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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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

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

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Friday, October 28, 2016****Members Present:**

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

>>House commenced at 9:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors in the gallery, welcome to the House.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Finance... (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 188 – 4(3): Men and Boys Programming**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): For a second I feared that the Premier

assigned another portfolio under me without my knowledge, and the Finance portfolio to boot.

>>Laughter

Thank you and good morning. Thank you, Nunavummiut, residents of my community, my relatives, children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, November is Family Violence Prevention Month and building healthy relationships is an important step in reducing family violence in our communities. This month, like every month, we continue to recognize the importance of building healthy relationships in our families, friendships, and workplaces across the territory. To meet this objective, my department is supporting community-based programs and their work with men and boys to promote health, healing, and recovery from the impact of violence.

Men and boys between the ages of 15 and 24 experience the highest rates of suicide, 10 times higher than the national rate. Nunavut's rate of family violence is 11 times higher than the national rate, with many children as victims. Strengthening programming and healing for this at-risk age group is essential.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a two-day gathering took place in Iqaluit on October 24 and 25, engaging stakeholders and service providers who support men and boys in the Baffin. The gathering provides an opportunity to share issues of value to men and boys and highlight best practices in the development of future programming. Additional round-table gatherings will be scheduled in the Kivalliq and

Kitikmeot.

(interpretation) My department is dedicated to holistic, collaborative approaches to reducing family violence. Together let's collectively build on initiatives that heal our past and nurture healthy, resilient, and respectful communities well into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 189 – 4(3):
Firefighter Training**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish Arviarmiut a good Friday morning and have a good weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Fire Marshal provides firefighter training in the territory. We are working with the Nunavut Municipal Training Organization to help provide firefighters with the training, tools, and resources to effectively respond to fire emergencies. It's very encouraging to see that the numbers of successful course participants are increasing.

Each summer volunteer firefighters from across Nunavut join together for a territorial level firefighting competition. This is an important part of training, skills development, and team building for Nunavut firefighters. The participants compete in obstacle courses, skills exercises, and time trials that simulate the actual conditions of fighting

a fire.

From this territorial competition six firefighters were chosen to represent Team Nunavut at the National Aboriginal Firefighter Competition hosted by Six Nations of the Grand River in Ontario. This year the following six firefighters were selected:

Jordan Mansbridge (Team Captain) –
Arviat
Atsaina Eeyeevadlok – Kimmirut
Glen Sutherland – Kugaaruk
Lutie Mucpa – Pond Inlet
Steven Iqalukjuak – Clyde River
Andrew Jr. Iqalukjuak – Clyde River

Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut's performance at the National Aboriginal Firefighter Competition gained high praise from judges, participants, and observers. They finished in fifth place, which is an improvement over last year.

What I am most proud of is their exemplary teamwork, encouragement, and support they showed to their fellow firefighters and [competitors] which earned them the Max McNeill Award for Most Sportsmanlike Team.

Mr. Speaker, this speaks to the high calibre of talented firefighters we have in our territory. I would like to invite all of my colleagues in this House to join me in congratulating our firefighters. We are proud to have them represent Nunavut on the territorial and national stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of

Culture and Heritage, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Minister's Statement 190 – 4(3):
Archives Council of Nunavut Soon
to Mark its 15th Year**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Good morning, my fellow Nunavummiut, colleagues, my fellow residents of Arviat, and the people of Whale Cove. Let's have a good day as it's Friday.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Archives Council of Nunavut is a community network of individuals and regional heritage societies which meets annually to share approaches for local archival projects, including oral histories and the photographic record. The council was incorporated as a Nunavut society in May of 2002.

The Archives Council of Nunavut has benefited from its participation in and support from the Canadian Council of Archives, which encourages cooperation among its 13 provincial and territorial members. The Department of Culture and Heritage promoted Nunavut's council establishment and assisted with program support. The Pond Inlet Archives and Kitikmeot Heritage Society are among the senior participants who have helped arrange meetings and invited guest presenters.

Mr. Speaker, with the help of the archives council program, Nunavut communities and organizations have become aware that archives and archival methods are the best way to preserve local historical records and with them a priceless legacy of rights and values. The Archives Council of

Nunavut is soon to mark its 15th year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 191 – 4(3):
Nurse Practitioner
Implementation**

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past year the Department of Health has increased the number of nurse practitioner positions within the community health nursing program as part of its commitment towards providing timely and accessible care throughout the territory.

Mr. Speaker, nurse practitioners are registered nurses who bring added education, expertise, and competencies to our health services. They can order and interpret diagnostic tests, prescribe pharmaceuticals, and perform advanced procedures that fall within their legislated scope of practices without a physician's order.

The addition of nurse practitioners to health centres has numerous benefits for patients, including reduction in wait times, increased clinical capacity in the communities for advanced interventions and procedures, as well as improved access to diagnostics and timely access to follow-up care.

Mr. Speaker, based on Canadian Nurses Association estimates, 70 percent of services provided by a family physician can be provided by a nurse practitioner. Nurse practitioners working

to their full scope of practice allow the Department of Health to utilize physician hours for critical medical practice.

Since the introduction of a nurse practitioner in Pond Inlet, there have been noted improvements in accessibility to timely health services. During the course of a year as many as 570 physician appointments, an equivalent to 19 physician days, were diverted in Pond Inlet by the nurse practitioner. What this means is that patients were able to receive timely care in the community without having to wait for a physician community visit, and the physician was able to focus on the more complex and critical medical needs within the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health has integrated nurse practitioners in Rankin Inlet, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Pangnirtung health centres. Additional positions have also been approved for the communities of Cape Dorset, Igloolik, Baker Lake, Nauyasat, Arviat, and Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, the introduction of the nurse practitioners to our health services team is a positive development and serves as an example of innovation that strengthens access to care for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 192 – 4(3): Mining Activity

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the listening audience.

Mr. Speaker, building a strong and sustainable economy in Nunavut is an important objective for our government, and a strong mining industry is essential to our economic development.

Beginning with the opening of Agnico Eagle's Meadowbank gold mine near Baker Lake in 2010, we have seen a revival in mining in Nunavut. Meadowbank has already produced over 2.3 million ounces of gold and will continue to operate until at least 2018.

Iron ore is being mined at Baffinland's Mary River deposit, with four million tonnes of ore shipped annually from the port at Milne Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in early 2017 we will see the opening of Nunavut's third operating mine, the Doris North gold mine in the Kitikmeot region. It will provide employment, training, and local business opportunities to Nunavummiut in that region.

For each of these projects an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement has been negotiated to ensure that Nunavummiut benefit from the development.

Preliminary estimates indicate that Nunavut had over \$567 million of mineral production last year, with more on the horizon as other mining projects work their way through the permitting

process.

Mr. Speaker, mines bring long-term investment in many areas for our territory. Although our mining sector has grown and developed, we must work to ensure that Nunavut remains attractive and competitive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 357 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet's 2016 Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Good morning, my fellow residents of Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the community of Rankin Inlet's 2016 integrated community sustainability plan.

Mr. Speaker, this plan was adopted by the hamlet in an attempt to identify those areas where infrastructures must be brought up to an acceptable level so that the residents can maintain their healthy lifestyles.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that three of the short-term needs identified by the community address the

situation faced by the Rankin Inlet elders.

Mr. Speaker, the plan notes the need of a 24-hour care facility as elders needing care are currently sent out of the community. This causes family hardship and is difficult to our elders who lose contact with their family members.

