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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
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Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
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(Tununiq)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, June 2, 2017**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 9:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 307 – 4(3):
Voices from Nunavut**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you and my fellow members today to tell you about Voices from Nunavut: A Canada 150 Signature Project.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that our youth continue to show appreciation for our culture and heritage. Through the Voices from Nunavut project, youth from our various communities shared with other Nunavut communities and the rest of the country what our territory feels like, sounds like, and looks like in 2017.

With the concerted efforts of community members, students, and teachers, 27 videos were produced that feature the beauty of our land and culture. These videos highlight and celebrate Inuit culture like seal hunting, throat singing, and community events. There are also clips that feature our elders.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the invaluable work of the teachers and instructors in all 25 Nunavut communities who have supported their students in creating videos to describe what is special about their community. I would also like to thank the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum for initiating and making this project a reality. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, Voices from Nunavut is on exhibit at the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum. I invite you and my fellow members to view this commendable body of work that will be featured throughout the month of June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 308 – 4(3):
Support for the Fishing Industry**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As all hon. members know, Nunavut has tremendous untapped potential in its fishing industry. The industry is continuing to grow in a sustainable manner with increasing Inuit involvement at all levels. An expanded fishing industry will provide additional economic opportunities for all Nunavummiut.

The Department of Environment, working collaboratively with industry, co-management partners, and the federal government, continues to encourage and support a viable, sustainable fishing industry. The recent federal announcement on Nunavut Inuit being eligible for aboriginal funding is welcomed.

Mr. Speaker, the Fisheries Development and Diversification Program is the Government of Nunavut's primary means of strategically investing in building the fisheries knowledge base and supporting industry and community-led initiatives to develop Nunavut fisheries. The annual territorial budget for this program of \$525,000 is more than quadrupled by external funding the department is able to leverage.

Mr. Speaker, \$150,000 is contributed annually to the Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium to ensure that Inuit are working on the vessels and in the fishing industry. We have seen an increase in Inuit participation in the industry in recent years.

Our government's renewed Fisheries Strategy outlines many of the ways we

continue to support the offshore industry and all sustainable fisheries development across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, we aim to secure a larger representative share of adjacent fisheries resources and to access fair funding to grow our fisheries. We are committed to working diligently towards securing the infrastructure needed and to support good science that will ensure the sustainable development of this sector for the future benefit of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, working in close collaboration with the Nunavut Offshore Allocation Holders Association, the federal government, and the fishing industry, Nunavut is positioning itself to realize the full economic value of the importance of this resource. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 309 – 4(3):
Nunavut Nurse Receives Health
Canada Award**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members have often heard of me speak of the exceptional work it takes to provide health care in Nunavut.

I am very pleased to share with my colleagues today that during Nursing Week, one of our Nunavut nurses, Ms. Terrilynn Flynn, a nurse at Qikiqtani General Hospital (QGH), was one of only three nurses in Canada to receive

the Award of Excellence in Nursing. This award recognizes distinguished service and outstanding contributions. Ms. Flynn was honoured by Health Canada May 8, 2017 for her work in indigenous communities.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Flynn received her Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Western Regional School of Nursing in 2010. She has been a nurse in Nunavut since 2012. Early in her career in Newfoundland she demonstrated a passion for critical care nursing. Ms. Flynn brought that passion to Nunavut and the QGH, where she can often be found in the emergency department taking care of traumas and providing dignified care to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, Terrilynn has not only served the QGH, but has also served as a community health nurse at various community health centres in the Qikiqtaaluk region. She has mentored and shared her leadership and nursing skills with nursing students and new graduates from the Nunavut Arctic College Nursing Program.

Ms. Flynn demonstrates a strong sense of the importance of cultural safety and sensitivity. She has taken steps to learn Inuktitut through formal and informal training and is regarded and trusted by elders and families within her care.

Mr. Speaker, Terrilynn leads by example for nurses in Nunavut. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Terrilynn and to thank her for her outstanding contribution to health care in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 310 – 4(3):
Introducing the Career
Broadening Program**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning, my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to building an effective and functional public service that is responsive to the public it serves by facilitating career growth and development opportunities.

As Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, I am happy to introduce the new Career Broadening Program for Inuit Government of Nunavut employees who want to acquire or broaden their work-related skills, develop management skills and experience, or fill special project leadership roles.

Mr. Speaker, by increasing the skills and knowledge of Inuit employees, the Career Broadening Program will also facilitate departments and corporations to achieve their Inuit Employment Plan objectives.

