, to ship it south, which is quite costly and I'm aware of that, and to burn it off in a waste oil furnace or burner. We also can't just burn it because that puts pollutants into the environment and the

environment protection officers would be at the person's case if they just started burning waste oil.

It's a problem that we have to tackle and we will. I will look into it because it's a problem everywhere. Currently, right now, we don't have any real guidelines or a method of disposing of waste oil as a government. Each company and each entity that produces waste oil is responsible for the disposal of their waste oil. It's an issue that is in the back of my mind and I will be trying to come up with solutions on how to deal with waste oil in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 407 – 4(3): Proper Signage at the Iqaluit Airport

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Transportation. I've had discussions with her on this topic.

The situation here in Iqaluit is that our airport is used by everyone and the signage has not kept up to par with that reality. I went up to the airport this morning to take a look as I had to pick up someone. As I entered the building, I noted signage at the entrance noting security camera recordings in English and Inuktitut.

Farther inside there were quite a few signs that had no Inuktitut signage and upon my exiting, I noted that there was a stick-on sign near the stairway only in English denoting danger of the slippery

stairs, to take note in case you should slip.

What immediately caught my attention were members of the public who are unable to read English. Aren't they also supposed to know these dangers as well so that they don't place themselves in danger? Can the minister elaborate on when this will be rectified? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for directing that to me. I've had discussions with you on the same topic, so we are aware of these issues. Whenever we visit any of our communities, we also look at the signage. Yes, this signage was something I also noted, with no corresponding Inuktitut and only English available. I informed my officials of that fact.

There are signs currently being developed as signs no longer take long periods to change, especially the stick-on or metallic signs. If the sign is only on paper, then the changes will be made sooner. Further, when members landed at the airport, I imagine you all noted the signage in all languages stating arrivals in Iqaluit. Now the other signs are being developed with all four official languages included. We do recognize the legal requirements in that regard, but I have been informed that the new terminal signage will be in all four languages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, one of the signs stuck onto the stairway wall can easily be remedied with a new sign. Currently the sign is a sticky style sign in English denoting the slippery steps and to take care. I wonder if another similar sign with Inuktitut wording could be added to stairs as they are quite dangerous and to add French as well since we also represent them here in Iqaluit. I imagine this sign can be quickly fixed by her office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for indicating that. We don't want to see anybody slipping. I will point this out to our staff to get it rectified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 408 – 4(3): Issues with the Medical Boarding Home in Iqaluit

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

Mr. Speaker, in representing Inuit from our constituency communities, prior to our sessions, some of us consult with our constituents to determine the concerns and to prioritize the concerns from them.

This particular concern crops up at all meetings, at least in my constituency, where medical patients board at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. The boarding home continues to be a concern to my constituents who have to undergo medical travel to Iqaluit to attend to medical appointments. Although it is a boarding home for medical patients from the communities, it is currently open to all people.

Furthermore, an ongoing concern expressed by patients is the lack of cleanliness in the rooms or cleaning that is late after their arrival. Medical patients need to be in a clean environment.

Now, I have raised this matter previously in my questions on how improvements can be made to the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, to renovate and improve the home. Can the minister indicate whether or not any renovation or improvement work has been done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing forward his community's concerns. I was in Arctic Bay fairly recently and some similar concerns came to my attention. When I returned from that, I did let my officials in the department know that there were concerns coming from communities on the conditions at the boarding home here in Iqaluit.

I do know that health staff have met with staff of the board and there was recently a letter submitted to them addressing

some of the concerns that we had, cleanliness being one of the concerns. We're awaiting a response and we will be going into the facility again. We do meet quarterly with them, but we will be going into the facility again to make sure that they're living up to their obligations. 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 of Health stating that this will be worked on.

Another issue relates to patients with disabilities who also have to board at the home, with some patients unable to walk or in wheelchairs who have to stay at the boarding home. I wonder if this issue is also being reviewed, along with the other areas, as some patients who have severe disabilities or those who can't walk face undue hardship in trying to enter and exit the building.

It seems like it was an afterthought to include the disabled access into Tammaativvik as the entrance can be problematic. Will this be part of their considerations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like a lot of our challenges in Nunavut when we're dealing with infrastructure, it's recognizing the anticipated need. There are wheelchair-accessible rooms in the facility, maybe not enough of them, but that's something that is difficult to address with infrastructure that has been built already.

That being said, we do try to make every accommodation possible, especially for people with mobility issues. There are ramps getting into the building, but there are a limited number of rooms that are wheelchair-accessible. I appreciate the member's comments and going forward, it will be something that we look at a lot more seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 409 – 4(3): Caribou Management in Nunavut

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in listening to the Minister of Environment, something really caught my attention, so my line of questions will be directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few years there has been a lot of media attention on the status of caribou populations that are shared by Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and Manitoba.

Can the minister indicate how often his department meets with First Nations in the Northwest Territories and Manitoba to discuss caribou conservation and harvesting practices? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his concerns about caribou. It has been in the media a lot and it's a concern for

many people, including myself.

For the Qamanirjuaq and Beverly caribou herd, they have a Qamanirjuaq Beverly committee, a caribou management board that has members from Nunavut, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories. I believe they meet once a year, I think. I could be wrong. It's either once or twice a year they do meet and it's an independent body and they have members from varying communities. Any concerns that they have at the end of their meetings is brought to my department and the concerns are looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The department's current business plan indicates that it has completed a "new population estimate of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd." Can the minister indicate when this new population estimate will be made available to the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time the population of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd was surveyed for population estimates was in June of 2014 and at that time they estimated the population to be roughly 260,000. As it's very costly to do an actual population estimate, it is not done annually.

Annually they do a composite survey, which is to figure out how many calves survived the winter and how many cows are there. That is done annually as long as snow conditions permit it. That gives us an idea of whether the trend for the population is going up or down.

The member wanted to know the last time. It was in 2014 and at that time it was estimated at roughly 260,000.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The department's current business plan also indicates that it had planned to "submit the Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in early 2016."

Can the minister confirm that this plan has been completed and submitted to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear that the member is concerned about the Baffin Island caribou too because it is a concern.

My department is working on the caribou management plan for Baffin Island. It's almost complete, but it's not complete yet. Once it's completed, there will be consultations with the communities. They will have input into

the final draft and then that will be presented to the NWMB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 410 – 4(3): Medical Travel

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

As I believe the minister is aware, an incident occurred in Pond Inlet this past summer during which medical travel passengers from the community were bumped from their First Air flight to Iqaluit in order to make room for tourists who wanted to make flight connections.

Mr. Speaker, the airline's actions in this incident were unacceptable to the community and they were unacceptable to me as the elected Member of the Legislative Assembly.