Mr. Speaker, the plan also notes the need for palliative care within the facility, and the plan states the need of an elders facility where elders can live in a community living environment instead of overcrowded housing.

Mr. Speaker, I add my voice to those who are calling for more infrastructure and services for our elders. At the appropriate time I will be tabling a copy of this document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 358 – 4(3): Official Opening of the Tuugaalik High School in Naujaat

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Naujaat, Coral Harbour, and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my appreciation to the many people who helped make the recent official opening of Naujaat's new Tuugaalik High School a great success. Mr. Speaker, the official opening took place last month on September 9.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Aivilik, I was very honoured to be able to welcome a number of distinguished guests who travelled to the community for the official opening of our community's new Tuugaalik High School. The guests included the Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa, as well as Ministers Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Peterson, (interpretation ends) and Mr. Mike, (interpretation) and I thank them for taking the time to join me at the event.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the official opening marked a new era for education in our community. The new Tuugaalik High School will serve our community for decades to come. I am pleased that it includes a number of important design features, including a gathering area, an on-site daycare, and a special needs washroom. I want to pay tribute to the hard work that went into the planning, design, and construction of our new school.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank everyone in the community who works at our schools, who serves on our district education authority, or who volunteers their time and energy to work with our children and youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 359 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Sherry Parks**

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise today to congratulate one of my constituents, Ms. Sherry Parks, for her accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs we spend a significant amount of time and energy on issues related to health care in the territory.

Today I am proud to be able to highlight the accomplishments of a person who has devoted her career to the care of others.

Mr. Speaker, Sherry Parks' roots in Pond Inlet run deep. Her grandmother was a long-time nurse in the community and Sherry completed her high school in the community.

Sherry is an Inuktitut-speaking beneficiary who received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree in 2009 from Nunavut Arctic College.

As a registered nurse Sherry could probably choose to work anywhere in the country. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that Sherry has chosen to live and work in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year Sherry became the first Inuk nurse to be appointed supervisor of health programs in the community. This is an historic accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, professionals like Sherry are an inspiration to our youth, and I ask all members to join me in congratulating Sherry on her accomplishment and to

express our appreciation to all of the nurses and other frontline health care workers in our hospitals and health centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 360 – 4(3):
Kugaaruk Literacy Fund Grant**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk, the people of Taloyoak, members, the Premier, and ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to say I was very pleased to hear yesterday that our students of Kugaaruk work hard and progress is obvious to notice, including the dedication of the teachers.

It was good to hear that there will be funding for student activities that will be provided. Although the fund isn't that large a sum, it still makes a difference for the students, including the youth who will benefit from this program.

As parents we are generally in agreement over the fact that we want literacy to be learned. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we make statements and requests as passionate advocates for our student bodies when we reference issues or challenges facing our schools.

This program that will be funded for the school in Kugaaruk is an amount of \$40,000 that will be provided. This is an example of requests made by the

community to our government. With repeated requests of our government for our capital projects, it shows that with persistence funding will eventually be allocated. When we get funding, it results in satisfaction for the community.

I want to thank the students, teachers, as well as our Minister of Education. I am quite pleased to see this funding being allocated to Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 361 – 4(3): Boat
Launch Ramp in Kugluktuk**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning, my colleagues, the people of Kugluktuk, and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer through the good work of the Hamlet of Kugluktuk and with the assistance of the Government of Nunavut and other parties, an experimental boating ramp was installed in Kugluktuk.

The boat launching ramp is designed by FAUN Trackway so that it can be easily assembled and put in place. It then can be just as easily disassembled and stored for the next boating season.

Mr. Speaker, I used this boat ramp this summer and I can say that the ramp certainly assisted with loading and offloading of hunters, harvesters, and recreational boaters. Mr. Speaker, the

portable ramp is made of aluminum and was in heavy use throughout the summer. It ensures that vehicles will not have to be put in a situation where they get stuck and damaged while loading and offloading.

Mr. Speaker, the initial feedback from hunters, harvesters, and the boaters of Kugluktuk has been very positive. I would like to commend the mayor and the hamlet council in Kugluktuk for their foresight in looking at new technologies that assist with our boaters, hunters, and harvesters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 362 – 4(3): The Retirement of Elisapee Nauyuk

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and our visitors present in the gallery.

I rise today to talk about Elisapee Nauyuk. She reached retirement age just recently and she will now be retiring. She has reached retirement age and that was her reason. She worked in a position in Pangnirtung which she started around 1999-2000. She was the elders' caretaker for any work required in their homes or for home care. She kept her position, but she took a sabbatical from 2010-12 due to issues at home.

Her duties and her service to Pangnirtung elders will obviously be missed. Furthermore, she retired from her position in August 2016 due to

reaching retirement age. Now I want to express my sincere gratitude as Elisapee Nauyuk was able to provide this service and care for the elders requiring home care. That is what happened in Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 363 – 4(3): Caribou Hunt in Arviat

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I keep making statements reminiscing about my past experiences as I was an ardent caribou hunter during my journey to adulthood with members of my family. I have wonderful memories from that period.

Nowadays due to the low population levels of caribou around our community, I don't even bother going caribou hunting as I am protective of them. Due to this reticence to hunt caribou, I travelled to the Kivalliq region this fall on more than one occasion to hunt caribou.

My first trip was to Naujaat, where I imposed myself on the Mapsalak family to accommodate my hunt. They provided the necessary resources to go caribou hunting and as I was able to harvest caribou, I was extremely grateful to them. However, I was unfortunate in that I didn't harvest any caribou with much fat.

Therefore I changed my hunting venue to Arviat based on Mr. Kuksuk's stories

and assistance. He continually related the fact that caribou were abundant in the area near his cabin and the lake where his cabin is would allow me to harvest a caribou almost as a guarantee. In listening to that possibility, I was intrigued and followed my colleague on the hunt to the lake known locally as Qammaniq.

During our time at the lake we experienced sporadic bad weather conditions and although I went with him on several trips, we didn't catch any caribou at all. We spent two or three days at the cabin with no successful hunts during the entire time and we were lucky to meet up with another hunter named Pameolik, whom I was grateful to since he shared caribou meat with us.

Since George wasn't a very good guide, I then fired my colleague.

>>*Laughter*

Apparently the person I ended up going with turned out to be Mr. Savikataaq's constituency assistant named Tulugaq. When I went with Tulugaq on another hunting trip, we caught several caribou by the next day and that person was quite capable.

I take this opportunity to thank Tulugaq publicly, as well as the elders of Arviat and the Kivalliq for being very welcoming and receptive. They wished me success on the caribou hunt, as they were worried about their fellow Inuit who were unable to eat caribou meat. I am extremely grateful for their warm welcome when Inuit arrive to harvest country food in the region. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 364 – 4(3): A
Day of Firsts Aboard the Nuliajuk**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my appreciation for having had the opportunity to spend time aboard Nunavut's state-of-the-art marine vessel, the Nuliajuk.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister of Environment for having invited me and a number of my colleagues to receive a familiarization tour of the ship and to learn about its important work from its hard-working and dedicated crew.

Mr. Speaker, it was a day of firsts.

Last Saturday was my very first time to set sail along the coast of Frobisher Bay, a body of water that looms large in Nunavut's geography as well as its history.

