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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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Tom Sammurtok
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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
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, October 21, 2016

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 9:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon. I'm sorry. Good morning, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) welcome to the House.

Going to Item 2 in the *Orders of the Day*. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 163 – 4(3):
Influenza Vaccination Campaign**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I will be participating in the influenza vaccination

clinic in the foyer of the Legislative Assembly to get my flu vaccination.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Nunavummiut to get their influenza vaccine because it's the easiest way we can protect ourselves and our families and friends from getting influenza. Because I have been vaccinated, I can take comfort in the fact that I won't pass the virus to others, especially those at greatest risk such as the very young and the elderly. Immunization is the most effective and easiest way to prevent influenza and to prevent the spread of this serious illness.

Mr. Speaker, the flu vaccine is available in all of our health centres and is free for everyone. We can all do our part this year by getting our influenza vaccination. I encourage everyone to join me at the morning break to get your vaccination in the foyer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 164 – 4(3):
National Foster Family Week**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and people of Pangnirtung.

I am pleased to be making a statement on National Foster Family Week. Mr. Speaker, every year my department celebrates National Foster Family Week from October 16 to 22. This occasion gives us pause to recognize the support and commitment that foster parents

model day in and day out for their children.

This week each community in Nunavut is given special funds to support a local appreciation event for foster families. We have 250 foster families in Nunavut who continue to be the foundation and strength of our children and family services, providing safe and nurturing homes and care.

On behalf of my department, I would like to thank Nunavut's foster families for their dedication year round, and encourage other Nunavummiut to consider fostering a child today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 165 – 4(3):
Government of Nunavut Recipient
of Museum of Inuit Art Assets**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow Nunavummiut and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, this past May the Toronto-based Museum of Inuit Art announced its closure after serving for nine years as an exhibit showroom, workshop, and boutique at the Lake Ontario Harbour front. The Government of Nunavut was offered a significant portion of its holdings with Inuit art objects representative of all three regions of Nunavut

(interpretation ends) The former Museum of Inuit Art material is a welcome addition to the Department of Culture and Heritage collection, which in numbers is over 7,000 pieces from the early years of Canada's Inuit art production. This recent acquisition of relatively recently produced art will complement the government's early creations that are currently housed at the Winnipeg Art Gallery for a five-year period.

Mr. Speaker, we trust that this will provide educational opportunities and other values for the public, perpetuating the legacy of the former Museum of Inuit Art. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 166 – 4(3):
Recycling Program**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a good news story today as it is Friday, and I wish everyone in Nunavut a happy weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the House on what I believe is a real success story that shows how the Government of Nunavut and our partners are doing their part in reducing waste here in Iqaluit.

Since 2006 the Department of Community and Government Services, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, Canadian North, and Cascades Recovery Incorporated, has diverted over 1 million lbs. of recycled bulk

computers and waste paper from the Iqaluit dump.

Young offenders are supervised while they collect the waste from GN facilities and deliver it to the CGS warehouse where it is shredded and bailed. Canadian North then uses these bails for ballast on their southbound flights. Once in Ottawa, Cascade Recovery Incorporated picks it up and trucks it to the recycling facility.

This is a significant achievement in reducing waste, encouraging sustainable recycling practices in our communities and meeting our government's *Sivumut Abluqta* commitments to be responsible stewards of our environment.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative could not be possible without the continued support of our partners. We thank them for their involvement and partnership of this important initiative, and look forward to the continued success of this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 167 – 4(3): All Arts Summit

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be partly speaking in Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update my colleagues on the All Arts Summit that was held earlier this week from the 17th

to 19th here in Iqaluit. The summit brought together arts organizations and stakeholders from all over Nunavut and across Canada, representing all arts disciplines.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, participants heard about the state of the cultural industries, from funding to Inuit arts administration, intellectual property, marketing and distribution, and northern perspectives. What we learned in these discussions will help sculpt a new strategy for the cultural industries.

Both *Sivumut Abluqta* and the 2014 review of *Sanaugait: A Strategy for Growth in Nunavut's Arts and Crafts Sector* recognize the importance of all the art forms practised in Nunavut. With the outcomes of the summit in hand, we will work towards developing an all arts strategy.

Mr. Speaker, it will be important to ensure that the right programs are in place to support the art sector's needs. Those needs are many, from infrastructure to research to facilitating relationships between artists and buyers, retailers, and organizations, regardless of what form of art they specialize in. We must encourage emerging artists to develop their art through creative residencies.

Working together, we will foster a viable and dynamic arts economy that will benefit all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item

3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 321 – 4(3):
Sanikiluaq Athletes Earn
Recreation and Parks Awards**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of Sanikiluaq's fine athletes who were recently honoured at the fourth annual conference of the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this conference brought in athletes, coaches, and individuals involved in recreation from all across Nunavut. The special guest was Erica Wieb, who won the gold medal in wrestling at the Rio Olympics this past summer.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to announce that Sappa Cookie of Sanikiluaq was named male athlete of the year, Stephen Keoughan from Sanikiluaq was named coach of the year, and Mike Kavik represented Sanikiluaq's Paatsaali badminton team that was named team of the year. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these fine athletes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 322 – 4(3): The
Need for an Elders Centre in
Taloyoak**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk, the people of Taloyoak, my colleagues, ministers, and Nunavummiut.

I want to first state that my granddaughter is celebrating her birthday today and her name is Arvaq, whom I love dearly. I wish her many more birthdays for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that the residents of Taloyoak have identified the need for a meeting place for their elders, not just for their elders but also a space for other residents. They want to build a centre that can assist their fellow Inuit and youth. They want to work on a place that allows people to gather with their fellow residents.

This is a short statement I am voicing to reiterate what Taloyoak has requested for a meeting place. They want to ensure that it goes through the proper process, but it starts with an elders centre design.

At the appropriate time I will have questions on this project, but most likely not today. Mr. Speaker, thank you for being allowed to make this statement.

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

**Member's Statement 323 – 4(3):
Congratulations to the Hansons on
their 50th Anniversary**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my constituents, Bob and Ann Hanson, on their 50th wedding anniversary.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, Bob and Ann Hanson are long-time friends of our family and also residents of this community. Ann was born and raised in the Arctic and received her post-secondary education in the south. Bob was born in New Brunswick and moved to the north to what was then the community of Frobisher Bay in 1965.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Meekitjuk Hanson served as the Commissioner of Nunavut from 2005 to 2010 and was deputy commissioner before that. She has been a civil servant, broadcaster, journalist, and author. Bob is a long-time businessman and a successful entrepreneur.

Both Bob and Ann have been recognized for their service to the community. Ann is a Member of the Order of Canada, a Dame of the Order of St. John, and a Member of the Order of Nunavut. Bob and Ann have both been awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal.

