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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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

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Simeon Mikkungwak
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Hon. Joe Savikataaq
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(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
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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Tuesday, November 1, 2016****Members Present:**

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

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My fellow Nunavummiut, members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors, welcome to the House.

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 199 – 4(3):
United Nations First Generation
Award Recipient**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good

afternoon, my colleagues,
Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of one of our territory's strongest youth voices and to congratulate her on receiving a prestigious award from the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, Maatalii Okalik is the President of Canada's National Inuit Youth Council. She was recently in Stockholm as one of the 19 youth leaders from across the globe, selected to participate in the #FirstGeneration Global Goals Forum. The participants took part in workshops, seminars, and debates in support of UN global goals.

Mr. Speaker, during her time at the forum, Maatalii spoke of how a more sustainable planet will improve northern social realities. In recognition of her strong voice and advocacy, Maatalii received the First Generation Award. This is a new award from the United Nations presented to young people who promote the UN sustainable development goals.

Please join me in congratulating Maatalii Okalik on this significant achievement. Her work to represent Inuit on the global stage has been inspirational and we are incredibly proud of her efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 200 – 4(3):
Embrace Life Council**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2004 through a partnership of the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the RCMP “V” Division, the Embrace Life Council was established and I acknowledge their past and current dedication to suicide prevention in Nunavut.

For several years the council has delivered many fundamental programs. Last year the council delivered Ten Steps, a training to create safer environments for children in Hall Beach, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Taloyoak, Kimmirut, Qikiqtarjuaq, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, and Cambridge Bay. The council delivered RespectEd, a violence, bullying, and abuse prevention training, to our teachers in Igloolik, Hall Beach, Cape Dorset, Kugaaruk, Kimmirut, Naujaat, Taloyoak, and Rankin Inlet.

The Embrace Life Council has also been developing and adapting new programs, such as a Stewards of Children, the grief support group in Iqaluit, and a communications campaign to address and prevent teen dating violence, bullying, anger management, sexual abuse, addictions, and family violence.

Mr. Speaker, this year the Government of Nunavut is proud to partner with the Embrace Life Council to expand their service delivery. The council will now coordinate and deliver *Uqaqatigiilluk! Talk About It!* the version of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST, taught in Nunavut by Nunavummiut.

The GN has a decade long history of investing in ASIST, and continuous funding has been provided since 2009. This year we are nearly tripling our investment. A full-time coordinator has been hired to improve communication with communities and support trainers. The workshops will now be provided free, with interpreters, to community organizations who request it. Trainings are scheduled in Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, and Iqaluit this fall.

The council will train new trainers February 6 to 10, 2017 and support these individuals through the certification process. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an *Uqaqatigiilluk!* trainer or hosting a workshop in your community, I encouraged you to contact them today at www.inuusiq.com or call 1-866-804-2782.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge Nunavut Arctic College's prior involvement and continuing support for ASIST. With their leadership, all of the nursing students will again take this valuable training.

Mr. Speaker, the Embrace Life Council has demonstrated experience in suicide prevention and intervention. With the addition of ASIST, we are moving forward together to better integrate programs and services for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 201 – 4(3): Sport and Recreation Awards 2016

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to congratulate the recipients of the Nunavut Sport and Recreation awards. These awards were presented at a recent Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut (RPAN) Sport Awards gala.

Due to travel complications, I was unable to attend and in the spirit of cooperation, Minister Quassa stood in for me and I would like to thank him for that.

The Sport and Recreation Awards Program recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers within Nunavut's sport and recreation system.

Each year the Sport and Recreation Division of the Department of Community and Government Services seeks the nomination of individuals who have shown outstanding commitment to developing sport in the territory. This is a rare opportunity to acknowledge some of the many volunteers who contribute their time, energy, and expertise to sport and recreation programs at all levels.

This year's 2016 Sport and Recreation Awards were presented to:

- Sappa Cookie (Sanikiluaq) - Male Athlete of the Year
- Matilda Pinksen (Iqaluit) - Female Athlete of the Year
- Paatsaali Badminton Team (Sanikiluaq) - Team of the Year
- Stephen Keoughan (Sanikiluaq) - Coach of the Year

- Jonah Oolayou (Iqaluit) - Official of the Year
- Joselyn Morrison (Iqaluit), Kim Masson (Iqaluit), and Gina Pizzo (Taloyoak) - Special Recognition Award for outstanding contribution to sport.
- Fred Muise (Cambridge Bay) - Recreation Leadership Award
- Kyle St. Laurent (Iqaluit) - First Air President's Award of Excellence
- Whale Cove Soccer Association - Community/Organization Achievement Award

Please join me in congratulating the award recipients as we acknowledge their accomplishments in Nunavut's sport and recreation system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 202 – 4(3): 2016 Cruise Ship Visits

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was a landmark year for cruise tourism development in Nunavut. Between July and September the territory welcomed approximately 4,600 cruise passengers, which is an increase of over 1,000 from last year. In total 11 cruise ships conducted 25 voyages throughout the territory with 59 planned community visits.

Most significantly the 1,000-passenger Crystal Serenity visited Nunavut this

year. The voyage resulted in a direct economic impact of \$110,000 in Cambridge Bay and \$35,000 in Pond Inlet. Mr. Speaker, the Crystal Serenity's voyage shows that cruise ships can have a significant economic impact on the communities they visit.

When passengers visit a community, they purchase carvings, prints, and handmade crafts. They leave with a better understanding of Inuit culture.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Nunavut's cruise ship industry continues to grow, we must ensure that it brings long-term benefits for Nunavummiut. This effort will involve communities, government, and the cruise industry itself.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is in the first year of implementing a management plan to help communities benefit from cruise ship visits. The department is also working on new Marine Tourism Regulations as part of the amendments to Nunavut's tourism legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to ensuring that the cruise tourism sector is well managed and properly regulated and that it brings real economic opportunities for our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will then proceed with Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 374 – 4(3): 2016 High School Graduates of Naujaat

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, residents of Naujaat, Coral Harbour, and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the completion of our beautiful new school in Naujaat, which opened and the first graduates from grade 12 were quite numerous, totalling 14 graduates and the entire community took pride in that.

After the ceremony I am very pleased to be able to announce that the students who graduated can now pursue their career opportunities that have opened for them.

Mr. Speaker, I will say the names:

Lidia Haqpi
Ben Jr. Malliki
Casey Akumalik
Neil Benoit Sateana
Pauline Immingark
Charmaine Putulik
Brenden Angotingoar
Veronica Uttak
Crysta Siusangnark
Suzanne Putulik
Katey Beth Mablik
Dave Kaunak
Jonathan Ijjangiaq, and
Rebecca Natar

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals on their graduation. There were quite a few who graduated over the winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 375 – 4(3):
Apologies to the Minister of Health**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to send my regards to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak. Good afternoon to my colleagues. I would like to say that it is my oldest sister's birthday. I wish her a wonderful day and many more birthdays to come.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to apologize for my question last Friday to the Minister of Health because it was inappropriate. I would like to apologize to the minister in the House and to our fellow Nunavummiut. I asked in English, (interpretation ends) "I wonder if our minister can speak to this issue and how to improve diagnostic methods or the health care system in our community."

(interpretation) My question was as if the Minister of Health was an actual doctor that can make diagnoses and all, so I do apologize to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 376 – 4(3): Pages
from Qikiqtarjuaq**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share in commending the youth who participated and to welcome them to the House. There were several youth who are

paging here, including the youth behind me. They are Adam Nookiguak and the other page is my sister's grandchild, whom I also refer to as my grandchild, Annie Nookiguak. They will be serving as our pages.

This is the first time we've had students from our community, so I wanted to share this good news with my colleagues and to welcome them to the House. We should extend our congratulations to our youth when they achieve something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 377 – 4(3): Cape
Dorset DEA Reaction to Statement**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut watching and listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the reaction from the Cape Dorset District Education Authority regarding their school language policies.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I wish to apologize to the DEA for not bringing this issue to their immediate attention last week after it was presented to me. The fault was my own and I take full responsibility for any consequences resulting from this oversight.

Mr. Speaker, I do wish to emphasize that something has clearly gone terribly wrong when a student thinks that they will be reprimanded or disciplined for

speaking Inuktitut. Since making my statement last week, I have been contacted by other parents who have expressed similar concerns. Obviously there are some mixed messages being passed around and we need to work together to get the right message out there.

Mr. Speaker, let me make it very clear that bullying in any way, shape, or form is not acceptable and whether it is in English, Inuktitut, French, or any other language. Furthermore, speaking Inuktitut as an activity itself does not constitute bullying.

Mr. Speaker, I have contacted the chair of the DEA regarding this topic and I look forward to working with the DEA as well as with other education partners to address bullying and linguistic challenges in our schools. 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. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of my immediate family rarely visit the House. Today there is more than one relative and I want to acknowledge them here.

The first person is my maternal nephew who works for the RCMP and serves as

the Chairperson of the Embrace Life Council, David Lawson. Please welcome him to the gallery firstly.