During our tour of the captain's deck, I decided to go for'ard and look over the bow. Down in the water I saw what I thought was a large bulb of clear plastic and my first thought was a concern about pollution in our arctic waters.

Mr. Speaker, you may have heard me mention on one or two occasions that I am proud to represent beautiful Baker Lake, which is Nunavut's only inland community.

You can imagine my inlander surprise to see that bulb swell and open and seem to light up before propelling itself forward. Mr. Speaker, I just had seen my very first jellyfish!

>>Applause

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, my reaction to this surprise is best left to the imagination, but I want to thank Admiral, I mean, Minister Savikataaq for not making me walk the plank.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness this was a wonderful experience and I am very pleased to have been invited to share it with my colleagues and the crew of Nuliajuk. 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 Tununig, Mr. Joe Enook.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite happy and pleased to be able to recognize and welcome the following residents of Pond Inlet. First, the Mayor of Pond Inlet, Charlie Enuaraq along with one of his councillors, Abraham Kublu, and the current SAO, Calla Ball. Please welcome them to the gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, ministers, and good morning to Gjoa Haven.

I want to recognize the pages for these past few days. They will be leaving this afternoon. They are Erica Tungilik in the corner there and Ikey Kogvik, and also their escort, Casimir Tungilik sitting in the gallery there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery and thank you. (interpretation) 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 476 – 4(3): Lack of Office Space for Sanikiluaq's Resource Worker

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm dropping my papers.

Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, in response to my questions yesterday, the Minister of Family Services indicated that he had "discussions" with the Minister of Community and Government Services

concerning the lack of office space for the family resources worker in Sanikiluaq.

Can the Minister of Community and Government Services, from his perspective, indicate whether these consultations took place and what were the outcomes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Family Services did have general discussions on office space within Nunavut. Specifically about office space in Sanikiluaq, my recollection is that we have not talked specifically about Sanikiluaq but office space in Nunavut in general. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's somewhat surprising considering yesterday my questions were very direct and specifically for my community.

I will quote from the *Hansard*. In my question I said, "Can the current Minister of Family Services confirm whether or not he had consultations with the current Minister of Community and Government Services regarding the lack of office space for Sanikiluaq's family resources worker?" In his response he said, "I had discussions with the present community and government services minister on the matter."

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Family Services will take this

opportunity to, for the record, clarify exactly what he meant by his answers yesterday in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This question you directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services has been moved to another minister, so I will move on to the next member on my list. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 477 – 4(3): Cabinet Retreat in Clyde River

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I asked a question to the Premier on May 31 of this year asking about the Clyde River retreat, about how many hours they spent in Clyde River and how much the retreat cost the government.

In the interest of being open and transparent, can the Premier explain how many hours they spent in Clyde River and how much the retreat cost? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as cabinet we do have retreats and we try to select non-decentralized communities for our retreats. Every government does that. Every cabinet has done that.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that when we had our retreat upon the invitation of the MLA from Clyde River, we accepted the

invitation. Mr. Speaker, we took the most effective, efficient means of transportation to get over there.

Mr. Speaker, I do have some numbers here on the costs. The total cost was \$72,611. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As this is five months, I think the Premier can explain how many hours they spent in Clyde River. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, there are many factors that go into the planning of these retreats. We did meet with the hamlet, the Piqusilirivvik staff, and the community. We spent a total of 32 hours there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Question 478 – 4(3): Nursing Shortage in Kugaaruk

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement yesterday I spoke about health issues in our community of Kugaaruk. People who are suffering with pain usually set up appointments with the nurses. Not all of them since some people are diagnosed correctly, but it

seems the majority are informed that they are not sick and that they are fine.

How can we improve the situation? Can the minister provide information on how we can improve the current situation in Kugaaruk? Do we need additional nurses, or what initiatives does the department have in mind? I am asking about their strategic approach. 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 appreciate the member bringing forward that concern. When we're dealing with health care at the community level, there have been a number of challenges with staffing. I can assure the member that the intention of the staff is basically to provide the best level of care possible.

That being said, the Department of Health has recognized that there needs to be an update to the model of care and we're in the process of redesign. We continue to face very complex challenges, fiscal constraints, burden of chronic disease, just the geographic realities of Nunavut. We recognize there is a need to modernize the current model to ensure that the right care is being delivered at the right time and by the right provider in the right place. The new model of care is anticipated to improve patient experience through seamless program integration, timely access to health services, and health care services that are closer to home.

Stakeholder engagement within the government itself and the community is

going to form a key component to this project, and I look forward to consultations and feedback from the member and residents of his community on this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Inuit, regardless of whether they are a child or an adult or even an elder, have their symptoms ignored and are informed that there is nothing medically wrong with them and are not prescribed medication to deal with their pain, the person may have cancer and it can spread very quickly throughout one's body. I wonder if our minister can speak to this issue and how to improve diagnostic methods or the health care system in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member that I've had discussions with officials at the Department of Health on this very topic. I'm looking forward to continuing the project with the redesign of the model of care, which I have full confidence that it will provide direction within the department on how we can better assist early diagnoses of serious illnesses, such as cancer, so that our residents can get the care that they need in an appropriate manner, in a faster period of time so that it doesn't come to a point that's it a more serious diagnosis. The earlier we detect serious illnesses the better level of care we're able to provide. I look forward to the redesign of the model of care to help guide us into how we can do that as

efficiently as and fiscally responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide more information on the subject he responded with and can he provide the notification on the proposed improvements to our local health care system in our community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The redesign of this project just started at the end of September. That being said, as we learn and as this project develops, if there are immediate steps that we can take, we're absolutely going to enact them. We're not going to wait for the final report. If we can identify efficiencies within the system, the report will give us an overall view. If there's something that gets identified during the progress or the production of this review, we will definitely look at enacting things immediately. We're not going to wait for the results of the review for all occurrences, but it will help guide us in being able to provide the level of care that Nunavummiut deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 479 – 4(3): Support for Funeral Costs

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and Nunavummiut who are listening.

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked questions regarding what types of supports are available to families who have had a loved one pass away in another community and need help to pay for the funeral costs. The Minister of Health suggested that income support clients could receive assistance with funeral costs.

Can the Minister of Family Services confirm that it is indeed the case that income support clients can receive assistance for funeral costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. What I can say on behalf of the Department of Family Services with respect to child and family legislation or the guardians is we have to follow the corporate policies of the department. With respect to funeral costs, the Department of Family Services provides reimbursement for funeral costs or for purchasing the casket. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Department of Family Services has a policy which covers various funeral costs if a family services client who was cared for under the *Child and Family Services Act* or under a public guardianship order.

Can the minister provide some clear guidance about where families can turn to for assistance in paying for funeral costs if their loved one was not a client under the *Children and Family Services Act* or (interpretation ends) under a public guardianship order?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. As per my earlier response, any programs administered by the department related to the death of a loved one under their care must be investigated by the department following the *Child and Family Services Act*, as well as the document the member referenced, (interpretation ends) public guardianship order.

(interpretation) With respect to the question, the Department of Family Services can accommodate families or children who passed away under their care and the funeral expenses or purchase of a casket is covered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was: where can families turn to for assistance in paying for funeral costs if they are not a client?

In any case, I have another question. If an individual is an income support client with the Department of Family Services, what kinds of benefits are available to help pay for their funeral costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): With respect to clients assisted through (interpretation ends) income support, (interpretation) as referenced, if the individual became sick or ill, the Department of Health would be responsible for the person.