Casual, term, or indeterminate Government of Nunavut Inuit employees may apply to this program where my staff will work with other departments to set up learning objectives and workplace experience in the field of their interest.

Mr. Speaker, Career Broadening Program participants will return to their departments when the assignment is over with skills and experience that will help them to successfully compete for management or indeterminate positions.

The Government of Nunavut recognizes the need for qualified Inuit in our organization in professional and leadership roles. We are committed to providing programs like the Career Broadening Program to help us build a representative public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 311 – 4(3):
Nunavut Law Program**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House this morning to inform my fellow members of the developments with the new Nunavut Law Program being delivered next September in Iqaluit in partnership with the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan.

It is with great pleasure that I am sharing with my fellow members that the admission of students is now officially completed. There have been 25 Nunavummiut who have accepted the offer to be admitted into the Nunavut Law Program. It is also with great pleasure that I would like to underline that 18 of 25 are Nunavut Inuit. The remaining seven are long-time residents of Nunavut.

It is also with great pleasure to inform my fellow members that the new northern director of the law program has officially started working. Mr. Stephen Mansell is currently working out of Nunatta Campus here in Iqaluit and will be responsible for the management of the program and working with Nunavut Arctic College and the College of Law to ensure a smooth delivery of the program and provide the necessary support and advice to students and staff. Mr. Mansell is a graduate of the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, and was previously working at the Department of Justice for the last nine years, most recently as the director, policy and planning.

Mr. Speaker and fellow members, we look forward to welcoming the next group of Nunavut lawyers and for them to start on this important journey in their personal and academic careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 312 – 4(3):
Inuinnauyugut – We are Inuinna
Exhibit Opening at the Canadian
Museum of Nature**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow Nunavummiut and fellow residents of Arviat. Have a good weekend, those who are watching the proceedings and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate the Kitikmeot Heritage

Society, or KHS, on an exhibition opening at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa on June 21. The exhibition will run for one year.

The exhibition is called Inuinnauyugut – We are Inuinait, and will be on display in the new permanent gallery in the museum, the Canada Goose Arctic Voices Gallery. (interpretation ends) The exhibition is curated by the Kitikmeot Heritage Society and focuses on the centennial anniversary of Inuinait contact with the western world. Included on display are resources that local community members have created. The Kitikmeot Heritage Society is sending a delegation of community members to the opening ceremony.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage has long provided funding to the Kitikmeot Heritage Society, including operational funding, library and radio funding, and also special project funding.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Kitikmeot Heritage Society for the work they are doing in Cambridge Bay and in the Kitikmeot. I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 313 – 4(3):
Community Freezer Projects**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everyone.

I rise today to report on some of the progress the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has made in support of harvesting activities across Nunavut.

As my colleagues are aware, through the Country Food Distribution Program, the department is mandated to promote harvesting skills and support community-based solutions to increase local economic development through access to country food.

The department provided significant support to recently completed community freezer projects in Arviat and Sanikiluaq. I am also pleased to report that there are freezer projects in Pond Inlet, Taloyoak, and Arctic Bay that are set to begin construction this summer. Where possible, these projects are jointly funded by the federal Growing Forward 2 program.

The department has recently refined the program by increasing the maximum annual funding amounts for both community harvesting activities as well as infrastructure projects, such as community freezers. Eligibility has also been expanded to both municipalities and hunters and trappers organizations.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important program which will continue to make country food more accessible to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 567 – 4(3): Kananginak Pootoogook Venice Art Exhibit

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and to the people of Nunavut, Kimmirut, and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the late Kananginak Pootoogook.

Mr. Speaker, Kananginak was a prominent community leader and a renowned artist, whose artwork has been exhibited in galleries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this year ten pieces of Kananginak's work are being exhibited in the 57th International Art Exhibition of the La Biennale di Venezia in Venice, Italy.

Mr. Speaker, the Venice Biennale is one of the world's largest and most prestigious international art exhibitions. Mr. Speaker, this exhibition has taken place every second year in the Venice, Italy since 1895. Mr. Speaker, the late Kananginak is the first Inuit artist to have their work exhibited in this significant visual art event.

Mr. Speaker, ten drawings by the late Kananginak have been selected and can be found at the event's "Pavilion of the Earth" installment. Among these drawings are some of Kananginak's later ink and coloured-pencil on paper works, which depict the Inuit way of life.