Mr. Speaker, Bob and Ann have five daughters, one who is with us today, Ms. Kathy Hanson, four sons-in-law, and ten grandchildren. I am sure they are

looking forward to their first great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, their golden wedding day is actually tomorrow, October 22, and I hope that the Hansons celebrate it with much joy and happiness. I congratulate them again on their 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 324 – 4(3): The
Urgent Need to Incorporate Inuit
Qaujimaqatungit Principles**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arctic Bay. To my fellow residents there, you are in my thoughts and I love you all and I share in your hardship today. Please live a good life.

I rise today to offer an apology to my colleagues. I had to leave yesterday due to an emergency situation update I received from my constituency worker that Arctic Bay had lost another person, not due to any illness.

I personally lost loved ones who passed on without any illness, where relatives passed away in the seas while they were out hunting. My two nephews passed away when their motor broke down and their boat upturned.

A third loss was my son, who followed a group of people to a river in Ottawa and started playing around in the water during the night and drowned.

Further, in part of the same winter, another nephew passed away due to alcohol, as they found him frozen outside.

On another matter, one of my grandsons, in foreboding about his upcoming court case and as per the lawyer's advice of facing the possibility of incarceration, committed suicide.

When I was impacted yesterday by the news from my community, I was unable to continue to sit here. I could not remain here since I had too many things on my mind nor did I find out the reasoning for this tragedy. I learned what the personal reasons were later on.

With that being the case, here in Nunavut we are debating solutions to suicides to see how we can improve the situation. However, no progress has been made to date. I have voiced in the past both through just oral presentations and others to be more aware of the issue.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat has to be revived. Our society needs this. When the GNWT ran our lives, it seemed there weren't issues with the legislation at first. Certain laws have their benefits, but the legislation had no applicability in Nunavut in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, traditional Inuit customs...
. Thank you.

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

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

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

With that being the case, the only way to alleviate that is to use part of the traditional manner of counselling, with elders included in the judging of the matter.

I urge my colleagues to keep in mind that even if immediate results aren't forthcoming, this would be a boon to the people. Please believe me as I am sincere and I am not being antagonistic to our legislation. Only through partnership with both the Nunavut government and *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit* can proper legislation succeed and to stop systemic belittling of this knowledge.

We have to have equality in order to move forward so that our elders can be included in fixing this malaise we are in. This is becoming urgent today. When we are deliberating on these matters, with only verbal sparring without the inclusion of elders, it will result in this problem snowballing further.

I would like to see funding specific to the incorporation of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into counselling processes and to have elders included in all family-related matters. Today only with funding can anything move forward now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 325 – 4(3):
Tribute to Annie Pootoogook**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. Further, the Member of Quttiktuq's constituents are in our thoughts today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and commemorate another remarkable Cape Dorset artist who passed on, Annie Pootoogook.

Mr. Speaker, Annie had similarities to me in that she was originally from Cape Dorset, but had become a resident of Ottawa for the last several years until her untimely death when she was found last month. Her family, her heart, as well as her fondest memories will always remain in Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, the knowledge is well disseminated that the late Annie came from an artistic family and community of Cape Dorset, which is renowned for its art and prints that originated from the community. In actuality, her mother, Napatchie Pootoogook, along with her grandmother, Pitseolak Ashoona, were recognized artists of their time. Annie continued this work, becoming the third generation of exquisite artists.

Mr. Speaker, Annie's drawings capture some incredible depictions of how she viewed and interpreted the world around her. She sometimes would draw everyday kitchen or living room scenes that give a glimpse of what our modern Nunavut culture has come to be. In other times Annie drew some raw, emotional, thought-provoking, and disturbing images that were not the kind of

traditional Inuit art that was expected. That's why she was so well known.

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One of Annie's accomplishments was winning the prestigious Sobey Art Award and there was a cash award accompanying it. However, I think her greatest accomplishment, after seeing all the outpouring, well-wishes, and condolences from the art community around the world, was her ability to reach so many hearts and the imagination of people through her work.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in paying our respects in memory of Annie and her relatives. She was recently laid to rest in Cape Dorset and our hearts and thoughts are with her family, friends, and fellow art enthusiasts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 326 – 4(3): 2016
Graduate of Qikiqtarjuaq**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to also extend congratulations.

Prior to my actual statement, I want to wish excellent birthday celebrations to my grandchild, as he is my only grandson out of all of our grandchildren and amongst the most precious. He is celebrating his birthday today. Happy birthday wishes to A.J. Keyootak.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to express my pride on the accomplishment we heard about in our community this spring, when only one graduate completed their studies for grade 12. I have mentioned this person previously for other accomplishments and her future included further education.

I want to name Lindsay Evaloajuk, who is currently enrolled in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program and she is the very first resident of my constituency to attend that program. She is extremely capable.

Ms. Lindsay Evaloajuk showcases her abilities by assisting her fellow youth and has represented youth in suicide prevention work with other youth, so it is very visible in how she tries to make a difference.

Further, she has succeeded in the plans that she laid out in the past and now she is attending the courses in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program. I want to share with my colleagues our pride in her accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 327 – 4(3): Breast Cancer Awareness

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

Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and I rise today to acknowledge the survivors of breast cancer for their strength, courage, and will to survive.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that in one year approximately 25,000 women and over 200 men in Canada will be diagnosed with breast cancer. However, with research, awareness, education, and health promotion we can combat this disease. We are seeing great progress in prevention, detection, treatment, and care.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in the United States the third Friday of October, which is today, has been declared as National Mammography Day. Mammograms are important diagnostic tools for detecting breast cancer.

Throughout this week a number of cities and municipalities across Canada have held Bra Day events, promoting breast reconstruction awareness in support of survivors who may be considering reconstructive surgery after a mastectomy.

Mr. Speaker, I am wearing my pink ribbon in support of breast cancer awareness and also to demonstrate my heartfelt support and admiration for breast cancer survivors across this land. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to again recognize Kathy Hanson. She's one of my constituents and I am proud of her. (interpretation ends) Welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 421 – 4(3): Sanikiluaq Water Supply

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to ask my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

This summer the community of Sanikiluaq's drinking water supply experienced a major situation involving elevated sodium levels.

Mr. Speaker, providing safe, clean drinking water is one of the most basic responsibilities of government, and I want to take this opportunity to express

my appreciation to the different partners who responded rapidly to the situation. These include the Department of Community and Government Services, the municipal staff in Sanikiluaq, volunteers from the community, and Calm Air, which airlifted in supplies of bottled drinking water to the community.