As per my other comments with respect to any individual under the care of the department, what I am saying is if the person received any assistance, then the department would cover the costs.

I have also been led to understand that if an individual receives income support, then they would be supported during their illness, but it would be through the Department of Health's guidelines for treating sick people. Based on my understanding, the Department of Health would have to pay.

Further, officials from Justice and Health have to discuss the overlaps. The three main departments, Justice, Health, and Family Services, work together on these

issues. This is what I wanted to provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 480 – 4(3): Quality of Education in Nunavut

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

It has been two years since I asked a question, but I didn't understand the response to my concern regarding education.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard that when high school students graduate, they are not up to par with the education system in the southern jurisdictions. What is the reason for why they are not up to par with the rest of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Obviously there are different responses that pertain to the question.

We have teacher support assistants within all of our schools here in Nunavut that work with students who need remedial lessons to catch up. When a student is assessed as falling behind in their studies, the support comes from the entire school to provide tutoring to allow the student to catch up.

Further, it is obvious that reasons exist, as per my previous response stating different responses apply, and perhaps if the student has poor attendance, it can result in the student falling behind. This is another reason.

Perhaps another reason is the lack of support from their parents. I urge all parents to strongly encourage their children to attend school. We know most parents are responsible, but again I reiterate my encouragement of parents to send their children to school.

This also applies within the school, as some students sometimes fall behind in studies perhaps due to the lack of proper sleep. There are various reasons that result in this scenario, as not all cases are the same.

Nonetheless, let's be aware that the schools are always assessing all of the students enrolled in their schools. Part of testing is to ensure they are learning what is taught in their classes as they progress up to the higher grades and to grade them accordingly.

Yes, there are many reasons that result in students falling behind. It's not just a singular reason. We are aware of this and we conduct assessments to ensure we catch them. That is what I can relay to the member.

Further, the Department of Education is exploring ways to engage parents in the schools. Here I mean (interpretation ends) parental engagement (interpretation) with the progress of our students. These are the kinds of initiatives we tend to use.

That is why I stated there were different reasons that students have for falling behind. This applies to some students only. Let's be aware that the majority of our students are very capable and I take pride in that when students are graduating from high school as that is our departmental goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to my question as it is much clearer now. Education is critical to Nunavut's success and what I specifically refer to are our (interpretation ends) high school (interpretation) graduation rates or graduates, as they are called.

We keep hearing that the general stream produces graduates who fall below Canadian standards. I wonder if the lack of teachers or space in the school is a contributing factor. When schools are tight for space, classes have to be split with morning students off for the afternoon while the second group takes their space.

With that happening in some cases, does this affect our students' success or academic skill when this occurs? Can you provide further information for clarity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am unsure if I understood the member's question, but

generally only the kindergarten students are the ones who are split into morning and afternoon classes. This is the only stream that uses that split for kindergarten, if I understood the member's question.

While on the same subject of kindergarten, we are currently reviewing this to see if students in kindergarten can take classes for the entire day. We are currently reviewing the issues as to whether to proceed, as it would also benefit our daycares, especially with the limited spaces in our local daycare centres and with some communities having no daycares. It will definitely assist the kindergarten students if they took classes for the entire day. This is being reviewed.

However, I was not sure if that is what the member was alluding to in his question. This grade is the only one split into morning and afternoon classes as other grades are in school for the entire day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also thankful for the clarification from our minister. This is part of the same concern related to education and we constantly hear that Nunavut's education levels are far lower than our southern counterparts.

Based on that assumption, I asked questions about students who are taken on hunting trips, some for an entire week where they are taught hunting skills. When I asked the question, the minister responded that these trips have no

bearing on their academically required grades.

With that being the case, when students are taken away from classes, they ought to take in the morning and afternoon. It can impact their courses throughout the year and may result in failure if testing isn't used to determine their academic levels. At least that is my opinion on the subject. Again based on your past response to my question, I believe that it is part of the problem.

I wonder what other considerations have been made by the department on whether *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is the cause, as they are sending students on hunting trips for a week when it may affect their academic progress. Can you provide some information on the status of these hunting trips? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking for more information on this front. However, with this government's adherence to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, our faith in this principle and in wanting to move it forward in our schools, if we look at education as a whole, this is an integral part of the schooling provided.

As a matter of fact our schools, especially in the spring season, usually set aside two weeks specifically for teaching students about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as well as throughout the year. Nonetheless, it is more prevalent in the spring season. This is an essential part of our schooling. It shouldn't be a reason for falling behind

in their classes, as it is part of our school subjects, much like math. *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is part of the courses.

Another aspect is the direction provided by the local DEA, as they set the direction on the plans in collaboration with our school officials, as to which part will be included along with the language and how it can be incorporated into our classes. They are the ones who set the timing and classes.

It should not be thought of as a barrier to learning since it is an important component of our school education with respect to Inuit customs and language. That is why parents usually receive notices that their children will be on a hunting trip. Parents are kept informed of any planned outings. This is not the reason why students may be falling behind in their classes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 481 – 4(3): Communities That Have Reached Caribou Quota

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked questions to the Minister of Environment on Monday about the status of the Baffin region caribou quota system totalling 250 tags, which begins July 1 ending on June 30 of the following year.

Mr. Speaker, the response provided by the minister on the question was that out of the entire quota of 250, 107 caribou had been harvested to date and that the

quota was increased by 50 animals compared to the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, have any communities surpassed their local allotment or are there any communities that are close to harvesting their total limit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that Iqaluit has reached their quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Iqaluit has reached their quota already, so they will be waiting a long time for June 30 and they won't be able to harvest caribou. Some communities will probably be the same case. Some communities don't reach their quota and they probably won't reach their quota. If some communities don't reach their quota, can they ask for a portion of another community's quota or is that up to the hunters and trappers organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This quota of 250 tags for the Baffin region is specific to the region. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board receives the quota and allocates each community specific numbers. If a community wishes to transfer their tags

to another community, that is their decision since the only requirement is not to go beyond 250 caribou within the Baffin region. Communities have the discretion to transfer their tags to other communities, but it would have to be approved by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for responding well to my question. Mr. Speaker, we are allowed to harvest narwhals using narwhal tags in the community. Can we go to another community to harvest narwhal and bring a tag from my community or is that up to the local hunters and trappers organizations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, the quota of 250 is for the entire Baffin region, although it's divided up between the communities. As long as it's in the Baffin region, the caribou tags can be used anywhere on Baffin Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 482 – 4(3): Status of Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure

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

Minister of Economic Development Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, Pond Inlet's mayor has been able to join us today in the Visitors' Gallery, and I want to take this opportunity to publicly pay tribute to him for his tireless advocacy on behalf of the community's infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, several million dollars have now been committed to Pond Inlet's new marine facility by both the federal and territorial governments and the project has successfully gone through the initial regulatory review process that is undertaken by the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

My first question is: can the minister confirm that the main sealift of materials and equipment for the project is scheduled to take place in the summer of 2017 and that the project is scheduled to be substantially completed before the end of 2018? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. He is well aware of the status of the project as I was questioned about the cost estimates earlier during the review of our financial estimates. The funding for Pond Inlet is over \$2 million, which we are trying to get approved here through our session and it will be for the project work. This requires approval.

I know at this time that they are working on the (interpretation ends) geotechnical and environmental work, (interpretation) as this work requires completion.