Mr. Speaker, this year's Venice Biennale exhibition enhances the global profile of Cape Dorset artists and reinforces the role of Inuit art on the international stage.

Mr. Speaker, while in Venice, representatives of Dorset Fine Arts and the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative organized a special event to celebrate this historic moment for Inuit art. In attendance were many international dignitaries and delegates. Mr. Speaker, the event was also presided over by the Canadian Ambassador to Italy, Peter McGovern. I thank them all.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating this event and the achievements of the late Kananginak. Our thoughts and well wishes go to his extended family, descendants, and the community of Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, you must have noted that the clock was not set properly. I apologize

>> *Laughter*

Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. I apologize. Member for Pangnirtung. Mr. Johnny Mike.

Member's Statement 568 – 4(3): Update on 2017 Pangnirtung Fishery

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to

the people of Nunavut as well as the residents of Pangnirtung.

I, too, have a member's statement I would like to make. I rise today to speak about an integral community initiative. The turbot fishery commenced in February and continued to May 31 of this year. During this winter's turbot fishery, the fishers landed close to a million lbs. of turbot, or Greenland halibut.

The fishery hasn't experienced this type of success in a while, but this winter Pangnirtung's sea ice formed beautifully and it was nice and thick, which allowed them to fish until the end of May. In the past decade the sea ice hadn't been forming properly and typically the season would end around the beginning of March and sometimes at the end of February. In some years we could continue fishing until April, but this year the conditions were ideal for our turbot fishers.

With a harvest of close to a million lbs. of turbot within Pangnirtung Fiord, the income earned by the fishers was over \$800,000. The fishers also hire helpers to assist them. Another side benefit is the employees who work at the fish plant to process the landed catch. There are approximately 200 local people working within this fishery in Pangnirtung. This is a very beneficial sector for our community as it assists in our local economy and supports the residents. Further, the board members of the fishery are very competent and committed to their role. They plan the fishery, which is also controlled by local Inuit.

With these developments, although I have only skimmed over the details, the conditions this winter allowed the turbot fishery to continue. I am very pleased that Pangnirtung residents are able to operate this fishery successfully. 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. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 745 – 4(3): Dust Control Initiatives

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

During our winter sitting I asked the minister a number of questions concerning dust control initiatives in the territory. In his response the minister indicated that his department would be undertaking pilot tests on a new dust suppressant product called Dustop, which can be used on airport roads.

Will the minister consider having this product tested in Baker Lake this summer? 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 pilot project that the member is talking about that I stated about in the winter sitting, as the member will recall, it was going to be tried out in Iqaluit and in Arviat. The one in Iqaluit was inconclusive due to weather and other factors. In Arviat it was delayed due to the rain. It rained more than normal and it was colder than normal. It has to be dry and it has to be about 5 degrees, so the pilot project wasn't done.

The pilot project will continue in Arviat as soon as it gets warm enough and before the rainy season. Once that pilot project is done in Arviat, we will know whether it's a suitable product for the rest of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 14, 2017, in his response to my questions, the minister stated that his department "funds the municipalities for dust control" and will continue to do so. Can the minister tell us how much funding in total was allocated for the purchase of Nunavut's dust suppressants for the summer of 2017? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. CGS does fund the hamlets. It's part of their block funding. I can't tell the member how much was spent on dust suppression because we fund the

hamlets and it's up to the hamlets how much of that money they use for dust suppression. I can't answer that information because the hamlets are responsible for purchasing their own dust suppression. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, the cost of product-based dust control includes the cost of the labour of municipal employees who apply the product in their communities on a regular basis throughout the summer. Will the minister commit his department to conducting a cost analysis to determine how much Nunavut will have spent on the application of dust suppressants in the summer of 2017? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's dust time again. It has started in most communities. I don't see the point in an exercise to see how much exactly is spent. Like I told the member, we fund the hamlets to purchase and operate the dust suppression. We also put on training courses through the MTO to train the municipalities on application of dust suppression.

No, I will not commit to figuring out exactly every penny of how much is going to be spent on dust suppression. I would rather their energies be spent on trying to deal with the dust problem that we have in Nunavut and try to lessen the

amount of dust that the people of Nunavut have to tolerate because it is a problem. We hear about it every year and we are doing our best to come up with a cost-effective solution for the dust problem in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 746 – 4(3): Vacant Staff Housing Units

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, fellow residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister and all Members of the House are very much aware, a long-standing issue of concern for me has been the issue of long-standing vacant staff housing units.