Can the minister confirm when the investigation report into the causes of this incident will be completed and tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we all have to have clean, safe drinking water. I myself know that too because once Arviat almost ran out of water. Never mind having safe water, we almost ran out of water.

The incident in Sanikiluaq is still being looked at. We're not sure why the sodium levels have increased because it has been the same water source for many years. Analysis on exactly why it happened and when it happened is not out yet. As soon as we have the final interpretation of the results, we will be looking at it and I will inform the member.

As of right now we are not sure why the sodium levels have gone up when it has been the same source of drinking water for many years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that update. I also thank the minister for ensuring that households in Sanikiluaq have been provided with reverse osmosis filters as a short-term solution to help improve the quality of drinking water.

Can the minister indicate how this type of filtering system will be maintained now that a majority of houses in the community have them installed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reverse osmosis machines work on a filtration system. With the style and models that have been installed in the residents' houses in Sanikiluaq, normally their filters would have to be replaced every six months, but the amount of use that they are going to be getting might be less than what they were designed for. We might only have to replace the filters once year.

We haven't worked out exactly who is going to be replacing the filters, but I can assure the member that it is being looked at. The ones in public housing, obviously the housing association will be responsible for that. I would think that the ones in residential housing, we will be able to assist people who own their own homes, if not completely do it for them, because the number of residential housing in Sanikiluaq is small compared to the number of people in public housing. We have been looking at that and we have been monitoring it.

Right now we're just not sure how often the filters would have to be replaced, but it's in the neighbourhood of maybe once a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can indicate if his department is considering funding a long-term solution to water quality issues in the community through the construction of a new water treatment plant or through major upgrades to our existing facility or finding a new water source for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This problem of the high sodium levels was tackled. We have come up with a short-term solution for now and we are still looking at a long-term solution. We acknowledge and we know that everyone has to have safe drinking water, including Sanikiluaq. We haven't come up with a solution yet, but we will come up with a solution as to how they can have safe drinking water.

We haven't narrowed it down to just a water treatment plant yet. We're looking at all options, but we are also aware that there is a limited water supply for Sanikiluaq. All options are being looked at. Once we come to a conclusion that is reasonable, not financially too burdened, and practical, I will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 422 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet’s Water Supply

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, Rankin Inlet’s water source has been gradually depleting for a number of years, as my tabled document photograph shows. I recognize that the department has previously attempted to replenish Nipissar Lake by using a pipeline and pumping water from Char River. However, residents of the community remain concerned about the extent to which this solution will meet the needs of Rankin Inlet’s growing population.

Can the minister indicate how his department measures and monitors the water service needs of Rankin Inlet? 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. Today must be water day.

>> *Laughter*

I did see the pictures that MLA Mr. Sammurtok tabled yesterday. This summer when I was in Rankin Inlet and

this fall I did go see the lake and I can see that the water levels are down.

The member is correct that we are pumping water from a water source. Currently we’re not pumping because of freeze-up, but we were pumping. Due to the water board licensing, where we were pumping from, we could not pump enough to bring the water levels back up on Nipissar Lake. Just to assure the member, we are working on getting a new water licence so that we can pump water from another source.

In terms of how the needs are measured, I don’t have that formula in front of me, but I know that the water levels were going down from the water source in Rankin Inlet. There’s no worry of the water source being depleted in the short term, but we are looking at the long term and we will make sure that water needs of Rankin Inlet are not compromised and that the residents of Rankin Inlet have enough clean, safe drinking water for their needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, Rankin Inlet’s population continues to grow steadily.

In its Water Pumping Adaptive Management Plan for Rankin Inlet, the department indicates that, and I quote, “When flow in Char River is insufficient to meet the in-stream pumping objectives, the annual pumping from Char River to Nipissar Lake will be stopped.”

Can the minister indicate if his department anticipates any need to stop pumping water from Char River to Nipissar Lake within the next five years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Char River is a very small creek. As the member is aware, a lot of the water flow depends on the amount of rain that falls there.

As I stated earlier, we are working towards getting a different water source to replenish Nipissar Lake. Right now, we're working on getting a water board licence to pump from First Landing Lake. We feel that we will have our water licence by early summer of 2017. Once we start pumping from First Landing Lake to Nipissar Lake, we will be able to use a larger diameter pipe and a bigger pump and we will be able to replenish Nipissar Lake, Rankin Inlet's water source.

We feel that once we have our water licence and a bigger diameter pipe, the water levels of Nipissar Lake will be able to be maintained and even higher than what it was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the minister anticipated my next question, so I don't have a question now. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 423 – 4(3): Departmental Vacancies

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

The Government of Nunavut's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the Department of Environment has a total of seven positions in Pond Inlet, five of which are vacant. That works out to a vacancy rate of over 70 percent.

Can the minister clarify which Pond Inlet positions in his department are currently vacant and can he indicate how many of them are currently out for competition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that as of right now there's only one position being advertised for the regional manager and that is out for competition right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Community and Government Services explained some of the reasons for why that department's positions remain

vacant in Pond Inlet. I'm not sure if the Minister of Environment heard the CGS minister's response. Can the Minister of Environment clarify some of the reasons for why the positions in Pond Inlet remain vacant? 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. We work with HR to get competitions out as soon as practical after they're vacant. I can't tell the member why each position is vacant at the moment, if there's a variety of reasons, and this will give the member a chuckle again, but a lot of it always has to do with staff housing in Pond Inlet.

I understand his concerns when the member has brought up many times that there's vacant staff housing. I'm not the minister of housing. We can only request housing and once we are allocated housing for a position, we can advertise the job. There are certain jobs that the skills might not be available locally or even if they are, that person might need a house too. That's the best I can answer the member at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me how many staff housing units the Department of Environment has in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the level of detail of how many staff housing we have in each community at all. I don't have that kind of level of detail. I can get back to the member on that, but for how many staff houses the Department of Environment is allocated or is using in every community, no, I can't answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 424 – 4(3): Mould Remediation in Public Housing Units

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

As the minister is aware, the issue of mould infestation in public housing units is a serious problem across Nunavut. In July of this year the housing corporation issued a request for proposals for mould assessment and remediation in public housing units. The RFP indicated that 13 units in Cape Dorset and 5 units in Kimmirut require inspection.

Can the minister confirm which company has been awarded the contract to perform this important work and can he confirm when the work will begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, it is true that mould infestation caused closures and there was an announcement on what type of mould was found and cleaned out. However, I can't state exactly which company was awarded this contract as I don't have the information in front of me. Once I do receive the information, I will share it with my colleague and provide the information to the member who is asking for those details, which I will commit to in the short term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in the preamble to my question, the RFP indicated that 13 units in Cape Dorset and 5 units in Kimmirut require inspection. Can the minister confirm if mould will be removed from these units altogether? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier response, I can't respond to the question of which community or company got the contracts, but what I can state here is that we are reviewing the planned inspections listed in the proposal. After the review, we expect that 245 units throughout Nunavut will require mould remediation. This is the only detail I can provide to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel he didn't really respond to my question. I asked the minister if mould clean-ups would occur, which have already been investigated. Perhaps I am unsure how he can answer this question properly.