Although it is almost completed, some of the work will be completed in January 2017. The first portion of the funds requires pre-approval here in the House with respect to this \$2 million fund.

Also, in the upcoming fiscal year I expect the Nunavut Impact Review Board to invite all stakeholders for expression of interest in intervener status as they need to be able to voice their concerns at the review.

If this review proceeds smoothly and if the project is approved, we expect to have the small craft harbour construction commencing in the summer of 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June of this year public consultations concerning the project were undertaken in Pond Inlet. Both the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization and the Municipality of Pond Inlet expressed their support for the project. One of the specific recommendations that were raised by the Municipality of Pond Inlet concerned the need to ensure that “timelines for executing the small craft harbour project should be communicated in advance so the hamlet can develop and implement training initiatives to prepare community members with skills required for the construction and operation phases.” I want to ask the minister if she can assure me that this recommendation is being

followed by our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking about that matter. Yes, our preference is to see local residents working on these projects, at least for the majority of the positions for community projects. I am also aware that certain work training courses may be needed, as communities can plan every year on employment training. This is also under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm when the design for the new Pond Inlet marine facility will be finalized and formally unveiled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking about this aspect of the project. As per my earlier response about approvals for the project review, including consideration of support and the approval of the funds, we expect that in 2018 or in the fall of 2019 the harbour would be open for use by locals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 483 – 4(3): Overtime Paid to Health Employees

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Finance today.

Yesterday the minister tabled a corrected response to the written question that I had asked him back in our spring sitting and I compliment the minister for his sharp eyes.

Almost \$12 million was paid in overtime during the 2015-16 fiscal year to the employees of the Department of Health. Mr. Speaker, I am not questioning the need to ensure that hard-working frontline health care workers and nurses are fairly compensated for the many hours that they devote for caring for our constituents. However, I am concerned that this amount of overtime reflects a shortage of staff, especially frontline health care staff, and too much overtime for existing staff.

From the perspective of the finance minister, can he indicate if the majority of this overtime is going to staff at the community level or to folks at the administrative level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was the Minister of Health for a couple of years. Prior to that two-year

stint I was hearing stories about all the overtime being earned in the Department of Health. When I became the Minister of Health, I asked for that information, and this is going back to 2010-11.

I was quite astounded by the amount of overtime and I started requesting monthly overtime reports for all the departments and territorial corporations. Now I am very happy that the MLAs have requested this information because it should be public information.

That story yesterday or two days ago about overtime, I have to say that was a bit erroneous. If you take all the employees in the Department of Health and divide them into \$12 million, it doesn't mean they're all making an equal amount. The administrative staff don't make that much overtime. The bulk of the overtime or the largest overtime earners in the Department of Health would be health professionals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I agree that this kind of information does have to come out. We need to talk about it openly so all Nunavummiut understand what's going on with public funds.

I also noted that the total amount of overtime paid to health employees in the 2015-16 fiscal year was divided roughly evenly between casual staff and permanent staff.

Concerns have been expressed in this House by many members regarding the need to hire more full-time nurses and staff and reduce our reliance on casual and agency nurses.

Can the minister indicate approximately what percentage of overtime payments is going to agency nurses and what percentage is going to full-time nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if I have that level of detail. There are three types of nurses. There are the agency nurses, indeterminate nurses, and casual nurses.

As Ms. Angnakak knows, we have to have a full complement of nurses in all health centres. As my colleague will attest, we're in a real competitive situation and have been for many years with countries and all provinces and territories to hire nurses. The health department did have a project years ago called Trillium where they brought foreign nurses over to train them to work in our health centres. They had the *Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy*, a five-year strategy to try to address it, plus we're teaching and training nurses in our health centres.

I don't have that level of detail, but I can assure you that indeterminate and casual nurses both receive a significant amount of overtime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the ratification period for the new collective agreement between the government and NEU ends very shortly. Can the minister summarize what major changes, if any, have been included in the new collective agreement with respect to overtime rates and rules? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I don't have all that information with me. It's a very generous contract we have offered. It's out for ratification. We were hoping it would be ratified by today, but I believe the union is having some difficulties getting to all the communities and they have to go into all the communities to talk to their members.

We're hopeful. I'm hearing positive feedback. We have negotiated provisions in the collective agreement that should assist us to lessen that work on extended hours for different categories of employees. We're hopeful that will help us alleviate the overtime.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that in the past and in business cases, the House has approved additional nurses in the Kivalliq and office administrators in the Baffin to assist and alleviate the workloads of health professionals in the health centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 484 – 4(3): Office Space
Deficit in Sanikiluaq**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I asked the Minister of Community and Government Services whether any meetings had taken place between him and the Minister of Family Services concerning office space for the family resources worker in Sanikiluaq.

Again, I will go back to yesterday's answer when I asked the minister the question. I quote from my question, "Can the Minister of Family Services confirm whether or not he has consulted with the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding the lack of office space for Sanikiluaq?" In his response he said, "I've had discussions with the present Minister of Community and Government Services on the matter of positions or new positions and the lack of staff housing and it's a slow process."

Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm the Inuktitut version of the answer. Maybe my colleagues can do that at a later date for me on exactly how the questions and answers were translated.

For the record, I'm wondering if the minister can explain to the House why yesterday he stated that such meetings had taken place and then today the minister says that such meetings may not have taken place. Can the Minister of Family Services please explain his answers from yesterday? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if any of my responses yesterday were misunderstood. I tend to revert to Inuktitut when responding to a question and depend on the interpreters to relay my answer and I do not want to place blame on our interpreters.

It seems I have to clearly identify that when misunderstandings occur, it stems from my reticence to speak another language other than Inuktitut. I apologize if the interpretation or the transcription in the *Blues* is erroneous. When mistakes occur, we submit edits as members, especially if the translation didn't jibe with the response.

The member from Sanikiluaq was asking about the lack of office space and prior to asking his question, he stated this and I read his question in the *Blues* that the lack of office space impacts not just the Family Services but (interpretation ends) other departments (interpretation) and that was his question. He also stated (interpretation ends) not just Family Services. The situation affects staff from a number of departments, not just Family Services. (interpretation) That's what he said.

He raised a question as to whether I had discussions with other departments, although he was specifically asking about Sanikiluaq's situation, which I know was specific to the position under Family Services, that has to go to competition and requires office space and housing.

When he asked that question, my response was yes, I have discussed this issue with the Minister of CGS. I clarified that I had tasked my officials to work with and discuss the issue with CGS officials. For these reasons, (interpretation ends) in general (interpretation) I can respond that since Sanikiluaq was mentioned, the focus was on that community. When I refer to communities, I tend to identify the community and that yes, this is what we are trying to accomplish. That is what I was trying to clarify.

Further, I was the Minister of Community and Government Services last year up to November. I believe that was when the shuffle happened. Now, it is clear that my colleague raised questions regarding office space. Yes, I stated that I committed to the Sanikiluaq MLA that we could reconsider the situation in Sanikiluaq, especially because of office and housing shortages or other reasons can delay it. I already agreed to that request for reconsideration, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that the *Blues* aren't final yet and there is editing to be done. However, I also know that when we do preambles to our questions, we can be very general and we cover a variety of areas, but when we get to our questions, we are specific. I was very specific in talking about my community when I was asking questions. When we ask questions in the House, we expect clear, precise, and accurate answers from the government.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder, for the record, if the minister can indicate when he expects to meet with the Minister of Community and Government Services to specifically discuss the issues of office space in the community of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stated in the past whenever we speak about the local positions that these seven positions in the Department of Family Services as part of the reasons for the possible delay.