Secondly my niece, who was recognized, I take great pride in her as she is very dedicated in her endeavours, Maatalii Okalik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to rise earlier for a (interpretation ends) Member's Statement (interpretation) to acknowledge and recognize pages who attend Maani Ulujuk School in Rankin Inlet. They are Augatnaaq Eccles, Leticia Mercer, and my daughter Christine Sammurtok. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to recognize my niece who is my sister's daughter, Mary Nookiguak and her daughter, who is my mother's namesake, Anne Nookiguak. I wish to acknowledge them and welcome them to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had said in my Minister's Statement, I was talking about some of the great work that the Embrace Life Council has been providing to Nunavummiut.

I would just like to take the time to formally recognize here in the House, we have Kim Masson, the Executive Director of the Embrace Life Council of the board, as well as Sergeant David Lawson with the RCMP "V" Division here in Iqaluit, who is the President of the Embrace Life Council, and I'm sure not a stranger to this House, Ms. Sheila Levy, Vice-president of the Embrace Life Council board.

All these three were very much involved in the recent suicide prevention conference that just finished. I just learned they finished that conference and then they went into a meeting for their own board the next day. The work that they are providing to Nunavummiut is non-stop.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members to visit. There's a display in the foyer at the legislature here with the number of initiatives and information that the Embrace Life Council has been working on and information that members may wish to share with their constituents back home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize someone who was already recognized. Nonetheless, I would like to recognize my niece, Christine Sammurtok, (interpretation ends) my other niece Sue Mercer, and Augatnaaq Eccles. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to wish the people of Igloolik a good day.

Today I would like to recognize this individual, although she was already recognized. Our youth are very capable now in Nunavut and they're also very visible and show the strength of their capabilities. They can represent the people of Nunavut, even though they are very young. They can now be recognized at the United Nations, for which we're indeed proud.

There is a person who already was recognized. I am very proud of Maatalii Okalik. Welcome to the gallery, along with other young people who represent

our future leadership. I am glad to see they are preparing for the future just like Maatalii Okalik, a role model. Let's always be proud of our youth and I wish them a happy day. Nunavummiut should be proud and support our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 506 – 4(3): Legalization of Marijuana

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Justice.

(interpretation ends) There was a meeting last month of federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of justice that took place in Halifax. Our minister participated in this meeting. The official announcement from the FPT meeting indicated that, and I quote, “Ministers also agreed to continue to work together to address issues leading up to the legalization of marijuana for non-medical use.”

Can the minister explain what kind of work he is doing with respect to the issue of marijuana legalization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the justice ministers did have a good discussion about marijuana legislation in Halifax. They were very productive meetings. It's good to hear and see what everybody else is discussing and what their concerns are.

With respect to what our department has done, we have made a presentation and met with the task force on the legalization of marijuana. We met with them in August. There are so many dates running through my head. It was August of this year. We gave them our presentation and outlined some of our concerns.

The other two territories were there as well, the Yukon and Northwest Territories. We have not given any political direction to the government as yet. I believe the task force is to issue a preliminary report some time this month. All of the provinces and territories are waiting with bated breath to hear what the task force says based on all the consultations and meetings across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is very much aware, section 26 of the federal *Nunavut Act* gives us the authority to “make laws respecting the importation of intoxicants into Nunavut from any other place in Canada or elsewhere and defining what constitutes an intoxicant for the purposes of those laws.”

For example, our territorial *Liquor Act* allows for communities to hold votes to

determine whether or not to allow free access to alcohol, restrict access to alcohol through the work of alcohol education committees, or to prohibit alcohol altogether.

What is the Government of Nunavut's position with respect to the ability of communities to hold similar votes regarding marijuana? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mikkungwak is way out in front of us on that. As I said, we made a presentation to the task force and the other two territories. We are waiting for the task force preliminary report. I haven't given any political direction to the cabinet with respect to legislation for Nunavut. We most certainly haven't given much consideration to the distribution of marijuana in the communities.

I do recall from the FPT that if the Government of Canada introduces that legislation in the spring of 2017, all the provinces and territories did urge the federal minister that we will probably need what we are referring to as a gap period of 12 to 24 months for all provinces and territories to respond to how they would address the legalization of marijuana and distribution in their respective jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year the federal government established a task force on marijuana legalization and regulation. The task force issued a discussion paper on this subject, which I have reviewed with care.

One of the issues that governments across the country are facing is how to regulate the sale of marijuana in a legalized environment. For example, Ontario has expressed interest in selling marijuana through government-owned liquor stores.

What is our government's position regarding the sale of marijuana through such entities as the Nunavut Liquor Commission? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just right off the top of my head, thinking about a new name for that, "a subsidiary of the Nunavut Weed and Liquor Commission."

>> *Laughter*

There are all kinds of names.

Again, we haven't given much thought to the distribution. As Mr. Mikkungwak is aware, we're already struggling with the distribution system for liquor products in Nunavut. I'm sure at some point we will be giving it some consideration. We do have an interdepartmental working group with Finance, Justice, and Health who will probably be considering those types of concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 507 – 4(3): Preventative Immunization for Nunavut Infants

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody.

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

Mr. Speaker, for several years now, we have been hearing that infants in Nunavut have one of the highest rates of respiratory infection in Canada. Some time ago an outbreak of RSV led to the mass evacuation of many infants to hospitals in the south.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps are being taken by his department to address the high rates of respiratory infection amongst Nunavut infants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been quite a bit of public information that has been put out through the media on this issue as well as interviews with our chief medical health officer. It's recognized that the rates in Nunavut are much higher than many other jurisdictions, if not all other jurisdictions, especially in Canada.

One of the things that have been talked about quite a bit, and I'm making an assumption that the member is probably leading this way, is on immunizations that Northern Quebec has recently implemented. It's something we're

reviewing. From the information that I have received, immunizations are effective approximately 50 percent of the time.

I can't stress enough the other factors that come into play when we're dealing with RSV amongst infants: overcrowding in our homes; smoking in homes; just the exposure to second-hand smoke in vehicles and in homes while the baby is in the *amauti* are very disadvantageous to helping to treat RSV in infants.

The evaluation process is ongoing. I can assure the member that this is very high on the radar for the chief medical officer and we're working very hard to decide on a longer term strategy to help deal with this. Typically there are RSV seasons, if you would call it that. We have ebbs and flows in the number of reported cases and we haven't seen that this year, which is quite extraordinary to historical data. We're analyzing this trend and are reviewing it as I speak, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I thank the minister for his response. I am going that way actually. I recognize you're saying that you're taking steps to look at inoculations and that. However, if just one infant develops an infection, the medical evacuation costs can be extremely high. I'm just wondering why it's taking so long for us to go down that route. Perhaps the minister can clearly explain why preventative immunization is not administered to all infants across Nunavut before they get sick. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To directly answer her question, and I never like putting costs in front of people's health, but when we're talking of instances of medevacs and emergency medical travel for infants, there is a cost associated with that. It's something that I take very seriously and I am working on ways to mitigate those costs.

Like I had mentioned, vaccines are one of the solutions or potential solutions that we're looking at. That being said, the other factors that I had mentioned earlier, the overcrowding in homes and the exposure to second-hand smoke, are also factors that people can take under their own, especially with the smoking side of things. They can take steps to make sure that there are reductions.

Like I had mentioned, from the information I have, vaccinations are at best a 50 percent success rate. Just to speak to some of the further things we are doing, the department has established a working group to evaluate the entire RSV program and has secured a public health officer from this Public Health Agency of Canada to assist with this evaluation. This will take a little bit of time. There's data to correlate. I for one do not like making knee jerk reactions to situations without all the data in front of me.

Until such time as the chief medical health officer and the senior staff at the Department of Health can make their options available to me, we are going to

continue to correlate the data to make sure that we're making an educated path forward. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I think smoking in homes and overcrowding have been around for quite a long time and I think RSV has been around for quite a long time, so I don't consider it a knee jerk reaction.

In light of that, will the minister commit to looking at this issue and reconsidering the policy to immunize all Nunavut infants by giving them added protection against respiratory disease? Even if it's 50 percent, at least it's 50 percent less. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had mentioned in my earlier response, we're looking at all avenues of potential solutions to this issue. Absolutely a vaccination program is one of the options that we are considering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 508 – 4(3): Strategy for Residential Care

Mr. Alexander Sammurtook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would

like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, we recently reviewed the 2017-18 capital estimates for the Department of Family Services. The Minister of Family Services indicated that program services for some elders' homes and other residences were going to be transferred to the Department of Health.

Can the minister provide an update on the plans for this transfer and when he expects his department to be responsible for coordinating and supporting services at all elders' residences and group homes across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing forward this issue or I guess this topic. It's a very important one to me.

In a previous government the decision to split the Department of Health and Social Services into Family Services and a standalone Department of Health diverged a number of programs related to seniors. In addition, the Premier himself has taken a lead on the seniors file with a great interest that he follows along with our progress. That being said, although it wasn't just the seniors file that was diverged from that one department into two, it did take a period of time to make sure that there wasn't a gap in the program delivery and the services that are being provided.