However, he stated that a total of 245 units throughout Nunavut have mould contamination. Due to that statement, I wonder how this number was arrived at. Did you conduct an inspection of every unit or was something used, such as criteria? I have difficulty agreeing with this figure, as in my estimation, this may be the tip of the iceberg with many more cases. Can the minister elaborate on how this number was arrived at? I'm referencing his statement about 245 units having mould. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can inform my colleague regarding his question that we collaborate with the local housing association on this and other matters. As an example, when dealing with the mould issue, the local organizations have intimate knowledge of the units under their control.

With respect to which units may have mould, what I can state unequivocally is that these LHOs made those decisions about their local units, which was the foundation for identifying the 245 units throughout Nunavut, based on the LHO determination and (interpretation ends)

information (interpretation) which we received.

Further, with regard to his earlier question about when the mould clean-up would begin, I can state that the LHO maintainers were provided with the proper training. Funding has been set aside for that purpose on the proper procedures for the clean-up of the mould, as it cannot just be cleaned due to the hazardous nature of the substance. Training proceeded as planned throughout the three regions.

I can't state that clean-up will occur until after the communities have undertaken the work and we receive a report on how the clean-up proceeded. I will ensure that I request a report from the LHOs to make a final report on the remediation efforts. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 425 – 4(3): Overtime Expenditures

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

Earlier this week the government's response to a recent written question concerning overtime expenditures was tabled in the House. I have now had the opportunity to review the document with care.

According to the response, the government spent a total of \$23.9 million on overtime during the 2014-15 fiscal year. This amount increased to

\$25.9 million in the 2015-16 year, which represents an increase of over 8.5 percent in just a single year.

Can the minister indicate if he is concerned with this significant increase in overtime expenditures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can assure Mr. Mikkungwak, all MLAs, all cabinet ministers, and all deputy ministers out there that I am greatly concerned. My deputy minister and former deputy minister hear constantly from me about the enormous amount of overtime in all government departments and certain territorial corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Overtime expenditures at the Department of Justice were just over \$3.03 million in the 2015-16 fiscal year. In July of 2015 the Department of Justice issued a request for proposals for an organizational review of staffing, overtime, and other issues in the Corrections Division.

Can the Minister of Finance confirm whether or not the Minister of Justice has presented him with the findings from this review and, if he has, can he indicate what recommendations have been made to reduce overtime costs? Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak. I can assure Mr. Mikkungwak that the Minister of Justice has heard from the Minister of Finance about overtime at Corrections. In fact the Minister of Justice has assured me as the Minister of Finance that the Deputy Minister of Justice is working very closely with corrections officials out there to address the overtime and come up with some reasonable solutions to the overtime at Justice. I would like to thank the Minister of Justice for his cooperation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very reassuring that the Minister of Finance and Minister of Justice can communicate amongst each other.

A total of just over \$75 million is planned to be spent over the next few years on the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre project. It makes sense to assume that this project will result in more staff being hired. Can the minister indicate what impact this project will have on staffing and overtime expenditures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously we're going to have to hire some more staff. In the report that was completed, I believe the consultants who worked with the corrections staff actually recommended that we create 40 plus more positions. Before we get to that stage in Corrections, I believe, if that project is approved, it will come on stream 2021. We're working very hard and coming up with mechanisms to address the overtime and the shift changes.

I believe, through the new collective agreement, there have been some recommendations that may address some of the overtime in the various departments. We will see how that plays out. If that contract gets ratified and implemented over the next... We're already two years into the collective agreement. It gets ratified two more years beyond that and then into future negotiations, but we're working hard on it.

Again I assure you that the government is very concerned about the overtime. All deputies receive the reports monthly. They should be sitting down with their directors and managers to discuss the overtime. I would presume. I'm not down at that level monitoring, but they're recommending solutions to address the overtime.

There may be very good reasons for some of the overtime, if you're covering vacant positions that can't be staffed, people on vacation, people on maternity leave and other types of leave. There may be very valid reasons for a lot of the

overtime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 426 – 4(3): Nunavut’s
Municipal Funding Program**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I’m going to make him earn his money today.

As the minister is aware, the government distributes contributions to all non-tax-based municipal corporations to assist in the costs of delivering municipal programs and services through its Municipal Funding Program under the department’s *Municipal Funding Program Policy*.

According to the department’s *Municipal Funding Program Policy*, “The amount of the contribution to each non-tax-based municipal corporation shall be calculated annually.” According to that policy, this amount is obtained according to a number of factors, including “applying a community uniqueness factor to each municipal corporation, which includes factors such as road length, [Northern] cost index and settlement allowances which are distinctive to each municipality.”

Can the minister describe the additional factors, if any, the department takes into consideration when determining the distribution of funding for municipalities under the Municipal Funding Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. There are many factors that come into funding non-tax-based communities, which are all the communities except for Iqaluit.

Right now we’re in the final stages of reviewing our Municipal Funding Program. The formula that is used right now may or may not be the same because we have been reviewing it and we’re almost done the review. Once it’s done, it will be looked at and analyzed, but like the member said, there are many different formulas that are used to come up with this block funding. There is the size of the community population-wise, like she said, how many roads are there and what infrastructure is there. All of this is being looked at right now and it’s being reviewed.

Once the review is done, we may have a different formula or we may stay with the same with a bit of tweaks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for his response. Can the minister clarify how his department calculates the municipal cost index for each community in Nunavut and will he commit to making the municipal cost indexes for each community publicly available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, there are many different formulas on there. I don't have the level of detail right now as to exactly how the cost index is calculated, but I can get back to the member and let her know exactly how it's calculated. This may or may not be still in existence once the review is done, but I will get back to the member and let her know how this is calculated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that it is important that the government provides clear and comprehensive information to each municipality on how the distribution of funds under this program was determined, on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that municipalities should have the opportunity to review this information and to raise any concerns that they may have with the funding that they receive.

Can the minister indicate how his department ensures or will ensure under the new formula, if they come up with one, that each hamlet council in Nunavut has the opportunity to review the results of his department's annual calculations?