I believe I will have an opportunity to discuss this with the member, as I have directed my officials to have frank discussions with the staff working for CGS. In particular I have tasked my deputy minister to have open lines of communication with her counterpart. This was limited to the matters which we are discussing here. Once all the issues are fully analyzed, I will be able to respond properly, as I have asked for a briefing on this issue from my officials and I will have a discussion with my colleague at CGS. I also know that the member is quite open to discussions. At that time when Allan and I held a discussion in my office regarding these challenges, I appreciated the member's availability.

I believe the member is also aware that in January 2016 the bidding process or (interpretation ends) request for proposals (interpretation) was issued in Sanikiluaq. It was opened previously prior to my assignment to this portfolio

of Family Services and I believe also prior to my appointment as the Minister of Community and Government Services. The government is requesting proposals for office space in that community. The previous RFP wasn't awarded because no proposals were received. I also informed my colleague of that fact in my office.

Another matter I want to clarify regarding Sanikiluaq is the directive I gave my officials was to provide the information. Now that I have the information the member is privy to, I tasked them to research this topic. CGS continued to search for office space in Sanikiluaq, either for office space or a housing unit as a (interpretation ends) sole source (interpretation) contract, but it didn't move forward either.

The Department of Family Services has plans in place to revisit the office space issue in 2017. We will submit another request in Sanikiluaq for a contractor or anyone who can provide office space. That is the approach we have taken there. I would also like to clarify that I have set aside time for my colleague at CGS to discuss this matter and I will address that initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of office space in Sanikiluaq has been going on, from my point of view, from 2009. I brought it to the government's attention. The government went and did requests for proposals. They have done studies. They have confirmed everything I told them in the very beginning and here we are eight

years later and it's not even in the planning stages to have office space built in my community.

Again I ask the minister: when can I expect a confirmation from his department on when we can expect some office space made available in the community for the family resources worker? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. As per my earlier response, I stated that we will advertise another RFP for Sanikiluaq to request office space and this is scheduled for January 2017. That is what we have planned.

As per my earlier statement, the CGS minister in particular is a colleague I can discuss this matter with regarding the challenges. I know the department is just as eager as the members to develop office space and housing for our employees. We are moving towards that and my cabinet colleagues have the same goals. I will ensure that a discussion occurs with my ministerial colleague by firstly discussing the issues we have been facing in Sanikiluaq and what the plan will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 485 – 4(3): English-only Telephone Survey

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask my questions in

Inuktitut, as I am fluent in Inuktitut. I fully understood my colleague's response when I asked about the QEC purpose for contracting out a phone survey and what the reasoning was.

This is also a fairly simple matter to get an answer to, as I asked the minister if he would provide the response the next day to the members. The minister sitting beside me responded that he would and that was yesterday. It has been two days now, yet the minister hasn't provided a response to QEC's purpose for contracting out a phone survey from southern companies. Can the minister now respond to this question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising that question again. The documents weren't quite ready yesterday for my response and I didn't have any personal knowledge of the matter.

QEC started their surveys in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Whenever they contract out a survey, the relationship with the company was moved forward when another survey was contemplated for summer 2015. QEC had a phone survey during that time.

The phone survey being conducted right now is ongoing. QEC identified the company to conduct the survey and it is (interpretation ends) Forum Research Inc. (interpretation) based out of the south. The survey is still being

conducted and it was advertised that it will take place between October 17 and November 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information provided stated that the survey questions would be entirely in English, yet some Inuit who can't speak English are impacted by decisions of the corporation. Doesn't the corporation have concerns about our unilingual elders? Why did a southern-based company using only English interviewers get the contract to call Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. This survey will cost approximately \$40,000. The survey is supposed to be offered in three languages by the company performing the survey. Furthermore, the company is based in Ottawa and they do have one Inuk living in Ottawa who is part of the survey group.

The languages that are being offered are Inuktitut, French, and English if the person answering can speak any of the official languages, so they try to accommodate each client. It is obvious that they pre-screen the clients to determine which language is most appropriate for the person they are calling so that answers are made in the language of their choice for the survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was informed that the people conducting the survey stated that only English was available, which was regrettable.

The minister just responded that this survey has been ongoing since October 17. Why weren't Nunavummiut informed beforehand? Especially in light of today's callers, such as telemarketers and scamming attempts, I wonder if QEC will be able to provide future notices so that the constituents we represent are aware of the call. This is also to ensure that they don't assume that a scam is taking place without prior knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me respond first to the scamming issue. What I am about to tell to you may be humorous or unbelievable, as I have personally been scammed. A scammer called me, but I thought it was the survey group that was calling me. I found out it was a scam as I wasn't expecting a call other than from the group. Due to that personal experience, I have tasked the QEC administrators to keep that in mind.

There are scammers who call and even ask for a postal address. This is part of these scams. We want to ensure that these scammers are understood fully by our officials when they are contemplating surveys through phone calls to Nunavut. As a matter of fact I

told them that they have to start off with Inuktitut so that it is very clear that this is coming from the survey. I wanted to clarify that to my colleague.

Improvements are forthcoming, but the survey has continued from 2014-15. A continuation of the previous survey to continue and communication of the survey to Nunavummiut was ordered to be begun. I tasked the senior managers in QEC to resolve this issue and to ensure Inuktitut is the first language used when calling Nunavummiut, as most of their clients are Inuit who speak in Inuktitut. That is how I directed them.

I would like to thank my colleague for introducing this topic in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 034 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Uqqummiut, that we extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation) Following the list of names for Oral Questions, Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanase.

Question 486 – 4(3): Men and Boys Programming

Mr. Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Family Services and I'll base it on his Minister's Statement.

Mr. Speaker, this relates to men and boys programming that will be created down the road by the department. Let me start by asking this question. It states here that the Department of Family Services is "supporting community-based programs and their work with men and boys to promote health, healing, and recovery from the impact of violence" Will all the communities be provided these programs? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, all Nunavummiut will have access to these programs. The work has commenced in a number of communities with more applications arriving. We anticipate that all communities will eventually introduce that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. That is good news for men and youth, as the barriers are numerous and we want to focus on healing our communities. Just recently after I spoke to the issue of men's groups created to support and introduce

programs to battle that, this was supported by the members.

Now I would like to ask this question. With the lack of healing centres in the communities and with programs begun already in the communities, as an example, I would like to know if he can commit to working with the Minister of Justice to ensure that purpose-driven and directed healing programs for men and youth be introduced. I would like to ask if he will collaborate with his fellow minister to introduce stronger programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed men and boys have been impacted drastically primarily due to family violence, suicides, or through break-ups of relationships and via other means.

The Department of Family Services can't unilaterally provide the programming, as it is obvious it will take cooperation with other departments such as Health and Justice as well as programs specific to youth via the Department of Culture and Heritage. All programs will be affected, especially since healing and counselling services have to begin from the community level, as they retain ownership. I believe this and the work we have done and the work that is ongoing for men and boys is something we will support.

Some of the groups are quite active and more groups are beginning, particularly the person providing his expertise, Noel Kaludjak, has been quite visible in his

advocacy for programs specific to men and boys, tied into their lifestyles.