Mr. Speaker, Action No. 23 of the minister's *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Department of Finance will, and I quote, "collaborate to make better use of existing staff housing stock through review of the process for reallocating vacant units..."

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is: can you update us today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, as was previously stated, we were going to be dealing with the matter that he's referring to. I would like to inform the member now that this work continues. We have started working with the Department of Finance in regard to staff housing units so that they can be properly reviewed again. I can tell my colleague now that we have directed a consulting firm to look into this matter and all the details of staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In May of 2015, and I have a copy of it, the minister wrote a letter to me concerning staff housing units in Pond Inlet. At that time there was a total of 68 staff housing units in Pond Inlet, almost 15 percent of which were vacant. Minister, can you tell me as of today, how many staff housing units in Pond Inlet are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going through my documents here to find the details for Pond Inlet and the percent of vacant staff housing units. Mr. Speaker,

if it's okay with you, I want to find that information. I can recall it, but I don't want to say the wrong thing.

Mr. Speaker, what we explained in previous months is we need to update the information on how many units are vacant and how many are occupied. The numbers are always changing, but I can get the information for my colleague during this sitting detailing how many units are vacant in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be expecting that information you committed to providing.

I have maintained and fellow residents of Pond Inlet have voiced the same concern that if government units are always going to be vacant, in light of the continued housing shortage faced by our community, it is unnerving to see and it becomes a sad state of affairs as well.

We see rows of empty staff units with no signs of occupancy and some units have never been occupied since they were constructed. I have tried to voice this in the past and have had my constituents ask if these units will continue to sit vacant forever.

My constituents in Pond Inlet have told me that if the government cannot fill its vacant staff housing units in a reasonable period of time, the government should turn the units over to the community's LHO to help address the public housing shortage crisis. Is the minister open to this idea, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as per my earlier reply, the purpose of government staff housing units is to provide housing for our employees throughout Nunavut.

The issue is under review and as per my earlier comment, this has already begun and we have identified the terms of reference for the review. What I can say here now regarding this review is that we plan to report on it in our fall session in September. I have no doubt the report on the review will be ready for presentation and tabling in the House.

With regard to the member's specific question, it will be included in the review on government staff housing. I expect that the answers to his questions will be provided by the housing corporation as to whether the idea of transferring of units can be considered. If there is a need to look into that, we will be able to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 747 – 4(3): Premier's Appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everybody in

the House and everybody watching.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

On April 9, 2017 the Premier and the Minister of Community and Government Services appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance on the occasion of one of its hearings on the issue of economic growth in the three northern territories.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support efforts to bring Nunavut's issues and concerns to federal decision-makers in Ottawa. That's very good to hear. I was very pleased that the Premier and the minister made this effort.

For the benefit of our viewing audience, can the Premier highlight what message he took to Ottawa on our behalf? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we continually participate in discussions with our federal partners on the needs of Nunavut. One of the key things, of course, we're trying to do is bring the cost of living down in Nunavut. We've got a high cost of goods and services and food insecurity. One of the reasons being is the lack of transportation infrastructure. That's one of the key things that will bring our costs down for daily living for Nunavummiut.

Another point I brought up too was the carbon taxing. We pleaded that no matter how you cut it, it's a tax. Money

has got to come out of somebody's pocket. That's one of the key things that I continually talk about with my colleagues down in Ottawa where we did manage to get recognition of the unique circumstances for the north. That's still indeterminate. We don't know exactly where that's going to lead to, but that was recognized in the document of the pan-Canadian climate change framework. We were recognized as unique, so I am continually encouraging and talking about the uniqueness of Nunavut. It's the most expensive place in Canada and probably the most expensive place in the world to do any kind of business. The cost of living is phenomenal.

Again, carbon taxing is one of the things that I had hoped to really encourage the committee that they pay hard attention to. We've got to get our fuel up from southern jurisdictions and we pay the taxes for the other jurisdictions. There are no two ways about it. We're going to be on fuel for a long time yet. We don't have any alternate energy options here in Nunavut and of course the north. One of the things I want them to consider very seriously is to exempt home heating, power generating fuel, and aviation fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. It leads right into my second question.

In reviewing the transcript, I found it very interesting to read this, the presentation that they gave to the

committee. I noted that he raised the issue of the need to replace a number of aging power plants in our communities. Can the Premier confirm if the issue of hydroelectric power development came up during his meeting with the federal ministers of Parliament? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that excellent question. Our discussions are always about how we're going to figure out a way to bring our costs down for the people of Nunavut. That discussion did not come up.