If there is any appeal process perhaps, if they didn't agree with it, can the minister elaborate if hamlet councils will be able

to have that kind of level of engagement should they disagree on the annual calculations under the Municipal Funding Program? Thank you.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Municipal Funding Program, like I said, is being reviewed. Once the review is done, the information will be shared through NAM and NAMA. All hamlets, through their representatives, will have input on it. We don't come up with a formula on how to fund the hamlets in a vacuum; we work with our municipalities through their organizations of NAM and NAMA. They definitely will have input because our goal is to keep hamlets healthy in a financial situation and we will work with them.

There are some hamlets that are better at managing their finance than others, and we help in that way too. The funding formula is there, but that's not the only reason why hamlets are doing good or not financially. They have to have the resources to run their finances properly. We want to make sure that they're funded adequately, but we also want to make sure that the funding is used adequately.

We will help the hamlets achieve their goal of running their own hamlets properly. Each hamlet is like their own little government. We help them out, but we don't dictate on how to run their hamlets. We work with all the hamlets to make sure that they are adequately funded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 427 – 4(3): Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Last month a news article was aired on CBC that the Government of the Northwest Territories had spent \$450,000 to purchase the new LED lights that are more energy efficient. Out of these funds, they will install 10,000 light bulbs in homes that use fossil fuel to generate their electricity. According to the report, the savings will accrue in each house getting \$300 per annum in energy savings.

Has the housing corporation taken this type of tangible energy savings into consideration, in particular for the public housing units? We pay for these costs as a government and these types of initiatives can result in savings throughout Nunavut in a more beneficial, fuel-efficient manner. I want to ask the minister if these types of initiatives have been looked into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague, Mr. Speaker, when dealing with the challenges of managing housing units, one has to look

at all manner of cost savings wherever possible, especially in lowering the costs of materials or even costs associated with energy generation. We are continually looking for savings in all areas and we are open to reviewing them with our partners, the LHOs, as well as other organizations.

Nonetheless, with respect to the project the member alluded to in the NWT, this news article is one I haven't reviewed. Therefore I do not know if this is included in the review. However, even without the information, with respect to his question whether we can look into this, I would have to research that issue from our department, or NHC, to provide further information regarding this issue to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just extrapolating that scenario where our power and electrical costs are much higher, their estimate of cost savings is \$300 per household annually. In looking at that same scenario here in Nunavut, many costs that are associated with managing buildings are paid for by government and these cost savings per building could really cut into our annual expenses.

Can the minister work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to start plans to install energy-efficient light bulbs in Nunavut to realize these cost savings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier statement, since I don't have the information specific to the member's question, I can't respond to it. However, my department, or NHC, can look into this matter to see the viability. If plans are to proceed related to his question, I will identify it and provide an announcement indicating that plans are underway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the planning process is not simple. Nevertheless, we need to conduct research on ways to provide more benefits to our communities that is not too onerous.

I would like the minister to collaborate with his colleagues on this issue and to prepare a report perhaps for the winter session on the progress to date, with a prepared plan which I would like to see tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me reiterate that I will commit to looking at this matter with my departmental officials related to the member's question. Yes, I agree that I need to collaborate with my cabinet colleagues on a government-wide approach. However, I can't commit to having a completed plan to this effect nor can I say that this plan has been initiated as of today. I will have to

discuss this with the department officials on what steps would be required to complete that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

Question 428 – 4(3): Ministerial Relations with LHOs

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, prior to leaving my home community of Naujaat, a representative of the housing association came to chat with me and he stated that correspondence would be prepared for signature for the chairman of the LHO to be sent to the minister responsible.

Nonetheless, when they looked into this issue, there was a comment stating that the housing corporation offices in Arviat had a policy that any correspondence, irrespective of whether it came from the LHO chairperson, if the letter is sent to the minister, then the housing corporation has to first review it prior to passing it along to the minister to check on the relevancy. This is a bit much.

I wonder if the minister can respond as to why the office has a policy to vet correspondence to the minister when the LHO members are elected to their positions by community household members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing

Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the member's question, I don't know that for a fact, so I personally cannot answer that question.

What I can say, though, is I or my office here in Iqaluit or the regional offices in the Baffin, Kitikmeot, or Kivalliq are avenues for MLAs to submit information requests from or directly to my attention. They can use any avenue to submit the information request and I am aware of this practice. Either through the Iqaluit offices or through the Arviat offices or alternatively via their local office, if one exists, all of these avenues can be used.

However, with regard to an actual policy existing, as per the member's question, I personally am not aware of such a policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the minister correctly, that is what is required. Is the minister saying that the LHO can draft up a letter on any subject directed to his attention, but that it has to go through the Arviat offices? If the letter came from Naujaat, they first have to check with the Arviat office to ascertain if the letter is legitimate. Did I understand his response correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. No, that isn't the way it is set up, so the member misunderstood my response. What I am saying is that anyone who wants to get clarification from me or the local housing association, they can send the correspondence.

To use his question as an example, if a letter is sent from the Naujaat LHO and they wish to send it directly to my attention, they have that capacity and they don't need to submit it to one of our offices. If you wish to draft a letter to me, either through email or letter, you may do so. However, what can make it easier is if they use the district offices or even the headquarter offices.

What I am saying is that I can't determine if what the member is questioning is indeed the case, but I can say no, that isn't how it is to be set up as correspondence can go through any of these avenues if you wish to get any housing issue clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can check into this and submit an actual chart showing how correspondence is submitted to his attention and to determine whether or not the district offices are vetting the letters. I would like to get a clear indication of how correspondence reaches him, perhaps through an organizational chart that he can provide me, so that I can respond back to the housing association board on the actual practices followed. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to provide my colleague with an explanation about this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 429 – 4(3): Language Services for Elders

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

Mr. Speaker, this summer it was brought to my attention that a number of Nunavut elders are currently receiving care in an Ottawa seniors' residence with very little access to Inuktitut language services. I wrote to the minister regarding this issue and I would like to thank him for his reply.

Currently, elders receiving long-term care services that do not fall under the contract services provided by the Ontario Health Services Network do not receive interpreting services except on an as-needed basis.

Can the minister clarify what steps have been taken to improve interpreting services for clients who receive services in Ottawa that are outside of the OHSNI contract? 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 thank the member for bringing awareness to this issue to me and my office.

I was in Ottawa last week and I met with the OHSNI chair of the board as well as the executive director there. On an interim basis I have negotiated a temporary measure for them to provide some translation services. Again, it's more of an as-needed type service. I know there's one particular facility located very close to Larga Baffin that the OHSNI translators can go in and assist the residents there.

We're currently exploring options and opportunities to have longer term, full-time interpretation services available to residents that are in long-term care facilities. It is a little challenging when the number of residents that are in these facilities... . It's difficult to weigh the balance on making sure that we are getting cost-effective care for our residents in those facilities and making sure that their needs are being met from a language and cultural component. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's willingness to explore options that will help improve the living environment of our elders who are receiving care outside of Nunavut.