Yes, I will work with my cabinet colleagues to resolve this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The follow-up question I want to ask relates to counsellors who are available as frontline workers in various communities to offer support to people in dire need or as the minister alluded to where clients break up or in cases of family violence or suicidal tendencies.

It seems the lack of counsellors is the biggest challenge, especially those specific to men. Further, my colleague next to me, the MLA for Quttiktuq, has been advocating for repatriating Inuit traditional counselling practices as part of the incorporation of IQ into our government.

I wonder if the minister will offer training programs to the people of Nunavut to teach counsellors specific to men and youth healing programs. That is my question here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I thank my colleague for asking a question clearly identifying a need. I was recently at the Baffin regional workshop here in Iqaluit which lasted for two days on October 24 and 25. I went to make a presentation to the

group related to the Family Services' mandate and programming.

The component including *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* has to be added. When I was meeting with that group here for the workshop, both men and boys comprised entirely of Inuit from the communities. They had an opportunity to ask questions, especially the possibility of support for new initiatives either by this government or my department. I informed the group that this will be considered. With the group composed entirely of Inuit, it became obvious that the person who advocates for such groups, a man named Noel Kaludjak is well-versed in these issues specific to men.

As a government we will also incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into this initiative. I was quite happy to see this kind of meeting, as that was my first time at such a meeting. In seeing this group, they are quite motivated to get started in their communities, in some cases to strengthen the community and Inuit traditions, and this will be included as they explore various avenues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 487 – 4(3): Mining Activity

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, today the Minister of ED&T read out a Minister's Statement regarding mining activity that sparked

my interest.

My first question on her Minister's Statement for her is if the minister can tell us how her department works towards ensuring that our mining environment in Nunavut is competitive and an attractive one to mining. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. We are working closely with a few of the mining companies regarding mining activity. With the mining companies that are looking at developing a mine site, we also talk about the regulatory process. At times they do request meetings with our department if they're interested in developing a mine site up here.

Our land can be explored. We are working on what is available and where the diamonds or gold are. There is mineral exploration in Nunavut to find out what is available out there. We also negotiate with our counterparts to see what is available should there be a training program set up here. We also do promotional work to make sure that the information is out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister read in her

Minister's Statement that a mineral production of \$567 million was produced last year.

Mr. Speaker, there are always some Nunavummiut who don't support mining in Nunavut anywhere or at any time. How has the department addressed their concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Sometimes we don't always have the same mindset. That is why we have the regulatory process. When someone wants to do some kind of mining activity in Nunavut, as I said, they have to go through the regulatory process. One such board is the Nunavut Impact Review Board and at that time they can identify why they would like to start an activity up here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I read in her Minister's Statement, it says that these mining projects go through an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement that had been negotiated.

I'm wondering if the minister can tell us if the department enters into their own negotiations with active mining companies in Nunavut and, if so, what benefits have arisen for Nunavummiut

due to these negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. In the historical past negotiations on this matter included representatives from our government, but the process is changing, as I have stated in the past in response to questions on this issue related to what is called the development partnership agreement.

However, the primary focus was on tax breaks for the companies that seem to take advantage of this process to get a bigger profit and it revolved mainly around mining exploration projects. Today we are still contemplating changes to this process to see how best to ensure that our goals are met. When mining companies are profitable, they do not need a tax break. We aren't interested in providing reimbursements as the companies are already operating at a profit.

What we were looking at was to apply the tax break to the junior exploration companies as well as emerging mines just starting out and how best to offer more support to the smaller companies. We also provide assistance through (interpretation ends) mine training (interpretation) for workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 488 – 4(3): GN Office Closures

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask the Premier about the issue of closure of government offices as the winter is coming before us.

This year there were a couple of instances where it was questionable whether to leave that call to the human resources department here in Iqaluit, for example, in a storm where I couldn't even see across the street. Everything was pretty much shut down except the GN. A few employees made the treacherous trip to their office just to learn five minutes later that the government offices were actually closing. About a month later I could see across the bay and the government offices were then closed.

I think there's a need to move this section of the department to Community and Government Services, where they work with all local governments and they also do search and rescue. They're experts in working in the field of potential hazards of our weather. Can the Premier please explore the possibility of moving the call for closing government offices due to weather to Government Services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely the number one priority of this government is to keep people safe, our employees and our residents. Mr. Speaker, I will certainly

look into it. In the past I do know that the closure of the city was based upon discussions with the city officials, but I'll certainly look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 489 – 4(3): Establishment of an Independent Public Service

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's a good day where I can take in some more questions to my colleagues.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the *Public Service Act*.

During the recent spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly, a clear majority of elected Members of the Legislative Assembly voted in favour of establishing an independent public service commission, which would bring all government human resource functions and responsibilities back to where they belong under one roof.

Although the minister voted against this motion when it was introduced back in June, he did tell the House earlier this week that his department is, and I quote, "hard at work on reviewing the public service commission concept." That is good to hear, Mr. Speaker.

Does the minister's response mean that this government is going to respect the will of the House and implement this

recommendation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see the former minister and former Premier so eager to improve the public service.

As he knows, we have been dealing with issues since 1999 in trying to improve the HR department. In fact I think as I mentioned in my answer to Ms. Angnakak the other day, the OAG reports and various other reports indicated there were serious issues with the department and that's why we actually moved to restructure the government. It was done publicly. It was done here in the House, three budget addresses, and Full Caucus meetings. I put everything on the table.

I would invite Mr. Okalik and Ms. Angnakak to table their information in the House so that we can examine here publicly what they have that makes them so sure that a public service commission is the way to go. Please do that. We have our information. Will they table their information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When the motion concerning the establishment of an independent public service commission was considered by the House back in June, the minister claimed that it would be too costly to do so.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that the total budget of Nunavut's former Department of Human Resources, in its last full year of existence, was a little over \$24 million. By contrast the current budget for the Yukon Public Service Commission is roughly \$17 million once you adjust for its centrally administered functions.

Will the minister concede that cost is not a real barrier to establishing an independent public service commission for Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to see Mr. Okalik has done extensive research on all the jurisdictions in Canada and he's settled on the public service commission.

Again I would invite him to table the information he has for us to examine. He's got the financial information; Ms. Angnakak's got information. Table it so that we can all review it. Everybody is critical of the Government of Nunavut for having laws and models that are imported from elsewhere. Why don't we work on a made-in-Nunavut structure? Mr. Okalik, table the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I look forward to tabling the budget for the Yukon Public Service Commission and showing the people of Nunavut that this is quite affordable and I would love to

find ways to structure our own commission to our own needs and expectations. We have heard enough as members of the grievances and the challenges our employees face under the current structure. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I would love nothing more than to table all the information we have here, all the sensitive lawsuits and all the fact-finding meetings that our department goes through. I would love to go back to 1999 and bring it up to March 31, 2013 and clearly show there were more problems under the old structure than there are under the new structure. Again I invite Mr. Okalik, table your information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. 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 of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 199 – 4(3): FPT Report on the Annual Conference of Agriculture, July 20 to 22, 2016

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the

FPT report on the annual conference of federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of agriculture, July 20 to 22, 2016, in Calgary, Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 200 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet’s 2016 Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I indicated in my Member’s Statement, the most recent integrated community sustainability plan for Rankin Inlet addressed important short-term infrastructure needs, including a number which relates to our elders. The need of a 24-hour care facility in the community is clearly identified. 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. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 20, 22, 23, and 24 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 30 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 10-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:13 and Committee resumed at 11:27*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good morning. Welcome, everyone and Nunavummiut. Yesterday we had the opening comments from the minister.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 20, 22, 23, and 24. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 24 and continue with the review of the capital estimates for the Department of Family Services, followed by the Department of Environment. 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 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Family

Services if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee.
Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Mike, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, my colleagues. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Rebekah Williams, and one of the senior officials of the department is Sol Modesto-Vardy to my left.