We had anticipated that during the budget cycle of the federal government, one of our requests for the replacement of our aging generating plants in Nunavut... . 60 percent of our power generating plants in Nunavut is over the useful lifecycle. Some of them are 60 years old. We do need modern generating stations within our isolated communities.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, every power plant is unique to its own community. Again, there is no connection between communities. Every power plant in every community has to be in working order, modern, and contributes to less greenhouse gas emissions because we do have aging power plant stations within our communities.

That's one of the key things that the Department of Finance, including other departments, has indicated to the federal government before the budget

announcement was made in March. That's one of the key things that we had asked for from the federal government to include in the budget for replacement of our old and inefficient power generating plants within our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very much looking forward to reviewing more reports like this on your deliberations.

Can the Premier give us a sense today of how his presentation was received by the federal Members of Parliament? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that it is still a task to inform and educate our colleagues in southern jurisdictions. A lot of them do have an understanding of our uniqueness of the north. Again, when we talk about the north, we do want to be a participant in how the north is developed. We don't want unilateral decisions made for the north, especially our territory of Nunavut, and we do want to be a partner with the federal government and find ways together to bring the cost of living down for Nunavummiut.

The federal government being our key partner, as you know, 92 to 93 percent of our core funding for operations of Nunavut comes from the federal government. We encourage them to

understand our uniqueness, unique situation, our lack of infrastructure when it comes to transportation, and the uniqueness of building 25 of everything in Nunavut. As mentioned before, when we build a school for a population down south, for a population of 100,000, there is one school built, but in Nunavut you have to build 25 of everything: 25 schools, 25 health centres, 25 airstrips, 25 of everything.

That's the key thing that most politicians down south don't understand. For the small population of Nunavut, one of the things that they are starting to understand is the unique differences between southern jurisdictions and the north. That's a message that we continually bring down. Going into the future, we want our politicians down south to fully understand our uniqueness up here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 748 – 4(3): Improving Health Care Services

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. I have continued to ask the minister questions about issues.

Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Health. I want to voice our ongoing concerns with medical travel and diagnostic challenges faced by residents. The shortage of physicians and nurses is the root cause.

Can the minister consider this idea I am suggesting here? My idea to meet the

challenges is to have doctors, such as the ones here in Iqaluit, rotated to outlying communities. There are three communities I am thinking of that should have a local or rotating doctor position in our future: Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Igloolik.

As an example, this would alleviate our regional challenges in diagnostic requirements, as currently we are falling further behind and the use of the machines is expensive. With these facts, I wonder if the department has considered ways to alleviate these challenges or if the answer will be that it's too costly.

I want to ask what future plans the department has in relation to this idea I am asking with having doctors in these three communities. This would lower the wait times and would benefit the outlying communities since the residents outside of these three communities would only have to travel a short distance where diagnostic machines could be available. Can you inform me as to whether you have considered this possibility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. It has been raised to me also by MLAs from the communities that he mentioned. It is something that the Department of Health continuously looks at to make sure that doctor visits are scheduled for appropriate lengths of time.

There has been some desire for actual physician placements in some of those

communities. During the review of the model of care, that is one of the things that we're looking at to make sure that Nunavummiut are getting the appropriate care by the appropriate level of health care provider. It is part of the model of care review that's being undertaken as we speak, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his clear response. As the minister mentioned, this matter is of great importance. Every year the practice is to have a physician visit the communities for precursory examinations. However, these visits are always too short. Many patients don't get to see the doctor and the scheduled days quickly pass.

This is problematic because I feel that we can make better use of our health care funds if several outlying communities had local doctors in the three communities that I mentioned. When will your department have an idea as to what type of rotation or physician placement would occur, and what year are you estimating this could be accomplished?

In what year will this start, or is your department just in the initial planning stages for this? When would your department have a concrete plan for physicians in the three communities with a year identified as the goal? Can you provide more background on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the model of care review that's being undertaken right now, I'm looking to have a draft preliminary report some time in the very near future so that I can analyze some of the data that's in there, along with my officials from the Department of Health. Then we can look at proposing solutions to mitigate some of the issues on health care delivery in the communities and across the territory.