There is a transition team that is currently working with Family Services and the Department of Health to make sure that there's a seamless transition back into the Department of Health and we're looking at taking full responsibility April 1, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, some elders' residences are owned by third parties and operated by independent boards with support provided under contract from the Government of Nunavut. Can the minister clarify what steps need to be taken if a third party were willing to open and operate a building as a new elders' residence in a Nunavut community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a topic that is again very interesting to me as I'm always open to partnerships that are available within communities or societies to help provide care for elders.

The first step would be to submit a proposal to the Department of Health that we could take a look at in making sure we're getting the appropriate level of care for our residents within a proposed facility, to make sure that staffing requirements are being met, and to make sure that all health parameters are being adhered to.

I would look forward and I have seen work started on such proposals from other communities. I would very much look forward to getting one from the member's home community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that our government has limited resources. However, I feel strongly that keeping our community members at home and ensuring that they receive services in their home community must be more economical than sending them away to facilities in other communities or even out of the territory.

Will the minister commit to positively considering proposals that may come forward from third parties to open and operate new elders facilities in Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is very aware of the growing need of senior care and has been very proactive in making ourselves available to listen to submissions and to assist proponents where resources are available. Absolutely I would look forward any proposal that would be submitted to the Department of Health to provide continuing care in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 509 – 4(3): Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq and the people of Nunavut. I would also like to wish my son Gary a happy 22nd birthday.

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

As the minister will recall, the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly last year. The statute came into force on October 1 of 2015. The Minister of CGS is the responsible minister for the statute.

As the minister will also recall, one of the amendments that the Legislative Assembly made in that statute was a provision ensuring that the employees of all housing authorities and associations in Nunavut would belong to the NEBS pension plan.

However, in reviewing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent annual report for the 2015-16 fiscal year, which was tabled last week, as well as information that is currently on the NEBS website, the communities of Kimmirut and Pond Inlet do not yet appear on the list of participating housing authorities and associations.

Can the minister confirm whether or not all housing authorities and associations

in Nunavut are now participating in the NEBS pension plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct that the legislation was passed and all municipalities and all local housing associations have to be a member of it, except for Iqaluit as they have their own plan. It is in the legislation that they have to be. I can't confirm whether they all are, but they are all supposed to be. We will have to look into that to see if there are any. Chances are they may be on there and it's not updated or it could that they are not on there yet. I will look into it and I will find out because we have to follow what legislation is put on there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure with the next question he's probably going to have to get back to me with information too.

Section 22.1 of the legislation also provides that hamlets are to participate in the NEBS pension plan for the benefit of their employees. This provision does not apply to employees of a city. Can the minister confirm whether or not all Nunavut hamlets are now participating in the NEBS pension plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before this legislation was passed, some of the hamlets but very few of them were not participants and as the legislation states, all these hamlets have to be a participant. As I stated earlier, I can't say for sure that they are all under there now, but they should be and there were very few that were not. I'll also get back to the minister...to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If memory serves me correctly, I think there were seven municipalities that weren't in the NEBS plan just before it was finalized.

As I noted earlier, the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act* came into force on October 1 of 2015, just over a year ago. Under the law, the minister is legally required to table a number of reports concerning the administration of the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan. Can the minister indicate when he will be tabling the next set of reports that are required under the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the legislation, if the tabling requirements are there, then I will table the requirements as soon as

they are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 510 – 4(3): Disaster Compensation Program

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, we are observed by the people of Nunavut when we have our sessions. I would like to say that many people ask us various questions to us as MLAs and obviously we cannot answer all of their questions.

I would like to ask about expensive hunting equipment. When hunters are out hunting, sometimes they lose some of their equipment because they either sink into the sea or are lost by heavy winds. Whenever a hunter loses equipment, who do they normally apply to for assistance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe what the member is referring to is the Disaster Compensation Program. That program is administered through our department. Like you said, if someone loses their snowmobile, boat, or whatever and it's weather-related or circumstances beyond their control, then the hunter or trapper can apply for the compensation through the wildlife office or through the conservation office. There

are guidelines and eligibility criteria that must be met, but the process is to go to the wildlife officer and apply for the claim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That being the case, he said that they can get an application from the wildlife office. For hunters who have lost their main equipment that they will never be able to recover, what is the process they would need to follow for assistance in replacing their machine or whatever equipment that is lost? How do they make the case in applying for assistance? Do they need to get a letter of support from other people or another group? I hope I was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the member please rephrase his question as I didn't understand it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak, please rephrase your question.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If anybody loses hunting equipment and they want to try to get assistance, what sort of information do they need to provide to the wildlife officer? Do they need to get a letter of support or do they need to provide confirmation that they lost their equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying it. The applicant has to sign a statutory declaration saying that they did lose that piece of equipment and that must be signed by a Commissioner of Oaths or a notary public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for completely clarifying that.

If the process is followed properly, will the hunter get assistance right away for everything they have lost? If all the information is provided correctly and they have the supporting documents that are required, would they receive their assistance right away? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just outline the process for an applicant to apply from the beginning to the end stage.

If a hunter or trapper loses their equipment through a disaster or through circumstances beyond their control, they go to the conservation officer and they pick up a form, fill it out, then the conservation officer will either recommend or not recommend, and then it goes to the hunters and trappers

association. They will recommend or not recommend. It goes to the regional office and they will look at it. If they recommend it, it will go on to headquarters. If they agree with it, then the applicant will have their claim processed.

Like I stated earlier, if you fit within their criteria, one of the criteria is you must get 25 percent of your income off of the land. That is one of the criteria. There are other criteria, but that is one of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Joe Savikataaq...I'm sorry, Joe Enook.

>> *Laughter*

Question 511 – 4(3): Recruitment of Nurses to Work in Nunavut

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

(interpretation) Before I ask the question, I would like to say “good day” to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have been raising concerns and questions in recent days regarding the impact of the ongoing shortage of health professionals in our communities.

Nursing shortages can cause staff to burn out, increase the risk of diagnostic errors, worsen delays for people seeking appointments, and result in additional

overtime costs for the long hours put in by our frontline staff.

Can the minister update us today on the status of his department's *Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy*? (interpretation) 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 applaud the member for again giving me some opportunity to be able to highlight some of the enhanced features that we're looking at utilizing under the Department of Health specifically for health care professionals but for nurses.

The member talks about the *Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy* that was brought forward, I believe, in 2009. We're actually revamping that to turn it into just a health professional recruitment and retention strategy. This will help us improve the classifications of the hiring.

Specifically with nurses, we are in the process of finalizing a contract with a nurse recruitment entity that followed through the RFP process and was approved. We do work continuously with an agency to provide nursing support where we are unable to fill the indeterminate nurse positions.

We're also looking at aligning our recruitment strategies. It has often been said that it's better to be a casual nurse than an indeterminate nurse and we take those comments very seriously. We want to make sure that our indeterminate nurses, people that have committed to getting involved in the community,

getting involved with their peer groups and participating in the community in providing health care, receive the best benefits to working in Nunavut.

There are a number of initiatives that the Department of Health has ongoing. We have centralized our HR nursing function to be able to provide some more stability and continued focus to this specific group of employees, and I applaud the work that they are doing. I have spoken to a number of the staff there. It has been a little while now, but when I did my tour through health buildings here in Iqaluit, they're working feverishly to make sure that the needs of communities are met on an ongoing basis.

I thank the member for raising that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have met and spoken with many of our hard-working frontline health staff in more than one community. It is clear that filling nursing positions with full-time staff leads to consistency and stability at our health centres, which is good for both health care patients and health care providers.

However, it appears that there are situations where temporary nursing staff try to apply for full-time positions in communities that they have grown to love, but their applications are ignored or not responded to for months and even years. I have been told that some of them eventually quit even trying.

Mr. Speaker, when temporary nurses who have experience working in our communities want to become full-time nurses, can the minister indicate what steps and timelines are in place to fast-track the hiring process in such situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The situation that the member is highlighting is a very serious one and whenever I travel outside of Iqaluit to other communities, I make it a priority to visit the health care staff in that community and I have heard the same stories. I know of a couple of times where I have been travelling with my deputy minister and she has pulled that individual aside and had them send their resumé directly to her to find out how we can speed the process up.

There are a number of different factors and I don't want to get into any specifics on specific people's applications, but if they have submitted an application for employment through our continuing recruitment avenues and if they feel like they are not getting the results that they feel are appropriate, I would encourage them to contact my deputy minister or even myself through a member, if they wish to go through me, and I'll look into that individual circumstance at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my last question. (interpretation ends) A very simple

question: can the minister tell us how many agency or contract nurses have been hired by the government within the past two years to become full-time nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail with me. I do know that at any given time there could be as many 50 agency nurses across the territory where needs are demanded at a community. We have an obligation to make sure that health care is being provided. I would look forward to providing that detailed information to the member at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 512 – 4(3): Devolution Negotiations

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier in regard to the transfer of powers over resource development after devolution.

I am very pleased to hear that the devolution talks will be resuming and I just want to encourage its pursuit in order for Nunavut to move forward.