Chairman: Thank you. We had the opening comments yesterday from the minister. We're on page D-3. The floor is now open for general comments. Seeing none, we're on Family Services. Corporate Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$3,170,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Minister Mike and your officials. Mr. Chairman, in the English version, I think we're on page D-3. Can I ask questions on page D-4? Thank you. I'll start with that one.

I don't have the Inuktitut as usual. Just over \$2 million is being requested for the case management system for children and family services. I'll call it

that. You want to spend just over \$2 million. Mr. Chairman, I will ask, according to your substantiation sheets, you're expecting just over \$2 million. If we approved it, then it would be \$3.6 million. What is this for? How will that be dealt with once you get the system?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you. This electronic case management system is for children and family services, what information needs to be known and what work has been done. The purpose for that item is for the electronic case management system

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Mike. Can you recognize the Chair when you're done? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will be for the provision of family services. What exactly does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry I did not recognize you after I spoke.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To my understanding, this is going to be like a customized, off-the-shelf case management program utilized by Children and Family Services in order to track all active and dormant cases handled in Nunavut by the Department of Family Services. (interpretation) It will be used to manage by employees for children and family services that are

provided. It will be used for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ever since I became an MLA, for three years I used to ask about the Motor Vehicle Information System to improve the vehicle identification system. I think the request from Family Services will be to make improvements, but we gave them money for three years. People still wait up to a year for their driver's licences and they have spent a huge amount of money, I think about \$5 million, and they would ask for more money the following year.

I know you can't answer on their behalf and I know we're dealing with something different, but how do I know that you won't be coming back year after year asking for more money? Do you know that if it's approved, you don't have plans to ask for more money after that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We need to improve the case management system in our office because they're just using their own computers and they use vast amounts of paper for the case management system within their job. That's how it is at this time in order to make the case management system to improve so that it will be easier for Family Services workers to manage their caseloads. They will be able to get more information at hand, especially for children and family services. It will be very useful for case management.

Just recently last spring we finally filled a position for the case manager and it has really... I'm sorry. It's the project manager/business analyst. That individual is working on the case management system to have the case management be more efficient.

I don't really expect to see it ongoing, but once we're starting to work on that and set up a case management system, that's why we are requesting for this capital line item. I don't expect additional requests for capital estimates for this line item. I know that it's going to improve the case management for the whole Nunavut's income support and family services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that I can have a clear understanding, I believe you're starting to set up and implement an income support case management system. Is it totally separate from the case management system we're talking about now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, he understands correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I just didn't see it, but you are requesting \$425,000 for office improvements. I probably just didn't see the substantiation sheet. Which community will this be? Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$425,000 line item will be for renovation of the offices and for the elders facility renovation across Nunavut and they will set up a computer system. So that we can have the same understanding, this \$425,000 is separate from the one we were just talking about. That's what this \$425,000 will be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in your opening comments on page 5, they will be utilizing \$100,000 for computers in Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Kugaaruk, and Taloyoak "dependent on the availability of the Core Business Network through cooperation with the Department of Community and Government Services." What's the status of it now? Is it better to not have it in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for installation and service and that's what it is. CGS has been working very well installing in the communities and they're now using the service and I believe that the department will install this service.

If the Minister of CGS would like to supplement my response, you can allow him, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, are you prepared to answer the question?

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, at the current time I don't have that information in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure who to direct this question to; perhaps I'm just asking myself. This item is a little confusing, so wouldn't it be better to take it out? Once it's cleared up, it can then be submitted again.

I'm not sure who should address this question. I know that as a lawmaker, we don't always know all the details of what we approve. Mr. Chairman, can I ask you for directions on this issue? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for making his comments. As I stated earlier, they have been working on 2017-18 to install service during that fiscal year for Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Kugaaruk, and Taloyoak. As I stated before, they have installed service in the past. There is no problem with the service that was installed in the past by CGS and I believe it will run very smoothly as far as we're concerned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was no response to

the question I asked about the \$100,000. I'll leave it at that. I'll consider this and then come back to it later on. I'm done for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Let me first ask you, Mr. Chairman, if I can ask questions on D-3 and D-4 at the same time.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. First of all we're dealing with the 2017-18 draft capital estimates. Under the small capital projects you have requested, you include small capital projects to carry renovations for elders facilities. Is this funding for one or for how many elders facilities? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand my colleague's question correctly, if he's talking about this \$200,000 line item, it will be for Iqaluit, Arviat and Baker Lake. It will be used for repairing and renovating elders facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister for his response. With this \$200,000 for Baker Lake to renovate the Martha Talirug elders facility, what exactly will

they be renovating? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question. This \$30,000 will be used for Iqaluit, Baker Lake, and Arviat. Each community will be allocated \$30,000 to purchase equipment, whether it is beds or furniture for the elders' homes. This \$110,000 will be used to renovate Baker Lake's elders' home. It will be used for furniture, kitchen, and rooms, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I went to go tour the elders' home more than once and the Family Services headquarters have visited Baker Lake to tour the facility to find out what requires work. I'm now asking, for example, about the future plans to expand the elders facility in Baker Lake. The bedrooms of the elders are very small. Do you have any plans to enlarge the bedrooms of the elders? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague. The issue that we're discussing is \$200,000 that is going to be used for what I just identified earlier. It's evident that this can be addressed for the future. There is no capital plan, however, to do that at the moment. I want to clarify that this is being addressed within

the department. The Children and Family Services Division is currently considering the plans that we are now discussing. We're now starting to get the programs and services transferred to the Department of Health. I'm sure this process will proceed smoothly and that's what I can say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The \$200,000 that we're talking about is for improvements for three elders facilities. Has the work started or when is the work scheduled to be started? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank the Member for Baker Lake for asking that question. The work will start in 2017-18. The actual construction or renovations will start at that time at the elders facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Some of the work will probably start in spring or summer and some of the work is done inside the buildings during winter.

The work on the Martha Talirug Centre in Baker Lake will be done with people living there at the same time. Can the minister explain when the actual work on the centre in Baker Lake will start?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been planned for 2017-18 to carry out all phases of the work. This work will be done this year. The \$200,000 will be used to purchase a variety of equipment such as for hospital bedrooms and others. Part of the plan is to improve and renovate the facilities. This is what I mentioned about the work to make improvements. The necessary renovations will be carried out this coming spring and summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak. Thank you. Mr. Enook.

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

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

We will come back Monday with the minister and his officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier Taptuna.

>>*Laughter*

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

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some reminders. First, there's a reminder to all the members of the function at one o'clock with the Commissioner of Nunavut; also a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at 3:30 this afternoon in the Nanuq Boardroom; on Saturday there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board at eleven o'clock in the Tuktu Room; and on Monday morning at 9:00 is a meeting of the Full Caucus in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for October 31:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 20
 - Bill 22
 - Bill 23
 - 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 31, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:00*