Again, I just want to reiterate that when we're trying to provide health care, especially physician services in the communities, it is often felt that they're not there long enough, that they don't get through the full waiting list. It's something that I have spoken to my officials about on looking at some options on either keeping the physicians there longer or increasing the frequency of visits to communities. It is something that I and the officials are looking at already, but we will get further substantiation from the model of care review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very important issue, so I encourage the minister to take action on the high cost of doctor visits. I would like to see doctors stationed locally in nearby communities. This would reduce the costs associated with flying in doctors. That just makes logical sense.

While that is the situation we face, I wonder if this minister can also address a slightly different but related matter. This is regarding the previous discussion we held around maternity travel. As an example, many experienced mothers must travel and wait up to a month awaiting the birth of their babies.

In my previous questions on this subject, a response was provided that some communities can accommodate pregnant women if there are no complications and they can have a local birth and that perhaps this could be a practice in the future. However, the response was that local Inuit don't have licences and therefore can't be accommodated to allow local delivery of children. There aren't many licensed midwives in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we have publicly maintained that Inuit are very experienced and capable of delivering babies, as that has been in practice since time immemorial, and can alleviate our childbirth challenges. Will this idea ever be considered in our future or will the health care system continue to disregard Inuit knowledge and local capacity issues?

Can't this government place licensed midwives in various communities and have local childbirth deliveries where complications are not expected? This would allow families to witness the birth of a newborn. Will this never be implemented either in the immediate future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Member Shooyook, your question is not related to your line of questioning. If the minister doesn't want to respond to that question,

he won't respond to it. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know this topic came up recently, so I'll answer the question as the member asked.

When we're talking about midwives in the communities, there are three regional centres that we do have midwives in: Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and here in Iqaluit. When I was in Cambridge Bay fairly recently, I actually spoke to the midwives there and I was very impressed with the level of expertise that they have.

That being said, it is something that I would like to see down the road, of having midwives in the communities. There are some challenges, not so much with licensing, but I guess there's an impact on that with how many deliveries they have to keep their licensing requirements. It's not that the nurses in the communities are not licensed for delivery; they're there for emergency deliveries. If somebody on an emergency basis had to give birth in a community, they would be able to function in that way.

I can't commit to putting midwives in every community across the territory. We are looking at solidifying the midwifery program in the regional centres and hopefully we can continue to expand from there as time and opportunities progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 749 – 4(3): Crime Prevention Initiatives

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

Mr. Speaker, the government's Community Justice Division has the very important role of providing crime prevention programs within Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in its current business plan the department indicates that the Community Justice Division is partnering with the Department of Health's Mental Health Division on a project called Ikajuqtigiinniq. The department also indicates that the purpose of this project is to identify crime prevention and wellness issues at the community level.

Can the minister provide us today with more information on any specific goals and planned actions that have been set out for the Ikajuqtigiinniq project?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't getting a very clear interpretation on what exactly he was asking, but we tabled our *Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy* in the winter sitting based on several years of consultations. There were a number of recommendations in there.

One of the key recommendations was crime prevention through social development. That would mean, through using our Department of Justice and working with other groups such as

Health, possibly Family Services, and working with hamlets, we would focus on helping people develop skills in their communities or through working groups to upgrade or build their confidence levels, education, and just to give them the confidence to go through life in their communities and the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe the minister needs to brush up on his Inuktitut skills.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in its business plan the department also indicates that Ikajuqtigiinniq is a pilot project that will help ten communities to establish "community-specific crime prevention activities and interventions." Can the minister provide tell us which ten communities will be receiving support under this pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 10 communities that are involved thus far would be:

- Cambridge Bay, that's a parenting program;
- Cape Dorset, there's a community level men's support group;
- Igloolik, there's a sewing group established for women and girls;

- In Pangnirtung we reopened the Pangnirtung Youth Centre;
- In Rankin Inlet there's an action plan still being developed;
- In Taloyoak a partnership in support of the Polar Bike Project initiative;
- In Baker Lake we will have youth and a chaperone attend the RPAN youth symposium;
- In Sanikiluaq the action plan is still in the works, but it focuses on where youth can learn traditional skills;
- In Kimmirut, unfortunately due to bad weather, it hampered the crime prevention meetings;
- In Pond Inlet an action plan is still being developed, but it seems there will likely be a focus on abuse and food insecurity.

There are some very important initiatives in the 10 communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister identified some of the communities, but can the minister provide us with examples of some "community-specific crime prevention activities or interventions" that may be introduced in those communities? For example, he indicated that there's a men's support group. What types of programs can the minister suggest that communities can initiate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in working with the community, it's important that the community be involved. We're not going to tell them what they can and cannot do. If they work with the Department of Justice through our Crime Prevention Division and other departments... . What works in one community may not work in another community.