My first question to the Premier is in regard to whether offshore waters will be included. Elsewhere in Canada, jurisdiction is held by some provinces over nearby offshore waters and coastal areas. Will this transfer include the outlying waters, considering its

importance to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't clearly understand that question. Can the member please repeat that question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Maybe you can stop my clock for a bit.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm encouraged by the press and media about our government proceeding into negotiations with the federal government on devolution. I'm hopeful that we can conclude an agreement that would be beneficial for all parties.

My main question to the Premier is if the issue of internal waters will be included in these discussions, just like any other part of the country, that inland waters be a part of Nunavut for future generations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, again, devolution is key for Nunavut to be a full participant in its lands and resources.

As we have talked about internal waters in the past, there is a table set for negotiations. The first phase of the negotiations is going to include the agreement-in-principle. The second phase includes resources, oil and gas, and internal waters. That's how the scheduling is going to be set up through the negotiating table.

I look forward because, at the end of the day, approximately 93 percent of our revenues come from Ottawa. We do have to look forward into the future to ensure that Nunavummiut are going to be able to participate globally, building our own infrastructure and having our own priorities through devolution. I look forward to the day when we get to that situation and sign the AIP and continue on with the second phase of our negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is technically my first supplementary question, but now it is my final supplementary, as a clarification was requested earlier. I apologize for that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my full support of this process. The inclusion of offshore development is very important to the people of Nunavut as most of our communities are on the coast. We are in full support of the Premier and this government while they're negotiating devolution involving any potential economic development opportunities derived from offshore oil and gas development.

Our government does not usually benefit from the revenues from mining, but a lot of people work in mining. I just want our government to include offshore development as a goal during the devolution process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the confidence in trying to establish a bright future for all Nunavummiut through devolution and real negotiations which benefit Nunavummiut. That is exactly what we want, employment and resiliency, and at the end of the day self-respect through good employment.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I'm quite confident and I'm quite optimistic with the table that has been set with the federal government. I'm really hoping that we can come up with an AIP through good negotiations and continue on to the second phase of devolution. I look forward to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 513 – 4(3): Suicide Prevention

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention.

Mr. Speaker, in his Minister's Statement today, he explained some of the

activities of the Embrace Life Council and I would like to ask a few questions for clarification.

First of all, he indicated that there is a grief support group in Iqaluit. Could he clarify and explain if all communities in Nunavut have any type of grief counselling support for people impacted by suicide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for allowing me to expand a little bit upon some of the programs that the Embrace Life Council is putting forward and that the Government of Nunavut is supporting through our Quality of Life.

The specific program that I mentioned is based upon the Stewards of Children program, but it is made Nunavut-specific. It talks about child sexual abuse prevention in partnership with Health, Voicefound, and other stakeholders. There is also a development in the process of a Nunavut-specific toolkit, specifically a written guide for survivors of suicide that is in consultation with Mental Health and Addictions and other partners.

With regard to in-community counselling that is available, it is provided through all of our communities through mental health workers. If anyone feels a need to talk to a counsellor, whether they are considering suicide themselves or if they're concerned about a loved one or in the aftermath of dealing with the

repercussions of it, I encourage anybody, if they have any questions whatsoever, to contact our mental health workers in any community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I appreciate his response in that people who are impacted immediately after suicide are at risk themselves, so we would like to provide as much support to them.

Moving on to my second question, I fully commend the department and the government in tripling their investment for ASIST. He indicated that “The workshops will now be provided free, with interpreters, to community organizations who request it.” I would like him to clarify: will the department or the ASIST delivery program be expanded to communities that don’t request this service to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we put forward programs such as this, we want to make sure that anybody who wants to access this type of training so that they can help deal with and recognize risk factors around them, I would again promote anybody or any organization to contact the Embrace Life Council or through my associate deputy minister’s office with the Quality of Life to put forward their requests and we will endeavour to accommodate

everybody and anybody we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I again appreciate that. I guess if there’s a need that is identified, whether it’s not by the community, it might be identified by the government and it is needed in the community, whether it’s requested or not, I encourage the minister to pursue those options.

For my final question, the minister indicated that ASIST would be provided to all nursing students and I commend all teachers in Nunavut who have taken this training program as well. Has the government identified any other frontline workers that will be needing ASIST training in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Prevention of Suicide, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It’s a very good one. It has been recognized in the past that frontline nurses, people working in the community health centres, teachers, and educators who interact with community members on a daily basis are an opportune target group to be able to provide this type of training for so that any recognition of any risk factors are available.

That being said, if the member or any member or any member of the public has

ideas on how we can further roll out this type of training to make sure that as many frontline people or as many people who interact on a daily basis with members of our communities can take advantage of accessing this program, I would be open to hearing any and all ideas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 514 – 4(3): Boarding Options in Rankin Inlet

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

Mr. Speaker, last week when we were reviewing the 2017-18 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health, the minister indicated that building a boarding home in the community of Rankin Inlet for transient medical clients was not in his department's capital planning cycle.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of contracted services are currently in place to ensure that medical clients have a place to stay in Rankin Inlet if their flights are delayed or if they have a long wait 'til they can go home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for following up on his concerns that his constituents have raised with him. When we did look at the feasibility of boarding homes in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay

was another regional centre that we have been looking at.

Health Canada is actually responsible for providing the medical travel assistance to beneficiaries that are referred for care outside their home community, although the Department of Health provides those services on behalf of Health Canada through an agreement. Any time we look at taking advantage of or utilizing boarding homes, we do have to go through Health Canada for increased funding and recognition of applicable rates.

That being said, with the Medical Travel Policy that we have in place right now, somebody would contact their medical travel contact or patient relations and we would find appropriate accommodations for somebody. If their wait for the flight is longer than two hours, NHIB will cover meals and arrangements could be made for a day room or at a private billet.

To my knowledge, we currently don't have any contracts with any specific entities as needs can arise and change on a daily basis. We utilize mainly hotel services in Rankin Inlet specifically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time we travelled home after Legislative Assembly business, I met several of my constituents in Rankin Inlet who were stranded due to weather and other considerations. I ended up paying for

their rooms while I slept on a friend's couch.

Will the minister commit to looking into more boarding options to ensure that medical clients don't get stranded and end up relying on others to get a place to sleep for the night? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health is in continual discussions with Health Canada on NIHB coverage to make sure that our residents who have to seek medical treatment outside the territory are serviced appropriately. Again I can commit that I will make sure that this topic gets on the agenda at the next meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, there are facilities in Rankin Inlet, such as the Nanuq Lodge, which not only has a wheelchair accessible ramp but has wheelchair accessible rooms. Will the minister consider entering into a multi-year standing offer agreement with the operators of such rooming facilities so that medical clients who are travelling always have a place to go? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak to a specific piece of infrastructure, but what I can and have

committed to is to raise this issue with Health Canada at our next discussion opportunity that we have, discussing coverage for NIHB medical travel patients. At that time we will look at different options that may be available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 515 – 4(3): Foster Parenting

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

Mr. Speaker, last week I was asking questions to get clarification as to who is eligible to foster children that you can see in the *Blues* for October 31 in English on page 26, in the Inuktitut version on page 22. Yesterday when the minister was being questioned by Mr. Mikkungwak, his response became obvious and he answered the same question I had asked before.

The first question I shall read is quoted from the Inuktitut *Hansard* on page 22, Monday, October 31. Minister Mike stated in Inuktitut and part of it is written here and let me quote the response. "For example, in Pond Inlet there was a child that was apprehended by Family Services. They were taken care of by Family Services for a while before they could find a foster family outside the community because there were none available in the community. We have to make sure that the child is in a safe place. They did that to make sure the child was kept in a safe place because

there was no one available in the community.”

Firstly I want to ask this question, Mr. Speaker: when the Department of Family Services must care for a child, do they receive the same payment for the care of the child like foster care homes? 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. Yesterday when I responded to the question, I first want to explain that I was not prepared to make a response as I didn't have the information readily available. I subsequently took the question as notice, just for an example.

The result is that our social workers are now fully aware of this issue, especially the upper management officials in the Children and Family Services Division. They have provided a directive to their workers on the fact that they are not allowed to foster children. Since they are public servants, there may be a conflict of interest. For that reason, we have provided this direction on the file. For these reasons, social workers must place children in foster care because by law, they can't care for the child themselves.

With respect to the payment issue for temporary care, I can't answer that now if it would apply or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question I wish to ask is related to the example the minister provided and I will base my question on his response.

Furthermore, his response from the English version of the *Blues* for Monday, October 31, on page 26 was that if the child is Inuk, all efforts shall be undertaken to place them in an Inuit foster home.

Mr. Speaker, why was the decision made by a non-beneficiary social worker to care for that child when an Inuk social worker was available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. To provide some context, the social workers generally follow the regulatory processes, especially where a foster parent or home isn't available in the communities. When an available caretaker can't be found, the social worker, regardless of whether they are Inuit or non-Inuit, must consider the child's best interest, especially when housing them temporarily while they search for foster parents who will then care for this child they are placing into care.

With respect to his actual question related to being an Inuk social worker and the underlying reason, I will need to carefully review that matter due to its importance. If a social worker is an Inuk and whether this is applicable to their duties or to another non-Inuk social worker, I should carefully conduct

research on this prior to responding.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. However, as per the minister's response, which I quoted from the *Blues*, if a child is an Inuk, the priority should be placing them with Inuit foster families. This seems counterproductive since the social worker ought to be familiar with the policy. It is a departmental policy that they use. It seems as if no research is required since this is part of their documentation.