My first question for the minister is this: does he share my outrage at First Air's actions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could answer that question very simply, but I will elaborate a little bit.

Medical travel is a key component of health care for Nunavummiut. Anytime there is any type of a challenge or delay, it creates a lot of work for a lot of people in rescheduling appointments,

identifying accommodations, and making sure that our residents get the level of care they need when they need it.

Anytime there's a delay due to conditions that are outside of the contract that we have with the airlines, I do share the member's outrage. There have been a lot of communications with all airlines that are involved in medical travel to make sure those occurrences don't happen again.

That being said, there's an old saying, "To err is human." I don't want to put too much pressure on the individual that maybe misunderstood the policy. I trust that the airlines have communicated with their staff that medical travel clients are a priority on any flight in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the response to a written question concerning the status of the government's contracts for medical travel on scheduled airlines was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. It indicates that the government paid the airlines over \$50.6 million during the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Can the minister confirm whether or not he or his department has formally raised the Pond Inlet incident directly with First Air's senior management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that officials from the Department of Health have contacted the airline. I don't know to what level that message got out. I do know that both airlines have officials in Nunavut that do follow the proceedings of the legislature. I know the incident that did happen in Pond Inlet. Like I stated, I trust that the airlines have put measures in place so that it does not happen again because that's unacceptable.

We work very hard to provide adequate health care to our residents. Like I stated earlier, whenever there is a phase or any part of the continuum of health care that breaks down, it causes a lot of havoc, not only for the staff involved with the rescheduling but for the stress of the family and medical patients that had anticipated leaving that day to get their treatments that they were scheduled for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's current contracts for medical travel on scheduled airlines all expire in less than a year from now. Can the minister assure me and all Members of the House today that the government's next set of contracts for medical travel on scheduled airlines will make it crystal clear that Nunavummiut travelling for medical treatment and appointments have priority over other classes of passengers and will not be bumped from their flights? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working with the departments of CGS, Finance, and Economic Development and Transportation in preparing the contracting process to make sure that we get the best procurement method for these types of contracts. For myself, I can't fathom any type of medical travel contract that wouldn't prioritize our medical travel patients. I can't anticipate that being any type of a contentious issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 411 – 4(3): Activities of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Ms. Angnakak: I just made it.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

I want to begin by congratulating the minister on her recent announcement concerning her recent decision regarding the realignment of responsibilities for tourism in Nunavut and her willingness to listen and act on recommendations made by our standing committees.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to the issue of recommendations that have been made in respect to the activities of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, both NBCC's own board of directors and the standing committee which held televised hearings on

NBCC's annual reports have supported the recommendation to amend section 37 of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's enabling legislation to increase its maximum loan limit. Why has the minister not yet introduced these amendments in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation plays an important role, as we all know, in Nunavut's economic growth through the provision of term loans, loan guarantees, and contract security bonding to enterprises that cannot obtain the necessary financing from other traditional financial institutions.

I am aware of recent comments of the Information and Privacy Commissioner on the public disclosure of loan information, and we are still reviewing this matter at this time and our position as yet has not changed. We are working to address the standing committee's report. We're looking forward to sharing the information with our members once they are ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe my question was answered. Can I read it again?

Both NBCC's own board of directors and the standing committee which held televised hearings on NBCC's annual reports have supported the recommendation to amend section 37 of NBCC's enabling legislation to increase its maximum loan limit.

Just so the minister might remember, the maximum loan limit is at \$1 million and they are asking for an increase to \$2 million.

Even though everybody has agreed that this should happen, why has the minister not yet introduced these amendments to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member asking questions on this topic. We have to look at them carefully and how they operate. We're still in the planning stages. Once the planning is completed, we will want to table those plans and we will need to identify where the funding would come from. These would have to be reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try with the second one.

During our recent televised hearings on the annual report of the Information and

Privacy Commissioner, the secretary to cabinet, who is the Government of Nunavut's most senior official, publicly stated that NBCC is working to address the issue of removing the secrecy that still surrounds who receives the loans that are made by NBCC using public funds.

Can the minister responsible for NBCC update us today on what specific actions are being taken by NBCC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the recommendations to publicly disclose loan information, at this time the board met recently and they have discussed that possibility. At this time they are still reviewing the matter on how to let all their clients know that in the future they will have to publicly disclose their information. This takes time and at this time the board is still reviewing it. I have discussed it with them and I expect that moving forward, the recommendations will be upheld. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Angnakak. The time for question period has expired. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I seek

unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 on the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. Ms. Ell-Kanayuk, please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize in the House Rowena House, Executive Director of the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. Accompanying her is Lavinia van Heuvelen, who is the chairperson of the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, a youth who makes jewellery at Nunavut Arctic College, who took the course in Iqaluit and is very capable now. Also a seamstress and teacher is long-time resident of Iqaluit Elisapee Davidee Aningmiuq. I thank them for being in the gallery.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Member for Uqsuqtuuq, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 183 – 4(3):
Resolutions from the 2016 Annual
General Meeting of the Kitikmeot
Inuit Association**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I had the honour of joining my colleagues from Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, and Netsilik on the occasion of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's recent annual general meeting, which was held earlier this month.

I am pleased to table today eight resolutions, one of which is suicide prevention, that were adopted at the meeting, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

**Tabled Document 184 – 4(3): A Copy
of Nunavut Tunngavik
Incorporated Resolution**

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I indicated in my Member's Statement, the need for an elders facility is critical. This need has been recognized for some time by organizations, such as Nunavut Tunngavik. I would like to table copies of the NTI resolutions from their annual general meeting which show support for the establishment of a 24-hour care facility in the community of Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of

Documents. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2017-2018 – First Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 24, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2017-2018 – Second Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 24, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending

March 31, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 24 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 24 with Mr. Akoak 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 15:22 and Committee resumed at 15:50*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut watching the televised hearings and listening to the radio.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 24. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon to you and my fellow committee members.

Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with Bill 24, beginning with the review of the capital estimates for the

Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 24?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation if she has officials that she would like to appear before the committee. Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Yes. Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Sherri Rowe, my Deputy Minister, and to my right is Art Stewart, Director of Transportation Policy and Planning.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, proceed with your opening

comments.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I am very pleased to be here to review the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's capital estimates for 2017-18 with the Committee of the Whole.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is proposing \$61,332,000 in spending in our capital estimates for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

To help answer the committee's detailed questions on the proposed capital projects, I have key members of the department's senior management team with me: Sherri Rowe, Deputy Minister; Art Stewart, Director of Transportation Policy and Planning; and Tanya Winmill, Director of Finance and Administration.

I will begin this review by discussing the capital estimates related to the Airports Division.