If they want to hold meetings, make sure they contact the Crime Prevention Division. Our focus or target groups are children and youth, the elders, victims of crime, and individuals convicted of crimes. If projects were to focus on those four target groups, I'm sure that everybody would be very pleased and considerate.

Of course the action plan timeline is one, three and five years. Just so this Crime Prevention Strategy doesn't just go sit on the shelf and gather dust and really don't have any benefits, I have asked that we get quarterly updates to myself or future ministers so we ensure that the strategy is having the results and the benefits that we intend it to have or hope it to have.

Again, the communities have to get engaged. I would encourage MLAs and mayors listening to engage your community with the crime prevention folks and we will be more than pleased to send people in or set up meetings and engage the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 750 – 4(3): Meeting the Needs of Nunavut Seniors

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning to the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Premier of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, on March 13, 2017 the Premier tabled a document titled *Strategic Framework: Addressing the needs of Nunavut Seniors*. This document lists a number of programs and services which are in place for Nunavut seniors and indicates that it will be the framework for a new strategy. On page 7 of the document it states, and I quote, “Elders establish the backbone of Nunavut culture and language and the Inuit fabric across communities.”

Mr. Speaker, if it is truly the case that elders are the backbone, then can the Premier explain why elders are still being sent out of their communities, away from their families, children and grandchildren, for long-term residential care? 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 question from the member. Absolutely it has been one of our goals as MLAs to find ways to decrease the number of seniors being

shipped down south for care. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are very few facilities here to maintain and take care of our seniors here within Nunavut and within our communities, especially the smaller communities.

Again, there are many different levels of care elders need. There is up to level 5 and these are specialized needs for the care of our elders. One of the things we have been trying to do is to ensure that we find facilities and find budgeting to ensure that we have the ability to maintain our seniors and elders within their hometowns, within our territory to be taken care of. That’s one of the things that we had been pushing to try to figure out ways to get more budget on that. There’s a little bit of money set aside by the federal government on that, but it’s very small. Of course that’s one of the things that we have talked about in the past too, that budgeting is very small.

I was very pleased that there are initiatives being made here in Iqaluit and other places. Other MLAs and mayors are trying to find ways to ensure that the government and our partners, the federal government, and the Nunavut government find ways to build facilities to maintain, to ensure that our elders are taken care of in Nunavut, especially in their hometowns. As I indicated yesterday in my member’s statement, my wife does have an aunt who is 103 years old. The family wishes that she could be at home in Kugluktuk, but we don’t have the facilities there to take care of our seniors like that. They need specialized care.

Once there are opportunities to put a budget in there for facilities to take care of our elders in many different levels, 1

to 4 or 1 to 5, we will still have to continually ship our elders down south for that specialized care, especially 3, 4, and 5. Mr. Speaker, the process is set. There's a strategy in place to ensure that we find ways to maintain and keep our elders here at home in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The document tabled by the Premier also states that "Priorities include ensuring greater access to long-term care facilities in Nunavut." Can the Premier provide an update on what specific steps are currently being taken to establish more long-term care facilities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, just recently several months ago a seven-bed facility was opened in Cambridge Bay in a wing of the regional hospital there. That's one of the things that we did as a government to find facilities and infrastructure where we could actually put space in and beds for the care of our elders. That's one of the ways.

Although it's a small number, seven beds, we do want to increase that and I encourage all members to ensure that their communities and their hamlet mayors write the MLAs and the government to ensure that we stay on top

of that. As you know, there are a couple of initiatives already underway. I don't know exactly where that sits at. There's preplanning for expansion for Igloolik facilities and already a budget allocated for that.

We want to try to maintain our elders within Nunavut, but we do have to ensure that they're well taken care of and at this point we don't have the facilities. Again I've got to thank the people of Iqaluit and the MLA for Niaqunnguut that have made efforts to get facilities established here in Iqaluit. I've got to thank my mayor and the community of Kugluktuk in making efforts in trying to find ways to establish and build a facility to take care of our seniors at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the government must evaluate needs before taking action to address them. However, a number of comprehensive studies have already taken place and needs have already been identified. Can the Premier explain why the government has not taken concrete action to meet such identified needs as the establishment of more long-term care facilities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, for the most part, as a territorial government, we do run up

against a brick wall in some cases where we do need money and budgeting for certain types of initiatives. That's one of the things we face constantly: the lack of funds to get the things that we want that we consider as a priority. There are many needs.