Now I will ask my last question. With this being the language in the policy, I previously asked questions and was informed that in Pond Inlet, long-time foster homes and parents who have fostered many children were not even asked if they had room. Why did the social worker care for the child when existing foster parents weren't even asked about space? 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. With respect to his first question, I am glad that information is coming to light and I appreciate that as it was raised in other questions.

With regard to his first question, I responded to a question that was asked yesterday with the criteria needed to qualify as a foster parent so they can

foster children once they get the certification. A child would normally be placed in a foster home and this has been the preference by our workers. When the child is to be placed in a foster home, they can also choose which foster home they would want to be placed in.

There are many factors that are included in this process and social workers follow the legislation pertinent to each case. With respect to our practices, they are outlined in our regulations that Inuit cultural practices should be followed. That is what I was referencing when I stated that in those cases, Inuit foster children should be placed with Inuit foster parents.

With respect to his supplementary question regarding foster parent lists for communities such as Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Pangnirtung, or anywhere foster parents are already responsible for fostering children, I will look into whether they are asked if they have space. I understood the question he asked and I will have to look into it. I will commit to providing information to the member for Pond Inlet once I receive it via correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Nunavut Business Credit Corporation,
Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 203 – 4(3): MOU
between Kitikmeot Community
Futures Inc. and NBCC**

**Tabled Document 204 – 4(3): MOU
between Atuqtuarvik Corporation
and NBCC**

**Tabled Document 205 – 4(3): MOU
between Baffin Business
Development Corporation and
NBCC**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Memorandum of Understanding between (interpretation ends) Kitikmeot Futures Incorporated and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to table the Memorandum of Understanding between the Atuqtuarvik Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to table the Memorandum of Understanding between the Baffin Business Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. 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. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 20 – 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 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:07 and
Committee resumed at 15:36*

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

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

I would now 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 afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 24 and commence with the review of the capital estimates for the Department of Justice, followed by the Department of Culture and Heritage. If time permits, we

will then proceed to the review of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): 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 – Justice –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will be reviewing the capital estimates for the Department of Justice. Let me first ask Minister Peterson, do you have officials that you would like to bring to the witness table? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have officials I would like at the witness table. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson would like to have officials with him at the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister William MacKay and to my left

is Director of Corporate Services Ji Liu. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House, Mr. Liu and Mr. MacKay. I now give you the opportunity to make your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I appear before the committee today to present the Department of Justice's draft 2017-18 capital estimates. We are seeking approval of \$1,512,000 for the Department of Justice's capital expenditures for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The department requests \$812,000 in 2017-18 to put toward the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre (QCHC) project. The Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre project is planned expansions and remodel of the current Baffin Correctional Centre. The project is necessary to meet current and future corrections needs and to ensure a safe, modern facility for Nunavut offenders and correctional employees.

The Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre is a project submitted to the New Building Canada Fund. Under the Building Canada Fund guidelines, the Government of Canada funds 75 percent of a capital project and the territorial government funds the remaining 25 percent. The requested funds are to meet the Government of Nunavut's portion, 25 percent, of anticipated 2017-18 Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre project costs.

The Department of Justice is also requesting \$700,000 for a number of important minor capital expenditures, including the replacement of four

vehicles, the replacement of the flooring at the Nunavut Women's Correctional Centre, the construction of a prefabricated garage at the Ilavut Centre in Kugluktuk, and the potential repair of some life safety systems at the Baffin Correctional Centre.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will now take any questions from committee members. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Minister or I mean Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I smile at you.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations concerning its review of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year is \$1,512,000. The department's capital budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year was \$4.45 million.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$700,000 for its various small capital projects, which include a number of projects to upgrade and repair existing correctional facilities and to replace aging mobile equipment.

Mr. Chairman, in November of 2014 the Legislative Assembly approved \$850,000 in capital funding for the

department to undertake renovations at the Baffin Correctional Centre to address fire safety concerns at the facility. The department has indicated that that this funding was used for an emergency mould remediation project at the Baffin Correctional Centre. The standing committee recognizes that this emergency project was necessary to ensure the health and safety of inmates and employees of the Baffin Correctional Centre.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$812,000 for the design phase of its addition and renovations project at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Information provided by the department indicates that this project will be undertaken in two phases and will include the addition of a second level to the current facility to house maximum-security inmates and renovations to the infrastructure to include a medium-security area with designated areas for correctional programs. Members recognize that this project has been submitted for funding under the New Building Canada Plan. Members encourage the minister to provide regular updates on the status of this project.

Mr. Chairman, the department's approved 2016-17 capital estimates included \$1 million in funding for renovations to the Nunavut Justice Centre. The department has indicated that it planned to undertake renovations at the Nunavut Justice Centre in two phases. The first phase will focus on renovating office space and the second phase will involve adding higher security measures to the existing facility. Members look forward to receiving

regular updates on the status of this project.

On June 1, 2015 the Standing Committee on the Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts presented to the Legislative Assembly its report on its May 2015 hearings on the Auditor General of Canada's 2015 report to the Legislative Assembly on corrections in Nunavut.

On October 29, 2015 the minister tabled the department's formal response to the standing committee's report titled, "Reviewing the 2015 Auditor General Report on Corrections in Nunavut." The standing committee applauds the department for the detailed information that it provided in its lengthy formal response.

Mr. Chairman, in its October 29, 2015 formal response, the department provided detailed information on its plans to address a number of code deficiencies and facility planning concerns that were raised in the standing committee's report. The department also committed to preparing its first annual report on correctional services in Nunavut for tabling in the Legislative Assembly during the current fall sitting. Members look forward to reviewing this report.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. At this time are there any general comments? There being none, we will start with the page-by-page review beginning with page E-3. It

reads, Justice. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$700,000. Do you agree? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$812,000 for the renovation project for the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre, currently known as the Baffin Correctional Centre. Information provided by your department indicates that this project will include significant renovations to the current Baffin Correctional Centre.

Can you indicate where your department plans to house the inmates that are currently placed in the facility during the construction phase of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before I go to Minister Peterson, please indicate if you have questions on a specific page so that your names can be added to the list. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is to construct the two-storey maximum-security part of the project first and then we will move our inmates to that part, and then renovate the existing Baffin Correctional Centre phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to its five-year capital plan your department anticipates that it will allocate a total of \$19 million in capital funding to the proposed renovation and addition project at the Baffin Correctional Centre for the next five years. If approved, can you provide

a timeline by which your department plans to begin and complete construction of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we could provide the timeline. I believe the current plan is to, just to give a rough idea, do the design in 2018 and then begin an RFP to award construction to begin in 2019, and completion some time in 2021. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also information provided by your department indicates that the proposed renovation and addition project for the Baffin Correctional Centre would allow Nunavut to meet the requirements for 112 beds five years after construction and be expandable to meet the long-term needs of 127 beds in the year 2030. Can you clarify how this project will be expandable to meet Nunavut's long-term needs for 127 correctional beds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. The plan right now would be to add 56 maximum-security beds and that would be a portion of the two-storey phase, and then we would renovate the existing facility and that would provide 56 medium-security beds. Built into the overall project would be the ability or

capacity to add those extra beds with that. That would be over the ensuing years, a decade, so it's sort of like an ability to expand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the House. Your department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$812,000 for the renovation project at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Information provided by your department indicates that this project is eligible for third party funding under the New Building Canada Fund.

Your department also indicates that the business case for this project was sent to Infrastructure Canada on April 13. I'm looking to see if you can confirm if this project has received final approval or funding under the New Building Canada Fund and, if so, has Infrastructure Canada committed to funding 75 percent of the project costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I just want to remind everyone not to speak too quickly in respect of the interpreters and so everyone will understand. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and also so I could keep track of the questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. This has been a project that has been long in development. I believe it began in 2014 and then it came to the Financial Management Board.

It was one of the projects that we approved as a high priority project to submit to Infrastructure Canada. They gave it a preliminary review. They asked us earlier this year to send them the detailed business plan, which was a positive sign. They have reviewed it. There was a visitor who came up or was in town a month or two ago who actually had an opportunity to sit with our officials and go over it, and I believe she took tour out there.