Airports

A significant portion of this budget, \$8,472,000, is funding for the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project. As my colleagues know from their last tour of ongoing construction, this project is the largest and most complex project that the Government of Nunavut has ever undertaken.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report that the project is proceeding on time and on budget. With this phase of the improvement project

wrapping up in 2017, the 2017-18 fiscal year will be the last year of major capital funding for this project.

Another airport improvement project, not as big as the Iqaluit project, but just as important for local residents, is the Taloyoak Air Terminal Building project. I am pleased to announce that \$3,960,000 has been allocated to the construction of this much-needed facility in 2017-18. The current facility was constructed in 1980 and is the last of the "freezer" style air terminal buildings in the Kitikmeot region. It has reached the end of its useful life.

Parking garages play an essential role in the protection of Nunavut Airports' substantial investment in airport mobile equipment. To this end we are providing \$900,000 to complete mechanical and electrical systems for parking garages in Arctic Bay and Igloolik.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the funding for the previously mentioned projects, there are other airport projects, more precisely airport equipment purchases under \$250,000, which are grouped together under the heading of Small Capital Projects.

Further, we have allocated \$700,000 to complete six projects, which will include runway inspection vehicles for Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, snow blower attachments for Whale Cove, Coral Harbour, and Kugaaruk, and loader attachments for Rankin Inlet.

Several larger equipment purchases will be made under the Transportation Equipment and Facilities project heading. Under this heading we have allocated \$1.7 million to purchase

graders for Baker Lake and Kugluktuk and a multitasking high-speed airport unit for Rankin Inlet. This will help us address recurring runway friction problems at the Rankin Inlet Airport caused by climate change.

As the next item I would like to discuss the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre.

Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre

The Kivalliq is the only Nunavut region without a visitor centre. Construction of the facility, which will be located at the Williamson Lake area of Rankin Inlet, began this year. Funding in the amount of \$2 million has been allocated to continue the construction phase in 2017-18. Completion is expected in the fall of 2017.

Our next items relate to marine infrastructure.

Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to announce that the large marine infrastructure projects for both Iqaluit and Pond Inlet are proceeding as planned. The \$6.2 million funding appropriated for these projects for fiscal year 2016-17 has allowed the engagement of a prime consultant and related initiation of environmental and geotechnical work at both sites. An additional \$3 million has been allocated to further these projects in the fiscal year of 2017-18.

We have also included \$500,000 in this capital plan to make minor improvements to community marine facilities across Nunavut under our own small craft harbours budget. While modest, this investment demonstrates

our commitment to the development of marine infrastructure and is essential to our continued efforts to encourage the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to invest in small craft harbours in Nunavut.

We propose making the majority of the funding for community marine facilities available to communities under contribution agreements so that communities can work on the priority projects that they have identified.

Mr. Chairman, this capital plan was put together with much consideration given to prudent spending and with a primary focus on safety, which is our number one concern. I believe that this [plan] is in line with the department's mandate as we continue to strengthen partnerships with the federal government, industry, and our communities to ensure that the investments we make in Nunavut have a lasting impact on our transportation system as well as the economic and social future of our territory.

I will be glad to answer any questions from my fellow members.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations concerning its review of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and

Transportation. The department's proposed capital budget for 2017-18 is \$61,332,000. The department's capital budget was \$68,325,000 for the 2016-17 fiscal year and \$81,426,000 for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, some of the objectives of the government's current *Nunavut Transportation Strategy*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 5 of 2009, are to "Assure the integrity of the Nunavut transportation system by ensuring every community has infrastructure adequate for its needs within that system" and to "Enhance the current airport system."

On September 20 of 2012 a federal-territorial news release announced that the P3 Canada Fund would contribute "up to \$77.3 million" to the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project. On September 17 of 2013 the Department of Economic Development and Transportation announced that the Government of Nunavut had "signed the contract with Arctic Infrastructure Partners to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project." On July 10 of 2014 the Government of Nunavut issued a news release to "mark the start of construction for the new Iqaluit International Airport Project." The release indicated that the project "is scheduled to open and begin operations in late summer 2017."

The Government of Nunavut's total proposed capital estimates for the 2017-18 fiscal year is \$200,644,000. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's capital estimates include \$48,472,000 in funding for the new Iqaluit International Airport. This

single project represents approximately 24 percent, or one-quarter, of the government's total capital budget. This project's share of the government's 2016-17 capital estimates was approximately 30 percent. This project's share of the government's 2015-16 capital estimates was approximately 37 percent.

The standing committee urges the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning the status of this project, including the extent to which Inuit employment targets are being met. The standing committee also urges the minister to be mindful of the needs of smaller communities. For example, the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment: 2014-2034* report indicates that new airport terminal buildings are required for the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, and Whale Cove, and that major renovations are required for the airport terminal buildings in Baker Lake and Cape Dorset.

On February 25 of 2016 the federal Minister of Transport tabled the final report of the *Canada Transportation Act Review Panel*. The report recommended that the federal government provide "targeted financial support for runway extensions and surfacing (e.g. paving), as well as for 24-hour automated weather systems and modern landing and approach systems in applicable communities in the territories. To facilitate these improvements, an investment of \$50 million per year over ten years is recommended to address the most significant infrastructure gaps, either by augmenting the Airports Capital Assistance Program, or by

creating a new ‘Northern Airports Capital Assistance Program.’”

The standing committee encourages the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to vigorously lobby her federal counterpart for implementation of the panel’s recommendations. Members also encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning her department’s work with NAV CANADA and the Northern Air Transport Association concerning such matters as navigational aids and airport infrastructure.

On March 11, 2016 the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation tabled the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment: 2014-2034*. This important report recommended that “a feasibility study be undertaken to determine the cost and benefits of constructing a new high arctic hub airport at Pond Inlet for civil and military purposes.” The report also identified Kimmirut’s airport as being a priority for relocation.

The department’s proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$2.5 million in funding for small capital projects and transportation equipment. The majority of this funding is for the acquisition of mobile equipment for Nunavut airports. However, the extent to which the department’s mobile equipment acquisitions reflect the needs identified in the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment: 2014-2034* report is unclear.

In August of 2015 the department’s *Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy* was revised. Schedule A

of the policy details departmental support for “Access Roads and Community Marine Infrastructure.” Schedule B details departmental support for “Small Craft Harbour Capital Contributions.”