I would like to ask him if he can provide an update on what efforts are being made to ensure that services for Nunavut residents who are receiving care in other jurisdictions are inclusive of Inuit culture and language.

As he stated, Nunavummiut go outside of the territory, not of their own doing, because this care is not available in the territory. What efforts are made to include culturally appropriate or linguistic measures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. It's a very important issue. One of the things, even as recently as earlier this week when I was at the health ministers' meeting in Toronto, I spoke to the challenges that Nunavut has as a territory of not being able to provide for residents in-territory.

Ultimately our goal is to provide the care in-territory by caregivers from Nunavut where residents can stay in Nunavut. Unfortunately, due to the high-level needs of patients, that's a challenge for us infrastructure-wise and capacity-wise. We are forced right now to send people to outside-of-territory care and in the short term that is the only option available to us.

That being said, we are reviewing all the components of the level of care that we are providing outside the territory, and examining ways that we can assist our partners in providing that care with a strong cultural and language component to it so that our residents are eating food

that they're familiar with or are being able to speak their language amongst their peers.

It's a serious focus that I have and I know that we are looking at different options. I can't say exactly. It's very preliminary since I took over the portfolio. I'm sure there has been some work done in the past from previous ministers and this topic has been revitalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I understand that there is a staff complement of approximately ten interpreters in Ottawa who work hard to provide language services to Nunavut clients.

Can the minister clarify whether his department will be increasing the number of interpreting staff in Ottawa to provide support to unilingual Nunavummiut who are sent away from home to receive health services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question as well. As of right now I haven't been made aware of any concerns on the number of translators not being able to meet the current need. I'm sure there are continual meetings that the Department of Health has with OHSNI. If that need is realized, I'm sure that would be part of our negotiations with that group to make sure that we're

able to meet the needs of our residents.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 430 – 4(3): Building
Maintenance Division**

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

As the minister is well aware, his
department's Building and Maintenance
Division operates and maintains
government-leased and owned facilities
on behalf of client departments for their
program delivery operations through
general maintenance, emergency
maintenance, and minor works.

Can the minister explain, once an
employee identifies a need for general
maintenance in their workplace building,
what specific steps must be taken in
order for the maintenance to be
completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I thank the member for
bringing his concern out. Maintenance is
part of every building that is occupied. It
depends on who owns the building and
what kind of leases were agreed to and
signed to on buildings. I can't tell the
member exactly what happens on every
occasion when there are maintenance
issues, but there is a process and it
depends on the conditions of the lease

and it depends on whether we as a
government own the building.

The reporting process would be that if
the employee sees something that needs
maintenance and was brought up to the
supervisor, and then the supervisor
would notify someone to get the repairs
done. As I stated, it depends on terms
and conditions of the lease, if it's a
leased building. If it's a government-
owned building, then the government
staff would take care of the maintenance.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, I
understand that there are numerous
government-owned and leased buildings
in each community. I also understand
that buildings age and wear down over
time and that the department may see
any number of requests for minor works
and repairs in a given community at a
given time.

Can the minister clarify how his
Building and Maintenance Division
prioritizes projects for general
maintenance and minor works within the
community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. There are two systems here
again, whether it's a government-owned
building or a government-leased
building. I'll speak to the government-
owned buildings.

CGS maintains government-owned buildings, but it is the client departments to bring up the issues of maintenance and each department does have lifecycle repairs that are done to buildings because our buildings have to be up to code and they have to be safe. The number one priority that is used, whether or not maintenance is done on a building, would be safety. If there is a safety issue, then that has to be acted on immediately. If it's aesthetics, then it's further on down the scale.

We do have a system on when we maintain it, like I told the member, whether it's a government-owned or a leased building. For government-leased buildings, the lease would stipulate how maintenance is done on that building. For government-owned buildings, we do have lifecycle repairs that are done on all buildings to keep them up to the standards and up to codes, make sure they're safe, and further on down the scale, make sure they look good too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, when a building is well constructed, it will usually last longer and require less maintenance and repairs.

I recognize that as part of its work to improve its capital planning process, the department has previously conducted post-occupancy evaluations. The department's 2016-19 business plan indicates that it has completed post-occupancy evaluations for major capital projects that "capture information on design/construction issues, occupants'

satisfaction with space, and lessons learned."

Will the minister commit to tabling the results of his department's post-occupancy evaluations in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we do any construction or maintenance, we do want to get the best value for our money. When a project goes out and is done, we want to make sure that it is what we had planned for and what we had hoped for. We do these kinds of studies.

If the member has any certain project that he would like the information on, I don't see value in tabling that document. There are tabling requirements that we have and then there's other stuff that we table just because it might be nice to do. If the member has a certain project or certain building that he wants more information on, I'll gladly provide that information to him and I'm free to meet with him at any time at his convenience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 188 – 4(3): NBCC Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Report 2014-2015

Tabled Document 189 – 4(3): NBCC Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Report 2015-2016

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following reports from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation:

- Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Report, 2014-15; and
- Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Report for 2015-16.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Development Corporation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Tabled Document 190 – 4(3): NDC Procurement, Contracting and Leasing Report 2013-2014

Tabled Document 191 – 4(3): NDC Procurement, Contracting and Leasing Report 2014-2015

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following reports from the Nunavut Development Corporation:

- Procurement, Contracting and Leasing Report, 2013-14; and
- Procurement, Contracting and Leasing Report, 2014-15.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 20 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016 – Notice

Bill 21 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016 – Notice

Bill 22 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 – Notice

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2016, that Bill 20, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016*, Bill 21, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*, Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*, and finally, Bill 23,

Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson, Bills 20, 21, 22, and 23.

Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – Notice

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2016, that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act – Notice

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2016, that Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Bill 27 – Waste Reduction and Diversion Act – Notice

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2016, that Bill 27, *Waste Reduction and Diversion Act*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards – Notice

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2016, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 24 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:44 and Committee commenced at 11:05*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good morning, Inuit and MLAs/colleagues. Being Friday, I say “welcome” to the people listening to the TV and watching the radio.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. I would like 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, and again good morning. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. 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. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. With me to my left is my Deputy Minister, Sherri Rowe, and to my right is John Hawkins, Manager of Iqaluit Airport. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are still on page K-3. Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$59,332,000. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, everybody.

I know we’re going on day three, my third opportunity to ask a question, and basically what I really want to talk about this morning is one area. I would like get some commitment from the department and minister, and that is in the area of What my colleague brought up a couple of days ago is about the jet bridge where, if you can’t walk up the stairs into the jet, there is that other option like what you have in the south. When the jet pulls up, you can walk right off and right into the airport without having to go down through the stairs and that.