Currently we have positive indications that the project will receive approval. We can't state that it has been approved until the Treasury Board of Canada meets. Their schedule, I think, is November 24. I don't know what the process is there, but we're hopeful that when they do review it, they will okay it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they review it on November 24, how long do you think you will have to wait before you find out if you got approval or not? What is the usual process time-wise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have details of when we would be notified, but I expect it to be within four to seven work days that we will be notified that it is approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going on to something else. In its October 29, 2015 response, your department indicated that security requires that inmates in a correctional facility must be separated into a number of categories, including remand, sentence, high-security, disciplinary protective segregation, mental health, and medical isolation. Can you confirm if the renovations to the Baffin Correctional Centre will provide space for these types of separation of inmates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Although I can answer the question, I'm going to ask if I can bring in another witness who has worked on this project almost daily since two or three years ago. I can bring another witness if that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is asking for another staff member to come to the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the new witness to the table and escort the other witness out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, please introduce the new

witness. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new witness is Chris Stewart. He is the manager of capital and special projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome to the House, Mr. Stewart. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, did you want the member to repeat the question or can we go ahead and get it answered? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't need it repeated. I'll ask Mr. Stewart to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart, please.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To simply answer the question, one of the major benefits of the new facility will be to have much smaller units and have more of them to allow the separation of the population that the member had recognized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thanks for your response. I'm wondering what size these units would be. What are we talking about when we say "units" and maybe it would give me a better idea of what size if you can tell how many people would comfortably be in these units? Is it 1 or 2 or 24? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. Stewart to answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The units will range in size slightly, but typically the largest units would be 26 in this case, so several 26 and then there will be smaller units for different types of population. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming then that larger areas would be for like more of the lower... . What's the word? Not the maximum, but maybe the lower or medium security, or maybe you could explain to us how you would divide that up, like I said, a list, which ones would go more to the larger sized units and who would be kept more in the smaller size units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.

>> *Laughter*

Ms. Angnakak: It's okay.

Chairman (interpretation): As the Chair, I think I can go directly to Mr. Stewart as he was answering the

questions. Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The medium- and maximum-security units will both be approximately 26. There will be several of each, but we do not want to make the units too small because we still want to allow these interactions to occur even at the maximum-security level. It was important for us to make sure we had enough people in a unit and it wasn't too small a unit to not allow those positive interactions to occur. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get a better clarification on medical isolation. Are you talking about maybe perhaps if an inmate has TB or something like that? What are you talking about? Is this long term? You're keeping them there versus going to the hospital. What makes that distinction? What does that really mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Stewart, I believe you can respond to that.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Medical isolation is done in conjunction with the hospital. If somebody was very ill, they would obviously go to the hospital first and to be stabilized, but the medical isolation unit in this facility will allow us to continue to care for examples of active TB, to be able to care for them within our facilities once things have been stabilized at the medical centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thank you very much. Just because we're talking about medical isolation, I know we're talking about capital here and that, but I do want to ask: do you have a full-time nurse up there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. There are two nurses and a medical health nurse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going on to something else, something I have brought up before in the past, and that's the Nunavut Court of Justice renovations project. I wonder if we can get an update on the status of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify the last answer, I think I said medical health nurse; it's a mental health nurse. Thank you.

I had a tour two weeks ago at the Nunavut Court of Justice to review the project. From what I understood, the project is almost complete. The windows are being replaced. They're almost replaced. There were a couple of windows that were cracked. There's some warranty work that has to be

completed on the new windows. They cracked and have to be replaced. They're working on what they call a sally port. That's a facility outside where they can receive persons who are coming to court in a secure area and then transport them to their court appearance.

From my understanding, the renovations are almost complete. There was additional office space provided for administration. It's quite amazing what they have done out there because you can't expand the walls, but you can always do stuff with the interior. I believe it's almost complete. I won't say it's 100 percent, but it's close. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. In regard to that project, can you indicate if you're going to be carrying over additional capital for the 2016-17 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not anticipating carrying over any capital. If there is, it would be a small amount, but it's probably more likely for deficiency and warrant work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Another issue I have brought up in the past, and I haven't heard what's... We did, I think, approve some capital towards a wellness

court. What's happening with the wellness court? Can you give us an update, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I don't believe a wellness court was an actual capital item. It was more of an initiative to facilitate, encourage, or assist people who wanted to appear before a different type of court if there was an ability to go a different type of sentencing and not be sentenced to jail time. That's an initiative that's still underway with our department talking to other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just under the assumption that changes that were a part of the renovations of the current courthouse were going to make changes or a way for the wellness court to operate, so maybe I was mistaken. Can you give us an idea of when you think the wellness court will be in place where it could be used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Part of the problem or solution or initiative was to undertake the renovations to the Nunavut Court of Justice and provide more office space for

employees and officials over there, including our judges. That's part of it. We had to do that first and then we will continue on the mental health court initiative. Again, as I say, it's not actually a capital project. It is an initiative that's part of the overall Nunavut Court of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about the wellness court in the future, are the current renovations, what you're doing now, would that allow the wellness court to go ahead or are you going to have to do renovations in the future to allow the wellness court? Are we talking about two court spaces or are they going to use the same space? I guess that's what I'm trying to get at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Well, when I had the tour, Mr. Kucharski, if he's listening or watching, was lobbying me pretty hard. He was telling me that he could use all that extra space next door for another facility.

The facility that was constructed that exists there now was in 2008 and they have expanded. The structure itself is suitable for a period of time, but the services that are being offered through the court of justice have expanded quite significantly. You've got more judges, you've got more support staff, and you've got more Justices of the Peace.

We're going to have to look seriously at how we can include the mental health court in that provision of services in the existing structure unless we are able to get through the capital planning process and get more capital for another facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. We're on page E-3. It reads, Justice. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$700,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page E-5. I'm sorry. Page E-6. It reads, Justice. Corrections. Total Capital Expenditures. \$812,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page E-2. It reads, Justice. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,512,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we have concluded the review of the capital estimates for the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, we have concluded your department. If you have any closing remarks, I now give you the floor. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank a number of people here.

I would like to thank MLA Isaac Shooyook, who has visited me a few times and has gone out to visit the correctional facilities out there. He gave us some good insight and knowledge to incorporate into the project, the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre.

I would like to thank the correctional staff who go to work every day out to BCC but all across Nunavut. I had several good tours this summer in Rankin Inlet and the facilities here. They're doing a lot of great work helping the inmates. I've had inmates write me letters and also telling me stuff, so I thank those fellows.

I would like to thank some of our staff: former correctional director, Doug Strader, who is out there somewhere; J.P. Deroy, who is working on corrections; Chris Stewarts, who does a lot of work; Ji Liu. I would like to thank all the deputies that have been working on it. It has been long.

Since 2009 there have been a lot of improvements in the facilities in Nunavut; the women's facility was added, the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, the Makigiarvik, and now when this facility goes ahead and hopefully it gets approved on November 24, so that would be great. We can keep people and bring people home, and provide them with the programming, cross-cultural programming, on-the-land experience that helps people.

I would just like to thank all the former ministers who sat before me. We keep

moving these important initiatives forward to improve our corrections system in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

We will be proceeding and deal with the Department of Culture and Heritage. We will take a five-minute break to get the paperwork ready. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:14 and resumed at 16:21

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): I will now call the committee meeting to order. We will be dealing with the capital estimates for the Department of Culture and Heritage. As we begin, let me first ask Minister Kuksuk, do you have officials that you would like to bring to the witness table? Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk would like to have officials with him at the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With me this afternoon to my left is Regilee Adla, (interpretation ends) Director of Finance (interpretation) for the Department of Culture and Heritage, and with us this afternoon to my right is Pauloosie Suvega, my Deputy Minister of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Welcome to the House, Ms. Adla and Mr. Suvega. As we proceed, I would like to give you an opportunity to make your opening comments. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2017-18 capital plan.

(interpretation ends) The department holds a leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the capital estimates for the Department of Culture and Heritage for the 2017-18 fiscal year is \$560,000.

\$60,000 of the capital budget is for renovations at the Iqaluit Centennial Library within the Heritage Branch and to replace existing office workstations at the Iqaluit headquarters offices within the Official Languages Division.

The department is working hard to address the need to display and preserve our heritage within the territory. The department is committed to addressing Nunavut's long-term vision for the storage and heritage collections and to support economic development initiatives that build on and add value to heritage, arts, and tourism sectors within Nunavut.

\$500,000 will be used for current and future heritage infrastructure across Nunavut under our heritage facilities contribution funding. We provide this funding to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development and/or renovation of heritage facilities or relevant associated structures and objects.

Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations concerning its review of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year is \$560,000. The

department's capital budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year was also \$560,000.

Members note that the department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$500,000 for its "Heritage Facilities" project. Information provided by the department indicates that this funding will be allocated to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development or renovation of heritage facilities in order to allow Nunavut to repatriate its cultural artefacts from facilities in southern Canada. Members also note that the department will allocate \$60,000 for small capital projects such as office renovations and equipment replacement.

Mr. Chairman, the department has previously indicated that funding for this project will be allocated under the department's Heritage Facilities Contribution Policy.

Members note that the department's 2016-17 main estimates also include \$200,000 in contribution funding for its "Heritage Facilities" project, and that this contribution funding is also allocated according to the department's Heritage Facilities Contribution Policy.

Mr. Chairman, it is unclear why the department has included contribution funding under both its capital and main budgets for the same "Heritage Facilities" project. Members look forward to receiving further clarification on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, on November 19, 2015 the governments of Manitoba and Nunavut announced their agreement to extend their five-year memorandum of

understanding. In its announcement the government indicated that "the Winnipeg Art Gallery will become home to thousands of pieces of fine art from Nunavut and the gallery will develop special programming and educational opportunities through the display of the works. Each government will provide up to \$500,000 to support the research, documentation, and exhibition of this artwork."