This policy requires the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to “table annually in the Legislative Assembly a summary of contributions detailing the amount of each contribution, the type of initiative being supported, and community.” The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling of departmental annual reports on contributions made under both Schedule A and Schedule B of the policy.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation’s proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$500,000 in funding for small craft harbour capital contributions. This amount has been included in the department’s annual capital estimates since the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Members have noted that the department’s current practice appears to be based on providing contributions to the greatest possible number of applicants rather than focusing on fully funding a smaller number of projects during each fiscal year. Members have recommended that the department reconsider this approach. The standing committee is pleased to note that the major marine infrastructure projects for Iqaluit and Pond Inlet are moving forward.

The department’s 2010-11 capital estimates included \$700,000 in funding for a new Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre. A number of capital carryovers

have been approved by the Legislative Assembly in recent years for this project. The department's current five-year capital plan indicates that it will spend a total of approximately \$5.95 million on this project, with \$2.0 million being allocated for this project in the 2017-18 fiscal year. \$3.0 million was allocated for this project in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The department's proposed 2017-18 budget for small capital projects also includes \$100,000 for transportation-related studies. The standing committee encourages the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the results of these studies.

The department's 2014-15 capital estimates included \$2.8 million in funding for the replacement of the government's Motor Vehicle Information System. Its 2015-16 capital estimates included \$1.2 million in funding for this project. The department's 2016-17 capital estimates included \$500,000 in funding for this project. In June of 2015 the Legislative Assembly approved a \$2.8 million capital carryover for this project. During the winter 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly \$3,079,000 in supplementary funding was approved for the project. Information provided by the department indicated that the total system cost would be approximately \$7,579,000. In June of 2016 the Legislative Assembly approved a \$4.0 million capital carryover for this project.

Mr. Chairman, the importance of ensuring that such documents as driver's licences and general identification cards are issued in a timely manner to Nunavut residents has been raised in the

Legislative Assembly on numerous occasions. In some cases, residents, especially in smaller communities, have had to wait up to one year for their documents to arrive. This is unacceptable, and members are hopeful that the department's new Motor Vehicle Information System will resolve these problems.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I want to remind members that the contents of the minister's opening comments are covered in the different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches.

The floor is now open for general comments. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would first like to welcome the minister and her officials.

In looking through, the most expensive one is always obvious, which is the Iqaluit airport project. Looking at the initial plans, they had indicated that the proposed airport would include a jet bridge, especially for people with disabilities. It became clear afterward that those were taken off the project without changing the cost of the project.

How can people with physical disabilities and elders be assisted in boarding and disembarking airplanes at

this very expensive airport? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. Our department has had discussions because this was an ongoing concern for the airport terminal building and how we can put in structures for disabled people. The airlines should be working more on this, but I'm happy to say that the work was kept ongoing and we will be establishing jet ramps next year to provide access for people with disabilities. This is currently being developed, and we anticipate the materials to arrive on the first sealift ship that breaks through to the town next summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for pushing for that. The airport terminal building costs a lot of money. It's a little over half a billion dollars. To my knowledge this is not a normal project. Can the department conduct a study on what would have been the result if the government had constructed this independently? If it had been a project by government only, what would have been the result and what is the result of the way the project is handled today budget-wise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you. I would like the Director of Policy and Planning, Art Stewart, to respond.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not looked into his question. We can look into how we can consider it and we will be going through you to respond to the question and look into the details of the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The project is over half a billion dollars now, according to Schedule 4. I would like to find out how much it would have cost if it was a regular government project as opposed to a P3 project.

Can the department undertake an independent review of the actual costs of the project if it were undertaken through the normal government processes so that we can learn from this project, if we want to do more P3 projects, if they're more cost-effective? If not, we can make a decision in the future as to the proper ways of undertaking such huge projects in our territory.

Can the department commit to doing an independent study on this particular project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page K-3 questions already. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can get a different earpiece, I think one of the earpieces isn't working properly. I can respond to

him that yes, our staff can do a study on what he's requesting, an independent study. I think the mic was turned off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We will take a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 16:20 and resumed at 16:22

Chairman: Thank you. We just had some technical issues. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for willing to take an independent study.

Now, in reviewing the plans and since I have visited quite a number of communities throughout Nunavut, some of the terminals are minute in size. As an example, Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, and Whale Cove have airports today that are not up to standards. The terminals get very cold and luggage is offloaded outside of the terminal. Passengers have to wait outside as well since the terminals are very small, with some having to stay outside in the winter.

The plans, as I reviewed them, don't even mention when these communities will be placed on the plan for air terminals. I would like to know what the department has planned for these three communities in particular. I would like to find that out first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Art Stewart.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The following communities were identified as being priority candidates for airport terminal buildings that includes Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Naujaat, Taloyoak, and Whale Cove. Under the current capital plan only the funding for Taloyoak was approved. We did identify the other projects as being priorities and we will continue to submit these projects for consideration in the following five-year capital plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reviewing the contents of (interpretation ends) Schedule 4, (interpretation) nothing is written in the report about the communities that are identified for planning purposes and there is no reference. How will these communities be able to commence the work? They are still waiting for air terminal project start dates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to requesting funds for capital projects, the Minister of Finance is familiar with the process, but at this time we anticipate this fall where we will get the request to identify the key capital projects we wish to pursue. My

department will obviously push to complete these projects. Although we are aware of the urgency of the situation, our projects don't get approved when other more urgent work is required. We will work to keep pushing for these projects and that is all we can speak to at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I wish to move on to another subject, as one of the issues affects part of my constituency regarding the proposed port. I am happy to hear of this project as it will provide many benefits to our community, as most communities require ports or breakwaters to provide assistance to their local hunters. They are the ones who are most affected. Nonetheless, we also hear of the issues faced by private homeowners on the beachfront that may be impacted. What is the plan to provide assistance to them as this project moves forward? I would like to find that out first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Art Stewart.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have met already with some of the residents that had concerns. We will consult with them. The project has not advanced far enough to actually answer your question as to what is going to happen. We will continue to consult as

the design stage goes forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate it if we are kept up to date on the project and what is going to be happening, especially for those private homeowners who have houses down by the shore, so I'll be able to keep them informed about what's happening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That was just a comment. We are on page K-3. Comments or questions? Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister Ell-Kanayuk and your officials, welcome first all. I wish to speak to the Taloyoak Air Terminal project. I am pleased and grateful that the government started the project. I don't really have a question pertaining to that terminal, but I do have detailed questions and I will ask them at the appropriate time, Mr. Chairman.