We have talked about this for quite a while, I think, over the last few years since the project began. I think the concern is that there is a lot of money being spent on this project, yet we don't have something that you would think would automatically have been included into the overall plan of the airport.

When we look at people that are elderly and those who have physical disabilities and so on, everybody wants to be treated with respect and we don't want to be hauling people on the outside through cranes or lifts or something.

My question is: is this something that you can seriously look at implementing? What would be the reason for not doing something like this? Why not? We can spend half a billion on this. I think the cost that was stated last year was like a million dollars to build this. If the minister can tell us why not or perhaps she will tell us, "Yes, this is a good thing." That's what I'm hoping to hear anyway. I'll give it over to the Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the member may not have been here when I answered a similar question the other day from another member. I was very pleased to announce that the airport will be making boarding ramps available to ensure that all passengers can be boarded safely in a dignified manner and without undue hardship. Our department has spent \$160,000 for the purchase of these two ramps, one for a jet operation and one for a turboprop operation. I mentioned

yesterday that they will be on the first sealift for next year.

At this time the current airport is being built so that in the future, a full boarding bridge can be attached, but at this time that full boarding bridge is not a feasible option. It would cost around \$1 million or \$2 million for one jet that comes in possibly once a day. At this time what we have purchased will be for all the jets and other planes that come in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister describe to me, then, what's the difference between the boarding jet and ramp that you were talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ramp is a mechanism that is attached to the jet or plane whereby you could have wheelchair accessibility and/or walk up with a cane or what have you. In my case, I would be able to hold onto both ramps while I carry my carry-on with my one hand, rolling it up to the airplane.

The passenger boarding bridge is one where you travel down south and you see them attached and then you walk completely to the plane without going outside. The ramp that we are getting is one that is rolled out to the plane. I can table the picture of the ramp in the House so that everyone can see what we acquired. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. You said that it's not doable at this time to get the jet bridge. Is that because of the way that the current airport is being built and it's something that you have to change structurally or is it just about \$1 million? Why did we go to the other version and not go straight to the jet bridge?

The other concern I have about postponing projects like this is that they never happen. It depends on who is the minister of the day and what the priorities are. That's always a concern too. It costs \$1 million today. In 30 years or less it can cost a lot more. So if you can comment on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we were to include the passenger boarding bridge at this time, it would only be for those jets that open and allow passengers to get out from the front. It would only be for maybe one jet per day, so it's not feasible with the traffic at this time. We decided to go with something that would be for all planes and all jets that come in and board in and out from the back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I think that it helps me understand the situation a lot better. Thank you. That's all for me.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Madam Minister.

Mr. Chairman, just for clarification, it has been brought up at some point during this meeting, but it's in regard to the air terminal being built here in Iqaluit. You indicated that you have paid many millions of dollars to Inuit for working at the airport. Is it possible for you to say exactly how many Inuit you have working at the air terminal, if there are indeed Inuit working there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now there are 140 employees at the air terminal. In August there were 81. In July there were 140. Now they're going to be taking a winter break. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the project was initiated, it has become clear that the number of Inuit working at the airport fluctuates. I do know that they stop work in the winter, but approximately what percentage of Inuit work there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In total approximately 40 percent are Inuit. If you look at it monthly, I think it went over that. In

August there were 17.3 percent Inuit working and in July there were approximately 17.5 percent Inuit working at the airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. What do the Inuit workers do on that project? 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 the airport manager, Mr. Hawkins.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two aspects to the project. One is the operations that happen day and night, 12 months a year, and the other is the construction.

In the operations aspect of it, there are Inuit beneficiaries that are firefighting, the operations manager, mechanics, equipment operators, and just about every aspect of the airport operation. I don't have that number right in front of me, but it's approximately 40 percent. I think it's 36 percent or something like that.

There is also the construction and some of the Inuit labourers are involved in trades. There are carpenters, electricians, welders, and plumbers. A great number of them are involved in the civil works, so they would be equipment operators and labourers.

There are also ancillary services like hotels, catering, and other contract services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I was just asking questions in regard to construction and (interpretation ends) just based on that, (interpretation) so I'll expect to get a response based on construction. I'll ask further questions for other topics.

During the construction of the airport terminal building, do you have any information as to how long the Inuit work there? Do they work there for a day? Do they work there for two weeks? How long of a period do they remain in their job position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know some Inuit who have been working there since the beginning of the project. Mr. Hawkins can go into detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Among the reports that we get, there is a turnover of a number that is provided. It's provided on a monthly basis. In the last two months that were reported, July and August of this year, they were respective 4.3 percent and 3.7 percent. As I said, they're in all sorts of activities and some of them are subcontractors, so it takes a lot of analysis to get the actual numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Did I just hear that it takes a lot of analysis to get to those numbers and as such, we can't get those numbers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the information as to how long employees stay or remain within their position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The airport terminal building project has been under construction for approximately two years now. Looking at the whole project, are you on target for the Inuit employment numbers? Are you in line with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we had agreed to 10 percent of Inuit employment. As I stated, they surpassed that in July and August with a little over 17 percent of Inuit employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move to another topic, primarily just a request for clarification on airport-related

infrastructure. The Airports Division has quite a variety of airport equipment in different communities. Further, the hamlets have employees that work with heavy equipment and work orders.

How does the department work with municipal airport maintainers on determining the condition of their airport equipment or if the equipment is no longer capable of maintaining the runway or if the equipment breaks down? How does the department work with the municipalities on these types of challenges? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have the airport manager, Mr. Hawkins, respond.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the airport equipment is actually owned by the Nunavut Airports Division or by the Government of Nunavut. There are other pieces of equipment that are used less often that would be owned by the hamlets. There are maintenance provisions in the contracts that the hamlets or other service providers have with the government. If there are large unexpected equipment breakdowns, there are provisions in the contract that the government will provide for the cost of the repairs of those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. If the heavy equipment at the airport no longer became available unexpectedly, is the hamlet's heavy equipment immediately available? Did I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, that's what usually happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to asking my next question, I want to refer to my colleague Mr. Tom Sammurток, who was ecstatic about the approval and that he had expectations after the passage of the requests. I also share in that expectation that these requests will be approved forthwith for these capital expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, another issue requiring further clarification relates to your [2016-17] requests, albeit I am aware this is from the previous fiscal year I am referencing. In your substantiation sheets, it is written that for the Hamlet of Pond Inlet, the department expended \$244,665 on the small craft harbour project. This is the reason why I am trying to clarify this situation here, so my questions will be as straightforward as I can voice them.