The standing committee strongly encourages the department to provide regular updates on the specific ways that Nunavummiut have been provided opportunities to contribute to the research, documentation, and exhibition of the cultural artefacts that are currently housed in the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Members continue to encourage the minister to work closely with organizations and municipal corporations in Nunavut to develop a strategy by which artefacts will be distributed fairly throughout Nunavut. Members also encourage the department to develop a time frame for repatriating all artefacts, which will allow the department to evaluate its progress in completing this important project.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee looks forward to receiving regular updates on the department's progress in repatriating these artefacts and distributing them across the territory.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. As we proceed at this time, we will start on page F-3. Are there any general comments? There being none. We're on Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening comments by the minister one of the things it says here is that they're going to "replace existing office workstations at the Iqaluit headquarters offices within the Official Languages Division." I wonder if the minister can just expand a little bit on what they mean by that. Where is this office? Is that relocation or is it renovations? What are we talking about here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, I don't have the details in front of me as to exactly what that is going to be, so I will ask my deputy minister to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The offices are not going to be relocated. They will just be renovated, for example, the desks and chairs to better accommodate the needs of the staff, especially for interpreters in the Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. Just a couple of paragraphs down it says that the department "is committed to addressing Nunavut's long-term vision for the storage of heritage collections," that paragraph there, "and to support economic development initiatives that build on and add value to heritage, arts..." Can you just talk a little more about that? As a department, what do you mean by that statement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This matter has been ongoing for quite some time. In looking down the road, we do have plans for housing our artefacts. As we all know, artefacts from Nunavut have various custodians from outside of our territory. For example, some are in the NWT, of which some are being moved to the (interpretation ends) Winnipeg Art Gallery, (interpretation) as it is called. With that being the case, our own lack of proper facilities for our artefacts has meant that most artefacts are stored outside of Nunavut.

However, we do have a vision in place to eventually have our own preservation facility. Our artefacts would not just be stored, but they would also be available as a part of various economic development initiatives specific to tourists, for example, who could visit the facility to view the artefacts. This is part of our long-term plan. We have included various (interpretation ends) outfitters, (interpretation) for example, in our plans for (interpretation ends) economic development (interpretation) benefits we

could gain if we housed our artefacts ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that the minister just alluded to was having artefacts outside of Nunavut. I'm wondering if the minister can describe specific ways in which Nunavummiut have been able to contribute to those decisions that have been made concerning the use and display of Nunavut's Inuit artefacts which are currently housed in the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Is it just the department making those kinds of decisions, what is going to be housed there and what's not and where different artefacts go, or do you have input from Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member for her question. Mr. Chairman, in my opening comments I mentioned the lack of adequate facilities and I have maintained in the past that because of a lack of proper space here, we don't house any of our artefacts. We have collaborated with facilities that want to showcase Inuit artefacts, including the Winnipeg Art Gallery as an example, to develop that.

Mr. Chairman, although we wish to manage our own artefacts, the requirements are that it can't just be any ordinary building because, for their preservation in particular, they require a climate-controlled atmosphere, including

proper air quality. Since we don't have such facilities in Nunavut to manage our collections, it means our artefacts must be housed outside of Nunavut.

We have worked with our partners on the issues and although the facility is outside of Nunavut, we are working on the kind of shows that will be put on. Perhaps I can use the example of earlier this fall where representatives from Nunavut travelled to Winnipeg, including elders from Baker Lake. We were able to view parts of the collection and the facilities that are used to house artefacts.

We try to work with Nunavummiut whenever possible, but it is primarily the lack of appropriate space that is keeping us from moving forward. We require a proper facility to house our artefacts. It is for those reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Moving on, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, colleagues, minister, and your staff.

Again, in the fall of 2015 sitting the Legislative Assembly approved \$500,000 in capital funding for your department's minor projects. Information provided by your department indicated that this funding would be distributed to approved applicants in order to use the funding to develop or renovate heritage facilities in the territory during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Can you list the organizations, municipalities, and corporations that

have applied for the funding under this line item since April 1, 2016? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for the question. What we can identify here based on his question for fiscal year 2016-17, within the line item of (interpretation ends) grants and contributions, (interpretation) there were several requests approved by cabinet. The following communities received approvals: Cambridge Bay received \$95,000, Iqaluit received \$292,000, Kugluktuk received \$63,000, and Resolute Bay received \$50,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there were no submissions from the Gjoa Haven heritage facility or the municipality? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for the question. No, I am not aware of a submission, but I could be mistaken. My deputy minister may have information on whether a proposal was received and why the funding wasn't approved. My deputy minister may be able to answer that instead of me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the community applied and funding wasn't approved, it may have been due to a lack of funding. Sometimes we must also search for other funds that can be applied. When the funds are running out, we do search for other funding sources. We don't just deny the funding request for the fiscal year. If the funds are not available, then we would commit to finding other sources of funding to set aside for that. The funds can be provided either by our government or the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In talking about the heritage facility in Gjoa Haven, they talked about the facility being small already. It's not very big and we are now getting tourists going into that area. Would you foresee any renovations being done or approved for that facility, like maybe tomorrow? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Can you approve that tomorrow? Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I already sent faxes to the communities that have heritage centres and informed them of the funding assistance available to communities where they can put in an application for renovations. If there is an organization identified in the community, they can also put in applications. We have that open for all the communities.

I can tell my colleague from Gjoa Haven that if they fill out an application, we can take a look at providing assistance from our capital budget. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. You talk about sending artefacts down to Manitoba, which is quite a ways. Gjoa Haven is also quite a ways from here. Have you ever talked to your counterparts with the federal government in getting a bit bigger heritage centre in Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member. I haven't had discussions with other communities concerning his question. Mr. Chairman, earlier this fall I met with the heritage minister for Canada when she came up to Iqaluit. We identified to them that we need to take care of our own artefacts, but it's because of the lack of funding and that's the reason we haven't identified anything. I indicated to the federal minister that it is important that Nunavut artefacts that are being stored elsewhere need to be repatriated to our territory. That is what I made clear to my counterpart. However, we haven't decided on anything yet. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Moving on, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and the official to his right to the Committee of the Whole.

My son-in-law asked a question on the minister's opening comments and I would like to ask one myself. I think the \$500,000 that you mentioned was for new heritage centres. It talks about building sites for the facilities to be constructed. I'm not sure what sites this is about. Does that mean what buildings need to be built? Using Arctic Bay as an example, if they had such a facility, is that for construction materials or is that for constructing new buildings? If you can clarify what that is to be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague. That means if a community has identified a local organization and if there is a building available to renovate, they can put in an application to our capital budget for the building's renovation. I hope that's clear. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him and I like to see that. It is for that reason that it states here that non-profit, community-based organizations and municipal corporations can apply for this funding.

I have been informed by some of my constituents that an individual would like to start a facility. He's not an

employee of the hamlet. There are a number of beautiful and old traditional houses near our community. This individual had wanted more information and this program is timely. Can you clarify if it is only organizations that can apply and not individuals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank you. I am obliged to talk about eligibility to submit requests on capital projects. If there is a non-profit society in a community - I'm not quite sure how to translate "society" into Inuktitut - and they have a committee with an executive who knows how to put together a submission, they are eligible. The local hamlet or a non-profit society can also make a submission. The society would have to submit proof of their society status, which would be reviewed and then they can be considered for financial contribution for their application. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for giving me a well-defined answer. It's my understanding that ordinary people are generally not part of a society. Can they participate in a request for funding that you mentioned? Can they apply for this funding as well? From what I understand, can the application forms that we submit be eligible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's true. I can use something in Arviat as an example. There is a society in Arviat and they asked me the same question this past summer. Someone from my department went there and explained to them how to make an application, to form a society first, and then they can start to apply for funding afterwards. It doesn't matter what the society is for and we work closely with our elders in the communities to try to understand what they want to see happening because they are the most knowledgeable about the matter. They are able to take part and form their own societies as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Before I go to my list of names, I would like to remind everyone that we are talking about capital estimates, so please try to stay on that topic. Moving on, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials. The question I would like to ask is: can you explain further about your department's support for heritage facilities, the capital estimates, and the funding that's available? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about capital estimates

this afternoon. The \$500,000 will be a contribution program. I tried to explain to my colleague, Mr. Shooyook, earlier. Communities can apply for this. They can use the funding to develop or renovate heritage facilities. The communities can request funding for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will that \$500,000 contribution program have to be divided among all the communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is for all the communities in Nunavut and any community can apply for it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you help us understand more about the non-profit, community-based organizations that have committees in relation to the contribution program? How many applications have you received? How many have applied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We're talking about the 2017-18 capital

estimates. The call for applications opens this month and then up until the end of January we will be accepting the applications at my department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do the communities request funding from this to use for language projects and, if so, how many communities request money under that? I hope I was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We're talking about capital estimates, but his question is regarding an O&M matter. We fund it through O&M, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Minister and your officials, please feel welcome. I know we are all aware in Baker Lake that people in Europe and the US know there are two recognized heritage rivers where they go kayaking or paddling. When they go to Baker Lake, they always go to the heritage centre to look at exhibits of Inuit from our past and artefacts.