At this time I can only smile, but when I hear the details about the interior work or problems related to the project, I may not be smiling at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to speak.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear a question, Mr. Chairman. He indicated that he will ask questions at the appropriate time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I believe we're on K-2, Transportation. I wanted to talk a little bit about our new airport. I know my colleague, Mr. Okalik, raised some of the issues. Just so that everybody understands and gets a clear idea of where we sit now with the construction of the new airport, can we get a status update, please, on where we are with the new airport for Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's proceeding as planned and we're on budget for the next year. It is expected to be completed by the fall and we're looking at completing it in August 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. In your department's substantiation sheet for the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project it indicated that "Prior to the commencement of procurement, the project team sought and received Cabinet approval regarding the proposed strategy for complying with Article 24 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. The approach taken focused around guaranteed minimum levels of Inuit labour during construction and operations, with incentives for increasing levels of Inuit labour." As of today, how many beneficiaries are working on the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This agreement is based on the employers who have attained the 10 percent aboriginal employees' requirement or who have surpassed it. Nonetheless, I cannot state how many companies have attained that, although I can state it is roughly 15 percent, but I don't have the actual numbers with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you don't know the numbers, then who is providing the oversight? I think that's a number that you should know because it's part of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How the process works right now is that, according to the contract, there must be a minimum of 15 percent of the value of the work undertaken by Inuit employees. What happens is that the company has to report their Inuit engagement numbers to the GN monthly and who looks at that is our NNI Policy division.

Currently what's happening right now is they are working on the 2015 report. What they do is they go through the numbers to confirm and make sure that what they are reporting monthly to us is actually correct. That is in the process

right now and once that is completed, it will then be able to be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. That leads to my next question and that is: when you said 15 percent, what does that equal to in dollar value that is going out to Inuit employment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) With respect to the employees and their rates, I can state that with the contracts held by Inuit businesses, including subcontracts, at this time we have heard that they have earned approximately \$42 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's quite a big number going to Inuit who are working on the project. What's the turnover rate like? I would imagine that with those kinds of dollars, maybe it's pretty stable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say yes because, going back to the Inuit employment numbers, they are supposed to be at 10 percent or more. They have exceeded that. We're currently reporting at 17.5 percent Inuit employment.

(interpretation) Right now they're at 15 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to talk about something else, a little bit about the Iqaluit improvement project again. The Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project, I believe, is the official name. It's something I think that we have spoken about in the House a bit before, but I would like to go back to it and ask a question on it.

It's to do with "In the long term, a second land swap will be needed for the eventual growth of the airport." The land swap involves the "airport acquiring additional land owned by the City and commonly referred to as North 40." We all know that that land is pretty contaminated by the previous landowner, who was the federal government.

Before any land swap can take place, a full environmental clean-up will have to be undertaken. At this time I don't think there is an agreement in place for such a clean-up. What actions have been taken to enter into an agreement for the clean-up of the site? Are you beginning those kinds of conversations now or have they not taken place or are they completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not dealing with that matter currently, as this was just started with planning for additional work in the

next fiscal year, perhaps in the fall and not August, as per my earlier statement. It started in August two years ago, but we anticipate that it will be completed by fall 2017 with final work done. This site has a 30-year lifespan for the airport. We will work on that for the foreseeable future to reach the full capacity of the airport.

Furthermore, although I can't provide details as it is under the purview of the Minister of Education through the (interpretation ends) student residence (interpretation) that you referred to, as that is under that department, we would have to debate that with them as it is currently in use. Perhaps the Minister of Education can provide more details on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we spoke to the Minister of Environment before, and I think there are some contaminated sites that I believe are under Environment. Is this one of the sites? With your involvement with other departments, has it been determined which other departments, other than Arctic College? North 40 is not just the old Ukiivik; it's actually a bigger land area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand the issue being referred to in the question. With respect to the airport project, we requested additional funding for the clean-up of certain areas of the airport prior to paving the runway. This had to

be done and we had to negotiate with the Department of Environment and the federal government to ensure that our government wasn't the only one funding the clean-up, especially since the land was owned by another government previously. Ongoing work will be required, including negotiating with the different levels, to deal with any environmental clean-up related to that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. I want to go to a different document and I'm going to the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment*. I just want to note that you didn't mention it anywhere in your opening comments or anything and it seems to be such a substantial document. It's got lots of information on it. I'm going to be the first one to admit that this is a new area for me. I haven't worked in the area of airports and that, but I did find it a very interesting read.

What I found interesting too was that it states in here that the GN is the airport manager for every airport, so you guys, the department, and I think it even makes reference to... . I forget where I read that now, but the deputy minister is the "accountable executive." You have a lot of responsibilities on your shoulders.

This report has a lot of information about lots of things, really, about the needs and the consequences of not fulfilling some of those needs, but I don't see a reference to it in your opening comments. It seems to be such an important document, but it's not in here.

One of the things that I read in here, it talks about current deviations for operating certificates. Of course I'm no pilot. I don't know. What I'm reading is what I'm trying to understand. It says here that "Certain safety related conditions exist that do not meet the normal requirements for aerodromes of this license type." It's talking about the different airstrips and that, I think. I just would like to know if you or one of your staff could really explain that statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*. (interpretation) I'm trying to follow what she was talking about. When she referenced the document, she didn't indicate the page number, but I would like to ask if it's on page 4. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On 4.2, Current Deviations, and the page number is 4-2. I'm sorry I didn't say that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Art Stewart to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are certain deviations at airports that do not currently meet transportation standards. However, our department has authorization to continue and work on

correcting these deviations. I believe it mentions that seven of our airports are in that type of position. For instance, there may be terrain around existing airports that provide challenges. Our Nunavut Airports has been in contact with Transport Canada and has got permission to operate within those limits that exist. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I was wondering if you could tell me, then, perhaps the minister's staff once again, if there are limitations on time frames for those deviations, how long is Transport Canada willing to wait before these deviations are mitigated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had discussions with Transport Canada, but we don't know right now how long they can wait. On page 4.1 that she's referring to, it indicates which airports are affected. I can use an example. Pangnirtung is one of the affected communities and we're presently looking into which avenues we can take on dealing with that. We're presently working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. There are three questions I would like to ask actually.

Under Mitigation you either have "Not in Needs Assessment" or "Included in

Needs Assessment.” Can you give me the total value of funds that will be required that are already included in the needs assessment? What is the total cost of the needs assessment that is already in place? What is the cost that you haven’t included in the needs assessment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These budget estimates are not listed in this document because obviously the document is primarily for review of the priorities our department has in this field. Perhaps the budget estimates can be processed using the government procedures. Whenever a callout is issued, our department undertakes the next step.

My deputy will provide further details on the process. I would ask that Art Stewart be allowed to elaborate on the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The entire infrastructure needs for Nunavut Airports is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$475 million. We try to whittle away at that every year. I can’t tell you exactly how much further we have to go because prices increase every year, but that is a fairly good rough estimate of our infrastructure deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I just want to remind all members that we are here to deal with the proposed capital budget for

2017-18. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I am on that when I’m talking about capital infrastructure for airports. That’s what we’re on. That’s what I’m asking questions on. This is a needs assessment that the department has done and if you look through them and read through them, you will note that most of them are not in the proposed capital requests, so it’s good to go through it.