The funding expended was received through a contribution agreement related to the Small Craft Harbours Program. In your written report here, as per my earlier reference, the department

expended \$244,665 on the project over the summer for the construction of the mooring bollards in Pond Inlet. Is this figure the (interpretation ends) final figure (interpretation) for that line item, yes or no?

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this \$244,000 has been spent and this mooring bollard is now in Pond Inlet, but its construction has not started. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it at that for now.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Madam Minister and your officials.

Firstly I will be basing my questions on yesterday's questions. Some of the responses I received during my questions regarding MVIS, the way I saw it, it seemed like they did not want to provide the services. Perhaps you can ensure that the department is more open with the capital estimates.

I know that when I'm talking about passport photos, each community will be receiving a camera for driver's licences. I know these cameras are not intended to be used for passport photos, but the communities will be receiving these cameras. The way I understood it is that you cannot provide any other service

with that camera, except to provide a driver's licence and it cannot be used for passports.

I was wondering if your department can commit to being more open to other ideas. Perhaps you can work with Passport Canada so that these new cameras that are going to be installed could be used for passport photos some time in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Transportation is not responsible for providing passport pictures, but we work with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Perhaps the member could direct his question to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask another question. Since you are the Minister of Transportation, can you commit to being open to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and work with the GLOs? They also provide services for the federal government. As the minister, can you commit to being open to at least considering having the cameras to provide the service for passport photos? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am familiar with the passport issue and I know that the member already knows that the federal government is responsible for issuing passports. There are private photographers in the communities and in Iqaluit. I know that there are private photographers in the communities that could take passport photos.

We wouldn't mind consulting with Intergovernmental Affairs, but at this time, we have no role with respect to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ell-Kanayuk. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I completely understand that the federal government is responsible for passports. However, there are other governments that we work with. Even if it's in the communities, when it involves the federal government, we help them so that the people of Nunavut are served properly. I'm sure we can make an agreement with the federal government to do that work.

How are the communities going to do this? Sometimes we have nowhere to turn to and that's why I'm asking this question. We can imagine that if those cameras can be used for passport purposes, it would be good. Maybe the Nunavut government can receive a small amount to help pay for the cameras and even make some savings for taking passport photos. Let me just leave this issue for now.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I want to go back to the 20-year needs assessment, just one quick clarification under page 7-1 and it's regarding overlay requirements. It says it's for Cape Dorset. Right at the end it says, "It is recommended that the overlay and repairs to this runway take place as soon as possible." Can the minister indicate how soon as possible it will take? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

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

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Overlays are one of the highest priorities that we have and this will be identified to both the Government of Nunavut capital plan and to the ACAP program, which is available from the federal government to undertake safety improvements to runways. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Is there a timeline that the department can share? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) "As soon as possible" seems pretty immediate, so I look forward to getting an update in the near future about it.

(interpretation) I would like to move on to a different issue as well. There was a question about it from Mr. Enook just a few minutes regarding the Inuit workers at the Iqaluit airport. It's supposed to be 10 percent Inuit employment for the whole construction project. Did you indicate, for example, if they have 100 employees, then 10 have to be Inuit? That's the absolute minimum. Did you explain to them that if they have 100 employees, then 30 positions could be given to Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Hawkins respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to clarify off the top that 10 percent is a minimum in any given year, but overall the project is 15 percent and that is based on the amount of money disbursed to individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. Let me expand on my question. Was the construction carried out based

on numbers? I was using 100 jobs as an example. I know that they would not get 100 percent Inuit employment, but if we looked at the work skills of Inuit, were you able to tell the contractors that there are 30 jobs, or whatever the number is, that could have been done by Inuit just on qualifications alone? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Hawkins respond.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did not stipulate the number of employees. The responsibility is on the contractor or private partner to meet the obligations that were set out in the project agreement, which included a percentage of payrolls that would be to Inuit beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to ask further questions. The minister indicated to us that the airport terminal construction is reported on the website and that the contents of it can be looked at.

What is the total project cost going to be for the airport terminal project in Iqaluit? I would like that clarified first as it has become confusing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member was saying that it would cost half a billion dollars. It's nowhere near that amount. The project cost is \$305,193,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at what was posted on the website before construction started, it says that the government would pay \$298.5 million. Now it's over \$300 million. Which is the actual cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Hawkins respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total cost is \$305 million. That includes the government's retained risks. That is for environmental issues that we knew were at the airport, although we couldn't quantify them before we started the project. It's for all the project delivery, all the consultants, and all the costs that we bear as we're delivering the project. The contract itself is less than \$300 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The projected costs or

estimates are quite different and I'm sure they will have to be looked at again because it will be revisited in the future. It's like I heard it for the first time where we had very few Inuit working on that big construction project. I would like to know why there were so few Inuit working on this big, expensive project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is written in the contract that is carried out. You heard how many Inuit have to work there, which has been achieving a rate of 15 percent. I said there were up to 140 Inuit that worked in July. Right now they are dwindling in number because the project is winding down. The obligations provided in the contract for the number of jobs for Inuit have been fulfilled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): No, I am done.

Chairman: The next name on the list, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a short question. I asked the same question yesterday. I was not satisfied with the answer I got yesterday, so I would like to ask again about the port requested for Qikiqtarjuaq.

Smaller communities seem to be put at the end of the line to a degree and it makes us envy the larger communities

when they are given reason to smile, even when it really isn't like that. It seems like we get left behind and are made second, and then we get envious of the larger communities that get more stuff. Though that may not be the case, that's the way it seems.

I would like to ask why the federal government did not approve funding under the Building Canada Fund for a new port in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have Ms. Rowe respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): I said Ms. Rowe.

Chairman: My apologies. Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can't speak for the federal government on why they picked one particular project over another. They obviously have their own list of criteria that they go through. Again, we're at the same situation; there is only so much money to go around. We will continue to push the priorities of Economic Development and Transportation, and we will continue to try to get things on our capital plan and then apply for federal money. That's really all we can do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Government of Nunavut make another submission to the federal government for this same request? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Ms. Rowe respond to that.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will continue to apply for federal dollars for projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much money can the Nunavut government commit to the new port project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Rowe answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently we are here to discuss our capital plan and what's in it. It needs to be in our capital plan, which needs to go through our own process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I move to report progress. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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. Carried.

We will come back Monday 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. Tony 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 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. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Shooyook. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder of various meetings, today at half past one in the Nanuq Room, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities meets; tomorrow, Saturday, there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board at ten o'clock in the Tuktu Room; and on Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Nanuq Room, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Orders of the Day for October 24:

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

- Bill 20
- Bill 21
- Bill 22
- Bill 23
- Bill 25
- Bill 26
- Bill 27
- Bill 28

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:55*