However, with respect to one of the questions my colleague asked relating to this, you responded by saying that the heritage centres need to have climate-

controlled displays. Does your department now know what kind of climate control equipment will be required for the heritage centres? If you know this, can you please explain what kind of climate-controlled displays they will need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this to my deputy minister because I think he is the best person to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): My apologies. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some old reports about that and it looks like they will have to be updated. I'm sure there will be new technology that we will find once we review it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Will you be planning that for the future in your department? Your department knows which communities have heritage centres and how big they are. We would like to have the artefacts outside of Nunavut repatriated to our territory. The minister spoke to this. As MLAs, we're always supporting this idea of returning our artefacts to Nunavut.

Are you planning to have our many artefacts returned in the future and to

ensure they are stored with the proper kind of climate control equipment that is required to ensure they are protected in the heritage centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. Earlier we talked about what we envision on repatriating those artefacts outside of Nunavut back to our communities, to find proper places for them. However, my colleague and I are both aware that we don't have the money to spend on that.

We are often in talks with the federal government and other groups about finding places for the artefacts, which they support. We will always be looking for spaces for these artefacts and we will see if we can find proper places for them in Nunavut so that all the artefacts are taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. The next question I have refers to the Baker Lake Heritage Centre, which is visited, and many students also go there to find information as well.

My question is about the current fiscal year for the capital plans that we are dealing with for capital projects and minor capital projects. In the future I encourage you, if at all possible, and you know how big the projects are and what their details are to determine if a climate

control system is warranted for the Baker Lake Heritage Centre. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I believe that's just a general comment. Minister Kuksuk, would you like to comment on that? Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, as we indicated before, we are looking at various projects and each community is encouraged to look at the funding we have available for renovations of facilities. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the (interpretation ends) substantiation sheets (interpretation) it states, (interpretation ends) "Problem/Summary:

Many communities in Nunavut do not have secured places to showcase heritage collections, provide cultural spaces, promote culture or engage visitors."

(interpretation) I have a question for the minister. (interpretation ends) If I'm out of line, Mr. Chairman, let me know. Economic Development and Transportation (interpretation) is building a new (interpretation ends) visitor centre in Rankin Inlet. (interpretation) Has your department ever had discussions with (interpretation ends) the Department of Economic Development and Transportation (interpretation) to see if there's a

building that can be used to store artefacts that are housed in (interpretation ends) the south? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. I will refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we've had some enquiries about housing artefacts, but there is a "however" on the issue if there are going to be any changes to the design and concept of a building, for example. If we're going to include housing artefacts, then the costs are going to increase after the budget outlining how much money can be allocated has already been approved. Again, it could be a part of it, but if it's going to include housing artefacts and if we're going to change the design, then it would have to be approved prior to housing the artefacts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The (interpretation ends) visitor centre (interpretation) will probably have a display. There is a little (interpretation ends) cubby-hole (interpretation) at the airport that displays some artefacts for people passing through. This building is going to be quite large. (interpretation ends)

All you need is what I call low-risk items like carvings, which don't need special equipment to display them. All you need are glass shelves. You don't any renovations. That's all I'm asking. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alex Sammurtok. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. I agree with you completely. There is a display case there that you are referring to and we wouldn't have a problem with setting up display cases for carvings and other showcase material. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. We are on Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$560,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page F-2. It reads, Culture and Heritage. Total Capital Expenditures. \$560,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the capital estimates for Culture and Heritage?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk, we have concluded your department. If you have any closing remarks, you have the floor. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleagues for their good questions.

I would especially like to thank the interpreters very much. If we didn't have interpreters, we wouldn't be able to communicate at all. I would like to thank the interpreters.

I again thank the officials I have with me at the witness table, my deputy minister and our director of finance, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will proceed to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Before we proceed, we will take a five-minute break in order to get our paperwork organized. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:13 and resumed at 17:20

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now proceed. We will be dealing with the proposed capital estimates of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. I would like to ask Premier Taptuna if he would like to have officials with him at the witness table. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna would like to have officials with him at the witness table. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Premier Taptuna, for the record, please introduce your official. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Chairman, on my right here is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House, Mr. D'Arcy. We are on page B-3, but before we go to that page, Premier Taptuna, I now give you an opportunity to make your opening comments. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Today I am accompanied by my Deputy Minister, Mr. Chris D'Arcy, to present the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' capital request for fiscal year 2017-18.

Mr. Chairman, during our standing committee session on government estimates and operations, concerns were raised with respect to the proposed purchase of vehicles for the department in relation to carbon emissions and cost.

Mr. Chairman, upon consultation with the Department of Community and Government Services, Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs has reviewed vehicle option purchases and has revised our request. We are looking to propose the purchase of two new vehicles that aim to achieve reductions in both cost and gas emissions.

Community and Government Services is the lead department with respect to the policy and guidelines of environmental initiatives for fleet vehicles. As part of that support, CGS will ensure that future standing offer lists will include environmentally-friendly options so that in another small way we are able to mitigate impacts to our climate.

Official protocol remains an important part of the overall mandate for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to provide advice and guidance to the government. It serves as a liaison with protocol officials in other Canadian jurisdictions for international missions, diplomatic visits, and so forth. Mr. Chairman, as well the Office of the Commissioner is supported through the Executive Council.

Along with all the divisions within Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the staff must carry out day-to-day activities that sometimes require the use of office vehicles. Providing safe and reliable transportation is a minimum requirement and that is not a reasonable expectation met with the current fleet, which is about 15 years old.

The current vehicles surpass twice the minimum lifespan for an automobile. With regular maintenance and our unforgiving climate, vehicles simply can't get the same mileage as they do down south. In fiscal year 2015-16 alone EIA spent approximately \$3,000 in

general maintenance on things like tires, oil changes, and tows. This expense will continue to grow with old vehicles.

Mr. Chairman, after reviewing maintenance expenditures on existing vehicles, as per the Government of Nunavut's Replacement of Mobile Equipment Guidelines, the proposed new vehicle purchase will prove economically advantageous and will reduce gas emissions.

Mr. Chairman, the department can no longer rely on the roadworthiness of our existing vehicles. We are requesting approval of two replacement vehicles that ensure a cost-effective, reliable, and trustworthy mode of transportation.

Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to request the capital approval of Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and again good afternoon. I am pleased to provide some very brief opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations concerning its review of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2017-18 is \$100,000. This fund is to be used for the acquisition of two vehicles.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee appreciates the minister's willingness to adjust the department's acquisition plans in response to members' concerns regarding such matters as vehicle size. The standing committee supports sound fleet management practices across government, including consistent vehicle lifecycle standards.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We will now proceed. We're on page B-3. General comments? There being none. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The vehicles you want to replace, you will probably want to surplus them to Community and Government Services. My understanding is that Economic Development and Transportation is thinking of leaving some dollar amounts for disposal. If you surplus these, will you be able to reimburse the person once the tendering of those surplus vehicles? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't answer that. We don't have plans like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page B-2. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mission. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, are we in agreement that we have concluded the review of the proposed capital estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna, we have concluded your department. I now give you an opportunity to make closing remarks. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee members for their scrutiny.

Again, we're always trying to find ways to lessen the impact on our climate and try to do things more effectively and efficiently where we can and we're always trying to improve, not just within Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs but throughout all our departments.

Again I thank the committee members for their participation in this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official out.

We will be proceeding with the Office of the Legislative Assembly, but we will take a four-minute break in order to get the paperwork ready.

>>*Committee recessed 17:31 and resumed at 17:32*

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now proceed. We will be dealing with the proposed capital estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Let me first ask Speaker Qulaut, do you have officials that you would like to bring to the witness table? Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Yes, I would like to have officials with me. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Speaker Qulaut would like to have officials with him at the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

As they are escorting the officials in, we will start on page A-3.

Speaker Qulaut, for the record, please introduce your officials. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and to my left is Michael Rafter, (interpretation ends) Director of Corporate Services. (interpretation) That is who we are. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House, Mr. Quirke and Mr. Rafter. We can now proceed and I would like to give you an opportunity to make your opening comments. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will note, the proposed 2017-18 capital budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly is \$765,000. Our capital budget continues to be modest.

Our priority areas for the coming fiscal year include enhancements and upgrades to our audiovisual, *Hansard* and information technology systems, as well as fleet renewal and replacement of office equipment.

As my colleagues will have noted, recent improvements to the front entrance of the Legislative Assembly have also served to enhance the accessibility of our facility to all of our territory's residents.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would be pleased to answer any questions that members may have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Speaker Qulaut. Are there any general comments? I don't see any hands. We will proceed. We are on the first page. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Assembly Operations. Total Capital Expenditures. \$665,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page A-5. It reads, Office of the Legislative Assembly. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Capital Expenditures. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page A-2. It reads, Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$765,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we have concluded the proposed capital estimates for the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Speaker Qulaut, we are completed. I now give you the opportunity to make your closing remarks. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I thank you for believing in what we're doing and the operations of the Legislative Assembly. I thank you all. Thank you.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. There is a motion on the floor to report progress at this time and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 24 and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>*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. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 2:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters
 - Bill 14
 - 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 Wednesday, November
2, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:44*