When you mentioned that big number of over \$400 million for what Nunavut Airports needs right now, has this been conveyed to the federal government? Is there any other funding? I’m sure you have, but are there any other funding sources? I think there is the airport capital project funding, if I am correct, and I have no idea what is in that pot or what you can access. Could you elaborate a little bit on that, on what you have done to try to address some of these priorities?

Some of them are safety priorities. When you look at the Kimmirut Airport relocation and the Pangnirtung relocation, you have the Grise Fiord Airport, and they all need those new weight regulations. I think these airports have imposed restrictions on different aircraft, which according to this report means that the companies are charging us more money because they have to use smaller planes that are more expensive.

Some of the airstrips in 2010, it says here, “Transport Canada first proposed that new regulations requiring Runway End Safety Areas...” That’s another safety issue. I’m bringing this up

because it is about transportation and airports.

That is a lot of money that Mr. Stewart stated. If you can elaborate a little bit more on that, it would be great. Thank you. That's my last question.

Chairman: Thank you. Please remember that we have interpreters. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These capital requests are negotiated with the federal government each year, especially for urgent cases. My Deputy Minister, Sherri Rowe, will provide more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are always working diligently trying to find funding for our airport needs. There is the Airports Capital Assistance Program. There is the Building Canada Fund. Unfortunately for most of these funds, we're not the only department that has infrastructure needs. We are always looking for whatever funding we can.

Unfortunately we do have an infrastructure deficit of over \$400 million, and all we can do is keep pushing forward and do the best we can do because there are other government priorities, unfortunately, that also have serious implications. We do what we can with the money we have, but we're always looking for other avenues to get more money. One of those was for the Iqaluit airport using a P3 project, right? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on K-3. Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$59,332,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon and welcome, Madam Minister and your officials.

Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me, I would like to get back to the opening comments. In Madam Minister's opening comments, I'm just asking for clarification on page 3 in English, the last paragraph, which is also on page 3 in Inuktitut, although it's not the last paragraph in Inuktitut.

I won't read the actual passage, but I feel that I can paraphrase the wording which states that the airport in Rankin Inlet will have to purchase a snow clearing machine, if I am not mistaken, at least an airport multitasking vehicle. It states the reasoning for the purchase of these units is due to climate change. The English version is self-explanatory and so is the Inuktitut version.

I just want further elaboration, Mr. Chairman, what exactly is meant here when it states that this is "caused by climate change." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this is very expensive. It's a multitasking high-speed unit. It's not just for snow removal and I'm not a professional at that, but according to the

briefing I heard, the airstrip becomes slippery. In Rankin Inlet it's a paved airstrip like the one in Iqaluit. Sometimes a paved airstrip becomes very slippery due to weather. I'm sure it's not clear, but that's part of it, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not clear. I don't understand it clearly. Because their climate is changing, what is it changing now? I know that the airstrip in Rankin Inlet is paved; I'm not concerned about that. What is climate change affecting at the airport? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have Art Stewart answer the question. It has to do with the weather where it now rains when it didn't used to rain and the climate is warmer than it used to be. Sometimes it causes more freezing. I'll have Art Stewart respond to this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the last several years there have been many more delays and cancellations due to weather, due to snow, hail, and rain. Whether that can all be blamed on climate change or not, there is certainly something happening with the weather. We seem to have a lot more severe weather events and that's what we mean by that and there's evidence of that. As I stated, we do have

more cancellations and delays than we normally do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask this question based on the discussion, apparently a result over a fear of impacts as opposed to actual proof. Here in your documentation it states that it is caused by climate change, yet Mr. Stewart stated that it was not actually included. I do grasp that most of these forecasts are based on potentialities or at least it seems that way.

Let me move on to another matter. In your response to the committee, there was also another written statement that I wish to ask about. It is on page 2. Although I will not quote the statement, I believe I can make it understandable. It states that as the minister, you tabled the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment: 2014-2034*. In the documentation it is recommended that your department undertake a feasibility study to "determine the cost and benefits of constructing a new high arctic hub airport at Pond Inlet for civil and military purposes."

I want to ask a question here, Mr. Chairman, with your permission. I know it would be encapsulated by the parameters of capital estimates if it were feasible. I want to ask what steps the department has undertaken on these recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond to that question, Ms. Sherri Rowe.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far the only thing the department has done right now just internally within the department is looked at how that would work. Once Pond Inlet has a port there and they have a longer runway there for flights to land, we will be looking into it further. We have had conversations with the community regarding this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She said once we get a longer runway. Is there a commitment to construct a longer airstrip and a port or marine infrastructure? Will we be receiving a longer airstrip in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister stated that in the future, once you get a longer airstrip and the marine infrastructure is completed, the department officials can start the discussion some time in the future, but there's nothing concrete or written as to when it will occur. At some time in the future there will be discussions and negotiations with the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to stay on one item, but I want the people of Pond Inlet to understand. Once the Nunavut government works on our airstrip, we will get a longer airstrip and the work will be done by your department. Your department said that once we get a longer airstrip and marine infrastructure in Pond Inlet, they would look into the community to see whether it can become a hub for military and commercial purposes. What have you done to this request or proposal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order for a community to become a hub, one of the most important things is going to be are there going to be flights that land in that community to be a hub. It's the idea that you have everything coming in together, meeting in that location to go on farther. What we're saying is that it's the airlines that pretty much determine where a hub is going to be. We can have the infrastructure. We can have it there, but it doesn't necessarily mean that someone will decide that that should be the hub. Those people have their own business cases to look at to see if it's viable to them.

We have spoken with some airlines just looking at our new airport here, asking them about getting additional flights here, and the answer that we get from the airlines is it has to be viable for the airline. If we wanted flights coming in from Greenland, Iceland, or anywhere in Europe, they're saying that it has to be viable for them to stop here in Iqaluit, which would also hold true for Pond Inlet.

What we have to do is keep discussing and working with it to see how we can build economic development in our communities and attract these items, but the government itself cannot say Pond Inlet is a hub and we will build there. First we would have to see what we can do that would be viable to create economic development and can we get private business coming in to use those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is my understanding correct based on your response that your department won't even review that initiative since you already stated the position and your response cuts off that possibility? Even though this document states that this project will be fully reviewed, you are already stating the possible barriers to this initiative. Does this mean that the department will not even consider ways to remove these barriers? Can the department look at the opportunities and not just the barriers based on this directive to the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Sherri Rowe, my Deputy Minister.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have challenges. I'm not looking at the negative. We have to be realistic. We have a 20-year capital plan showing some things that are just falling apart. We have ATBs falling apart. We can't do everything, but we do look at everything and put a lot of thought and care into those things to determine what we can and can't do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we can debate this matter endlessly, but I want to ensure my colleagues have their opportunity to raise questions.

Let me ask this final question based on only this issue. This is a directive to your department to review the possibilities, not by instantly stating the barriers or challenges. The directive is to review the feasibility of constructing a High Arctic hub airport in Pond Inlet for civil and military purposes. Will the department conduct this feasibility study or has it already been done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Sherri Rowe will respond to that question.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be looking into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you had responded like that 10 minutes ago, it would have been over and done with. I don't know why (interpretation ends) it took us 10 minutes to get a yes, if the answer was always yes.

(interpretation) Let me move on. Mr. Chairman, let me ask about this subject. During the winter 2016 sitting we approved the *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2016-2017*. It included \$5 million in funding for the Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project and \$1.2 million in funding for the Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure Project. My question is: have you already expended that money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on it now. I'll refer this question to Art Stewart. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in the process of spending that money. We have hired the prime consultant that will carry on the architectural and design work of both projects. I don't know exactly how much money has been spent to date, but the

project is underway. There are environmental investigations and permitting studies that have to be done to make sure that we have the proper permits, etcetera.

We are hoping to be shovel-ready, so to speak, or tender-ready would be a better word, next in 2017 and we expect that the construction contract will be issued at that time. For Pond Inlet we're looking at a completion in 2019 and for Iqaluit around 2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question on this same matter. Based on your written documentation for the 2017-18 capital estimates, it includes \$1 million for the Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure project and a further \$2 million for the Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure project. I would now like to know where these figures came from. What is the basis for these figures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that question to my Deputy Minister, Ms. Sherri Rowe.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know with the Pond Inlet marine infrastructure, the project management of the project is done by Community and Government Services. They have the appropriate staff who can tell us the cash flow of how these projects and what year the money needs to be in. Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Was that an answer to my question?

My question was: how were these specific amounts calculated? I don't know. Either I wasn't paying attention or you didn't answer my question. It's one or the other. Can we try again? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will once again refer this question to our official who is responsible for transportation policy and planning, Art Stewart.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cash flows were based on estimates as to how we thought the project would progress. These cash flows are fine-tuned after the RFP is put out. As I mentioned, the contract for the prime consultant has been issued and those costs came into the estimates of the cash flows. Those cash flows are simply estimates and they're based on what we thought we would need for the evaluation of the geotechnical and environmental works and that sort of thing. Again they're just estimates that were developed with the design of the port in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How accurate are those estimates? (interpretation ends) Are they good estimates? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will once again refer this question to Art Stewart.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: They are just estimates. As I say, as the design process goes on, those estimates will be fine-tuned. When they were developed, they were developed on the best information that was available at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you aren't going to extend my time, this will be my last question.

With respect to the capital plans, another issue is identified specific to the Nunavut Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Policy. It has to be included for all projects where the funding is from the Government of Nunavut or the Nunavut government in partnership with the federal government or the hamlets fund the project. Now the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet marine infrastructure projects are funded by two levels of government, the federal government and the Government of Nunavut.

I would like to ask this question. The new fiscal year will start on April 1, 2017 with the new NNI Policy being implemented at that time. I would like to ask which policy will be applied to these two projects. Will it be the current policy or the policy scheduled to be applied on April 1, 2017? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are correct that the NNI Policy will be implemented on April 1, 2017. Further, we are currently looking at the seabed studies and other environmental studies for both marine projects here in Iqaluit and Pond Inlet. We expect that a better design plan, including the cost estimates, will be developed that either confirms the cost estimates or that it may be lower, but this will become clearer in the next fiscal year. The work is being tendered in the upcoming fiscal year.

With respect to the actual date, if it were to be in the springtime, then the old policy would apply, but if it is past April 1, then the new policy would be utilized. At this time it is impossible to predict which policy will be applied, but once the tendering process is completed, we will be able to provide a date. At this time we don't have a set date for the tendering process, so it is difficult to predict what issues or challenges will surface from the current review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and the officials as we are dealing with transportation, one of my favourite departments. In her opening comments on page 5 of 6, I'm not sure if it's two paragraphs or the entire last paragraph. The last paragraph, I wholeheartedly agree with the aspects of focus on safety, prudent spending, and strengthening partnerships with the federal government and in large with industry, as we have an operating gold mine north of Baker Lake, as a community where we see investments, not only to the people but to the territory and to the government.

When I look at this opening comment from the minister, my first question will be: when you tie in all those together, does Baker Lake not fit into all these categories? My first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We include all the Nunavut communities. We don't focus on specific communities but on all Nunavut communities as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the minister's point of view on that is the safety for all residents of Nunavut. When we look at industry, there is a high number of traffic with transportation. Where does that fall into in the criteria of transportation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps he can restate his question, (interpretation ends) high number of traffic in all communities. (interpretation) All the communities have traffic movement. What exactly does he mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Clarification, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will try to clarify my question. It is obvious that all Nunavut communities are served by the airlines. However, as per my earlier statement, when the mine was developed north of Baker Lake, it resulted in many more aircraft landings on top of the existing air schedules. Part of the safety concerns relate to the increased air traffic resulting from the mine's needs. How much of a priority is placed on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to local issues or concerns, we receive the information from the communities about the air traffic issues, including any bird-related safety issues. Nonetheless, in order to get it clarified, I would ask that Art Stewart be allowed to elaborate further.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Safety is a top priority and we have a

safety management system that works with all airports in Nunavut. For Baker Lake specifically, in the last several years there have been improvements to the lighting system, apron, and taxiway. There are also going to be renovations to the airport terminal building to make it more operational. Those are the key projects that we have in Baker Lake in the past few years that address safety and traffic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the official for the response. When we look at those improvements and expansion or renovations to the airport terminal building, the apron, and the lighting system, is it all federally funded or is it in partnership? We don't see that in the capital. Could the minister or the official elaborate more? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to funding from the Building Canada Fund or other sources, I would like Art Stewart to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Baker Lake Airport improvement was funding through the BCF. We also had a project a few years ago that was funded by ACAP that provided some funding as well. Those are the two sources. For the expansion of

the ATB, those funds are going to be running out March 31, 2018, so we're well underway to identify what work has to be done there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and official for the response. On February 25, 2016 the federal Minister of Transport tabled the final report of the *Canada Transportation Act Review Panel*. One of the report's recommendations was that the federal government consider the creation of a new "Northern Airports Capital Assistance Program" in order to provide "targeted financial support for runway extensions and surfacing (e.g. paving), as well as for 24-hour automated weather systems and modern landing and approach systems..." Have you met with the federal Minister of Transport to discuss this issue in person? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Marc Garneau went to Iqaluit this summer. I had a chance to have a discussion with him and the other ministers also had a chance to have discussions with him as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. I guess we're on par here and the dialogue is running smoothly here.

During the Minister of Transport's visit to Iqaluit, I guess my question here would then be: what was accomplished at this meeting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. We did not hold discussions on actual capital projects, only of past meetings with my ministerial colleagues where we debated the various issues surrounding the need for further funding for our airport projects, as well as various capital projects such as the need for a road between jurisdictions, such as the Manitoba to Nunavut road project. We discussed the various capital projects that may offer tangible benefits to Nunavut.

Furthermore, we identified the need for more funding assistance. The (interpretation ends) Airport Capital Assistance Program, (interpretation) as it is called, would be the best source of more funding, for example, for paving the runways or aprons, including electrical and other airport infrastructure. This includes airport equipment, radios, and various other needs that we were able to openly discuss.

I am thankful to Marc Garneau for listening to our concerns, as he wanted to hear directly from us rather than speak. That was the benefit of having the opportunity to voice our concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister. When I had asked about the needs assessment document, she was able to table it and provide it to myself and my colleagues when I had requested for this 20-year infrastructure needs document. It really helps and it does provide a lot of information.

When I look at this document and how it led me to requesting this document was your department's June 23, 2015 presentation to the *Canada Transportation Act* Review Panel recommended that "all Nunavut airports [be] upgraded to the GPS Instrument Approach that is appropriate for each individual airport." What has been the federal response to this recommendation on the part of Transport Canada and NAV CANADA? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for asking that question about the 2014 issues related to the (interpretation ends) GPS approaches (interpretation) for Nunavut airports and the need to have the same equipment as southern airports.

We identify the needs required whenever an opportunity presents itself. As an example, when our ministerial counterparts travel to Nunavut or if ministers have to travel to the south for meetings to discuss issues, we generically identify the many needs or infrastructure deficits. Another example is that Nunavut faces different challenges in operating in northern

climates as opposed to southern-based airports. Many airstrips are not even paved in our communities, so we tend to provide as much information as needed.

The Department of Economic Development is (interpretation ends) seeking funding to develop new instrumental approach procedures for seven airports in addition to the three that have been completed. We are seeking funding to assess the feasibility of upgrading the runway certificates of seven airports and once they're upgraded, improved instrument approach procedures can be developed. We are currently still discussing these issues at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister clearly identify the seven communities that she has indicated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Wait a moment, please, Mr. Chairman. I'll identify the communities. The airports identified are Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Hall Beach, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, and Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When I look at the GPS approach system, where does the community of Baker Lake that I

represent fall? Where is that at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Baker Lake runway is currently (interpretation ends) certified as code 2.

(interpretation) I believe I spoke to this issue previously when you queried me about this issue in the House. I recall the question, but I am unsure how to term it in Inuktitut. It is called the (interpretation ends) slope (interpretation) or slant of the airport and I am sorry if I didn't use the proper Inuktitut terminology. Due to the fact that the slope limitations are set at 2.5 percent or lower, it is acceptable when airports are in that situation.

However, after the assessment of the airport, we anticipate that it will cost approximately \$7 million for improving the runway, if it is required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know that this information was tabled and I have that information with me. You spoke to the \$7 million. On page 10.1.1, in the previous years \$6 million was expended for 24 community airports, which is approximately \$250,000 per airport. In view of that, for one year and 24 communities, how much money have you expended? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't recall when (interpretation ends) the 20-year capital plan (interpretation) was tabled, perhaps two sessions ago. We are now dealing with the capital plans for 2017-18 for your approval. Once you have approved these plans, we will start using the funds.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that Art Stewart be allowed to elaborate further on the funds expended to date on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On ACAP itself and on funding for GPS approaches, it's hard to say exactly how much was spent. In order to get those approaches, we have to do internal work and then we have to present those plans to NAV CANADA. I don't have the exact dollar amount. However, I'm guessing that probably we're talking in the neighbourhood of \$2 million or \$3 million over the last few years. That's just an estimate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question here would be: why it is so hard to have an overall idea when you look at projects since 2010, you have an average budget of \$6 million per year allocated? That was allocated over 24 airports per year. You're saying that the amount has dropped from \$6 million down to \$2

million or \$3 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we misunderstood your question. We now understand that you're still talking about (interpretation ends) GPS approaches. (interpretation) You alluded to the 20-year capital plan and that confused us. I apologize. I'll have Art Stewart respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, each year we put forth projects for capital consideration. As I say, I don't have those figures in front of me, but it would be dependent on each year how much money is spent on capital facilities, etcetera. This year, of course, we have the Taloyoak ATB that we will be spending funds on. Each year, of course, we spend money on minor and small capital equipment. Yes, I would say that overall spending, the average would be in that neighbourhood of \$6 million to \$7 million a year. Again, that's just an estimate. I will have to go back and look year to year to provide a proper answer on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, when I look at GPS approaches, it would fall under large capital funding, especially when you're talking about the Baker Lake runway with a slope that we're aware of so that we could get a GPS approach. Seven

million dollars is a substantial amount of money, so I think that it would fall under the 20-year infrastructure needs funding. That's why I asked the question: when you look at that amount of money per year, how are you allocating to the various airports across Nunavut?

Moving on, when I'm talking about federal infrastructure initiatives on that same particular page, 10.1.3, "The Federal Government has recently initiated a program designated as the New Building Canada Plan (NBCP)," which is, if I understand correctly, another fund. "This NBCP is a \$53 billion plan for investments in provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure.

A component of that plan is the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF) which will provide a \$14 billion fund to support projects which promote economic development," which I believe is occurring very well north of Baker Lake as we have a gold mine, "job creation and productivity."

When you look at these two particular amounts of money that I'm asking about now, how much are they accessing from these two particular funds to enhance our airports within Nunavut for safety, production, and meeting industry and the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm just reminding all members that we are here to deal with the proposed capital budget for 2017-18. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This document I tabled was

the 20-year needs assessment report, which was estimated on the current needs, which are listed on page 10.1 that the member refers to. I want to clarify that it was set on April 17, 2014. The document was produced in that year. Although I tabled it recently, the funding the member referred to would have to be approved by the new federal government, so this has changed in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

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

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. We will come back tomorrow with the minister and her officials.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 24 and the capital main estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor.

(interpretation ends) Is there a seconder? Mr. Alexander Sammurtok. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. 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 (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. in the Nanuq Committee Room.

Orders of the Day for October 20:

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 24
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, October 20, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:53*