Again, I've got to thank the health minister and the finance minister that pushed very hard when they were negotiating the new Canada Health Accord, the Canada health transfers for specific items like that. There are some things that were set aside for mental wellness and seniors' care by the federal government. Again, I've got to say that it's not enough to get some of these things on the move. It's very small amounts of money.

It's very difficult to increase the amounts that we get from the federal government, but I've got to say that during the month of December I'm sure many hours every day were spent on the phone between the three of us, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Health, and me, to try to increase our health budgets from Canada.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the amounts of the health transfers from Canada to all jurisdictions were cut. I can't recall the exact number, but it is approximately by \$60 billion over 10 years for all jurisdictions. You can see why it's very difficult to get any kind of infrastructure and program money for such type of initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 751 – 4(3): Need for a Kivalliq Elders Facility

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a perfect follow-up to my colleague's questions. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the need for more long-term care for residents in the Kivalliq region has been discussed many times in this House. I am confident that the minister will be very familiar with this issue. As our elders are aging, the number of Rankin Inlet residents needing long-term care is steadily growing.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how his department evaluates the level of need for long-term care for senior residents in Nunavut's communities and how his department decides where to place elders in long-term care facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we are talking about care for elders, it hits all of us. We all have family members that are either approaching senior age of needing increased care or at least we know somebody.

When a person is assessed clinically, it's a clinical review or assessment of what level of need that they require of care and it's between level 1, which is a very low need, to level 5, which is a very high need usually associated with dementia or very severe health cases.

When we are looking at placement for Nunavummiut in facilities, first of all I would like to say that we do our best to keep them at home for as long as possible. We have a very good home and community care division and teams throughout the territory that work very hard to keep our elders or people of increasing health care needs at home.

Where the need does arise where we actually have to place them in a facility, we first look in-house. We do have facilities in Igloolik, Gjoa Haven, and Cambridge Bay with increased beds recently. We also have some lower level care facilities that the Department of Health has just recently taken responsibility back in Baker Lake and Arviat. First of all it's based upon the level of need and what beds are available in the territory.

As a last resort we do send people out of territory through contract on a case-by-case basis. There has been a recent RFP sent out for a more stable amount of beds. As members are aware, we've got quite a few of our residents at Embassy West in Ottawa, who are able to provide a very high level of care for our residents, but it's still not in the territory. It's something that we're continuously working towards with partners.

As the Premier mentioned, there are a couple of groups that we're aware of that are working very diligently to provide infrastructure space so that the Department of Health would be able to utilize those services in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date I am aware of at least seven Rankin Inlet elders who have had to leave the community for long-term care. There may even be more. Would the minister agree that, as the numbers grow, it would be more economically viable for the government to keep our elders at home in a community-based long-term care facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak to exact numbers on how economical it would be. Like I had mentioned, we do have facilities in the territory that in my opinion aren't as economical as they could and should be.

As the Premier mentioned, we're looking at doing a preplanning feasibility of the Igloolik facility to look at how we can make it more economical, I guess if you want to say that. In addition the Gjoa Haven facility is a very similar structure with the same number of beds of 10. We're looking at making sure that resources that we allocate can look at making sure that we're more efficient and still able to provide a high level of care.

That being said, we currently don't have any facilities in the territory that provide level 5 care. I would have to see an example of a business case and actual numbers before I could say whether it's more fiscally responsible to have a facility here in the territory versus sending people out of territory. That being said, there is also a human factor when we're talking about keeping our Nunavummiut in the territory for care.

That is obviously a preferred option.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that at the beginning of the current fiscal year on April 1 the Department of Health became the department responsible for providing support for all elders facilities, including those that were previously under the Department of Family Services.

Will the minister commit to evaluating the need for long-term care across all of Nunavut communities and work towards opening new facilities where they are needed the most? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As our aging population or our demographic of our aging population continues to increase, this is something our long-term and continuing care division constantly looks at and evaluates.

With regard to putting facilities in, again, as the Premier had mentioned, it's a very difficult challenge. Some of the facilities that the member mentioned are run by societies that we contract to provide care. We all know how long it takes to get a project on the capital plan, but if there are third parties and partners available out there that are looking at investing in infrastructure and facilities such as this, it would be something that

the department would obviously look very favourably upon to provide that level of care in the territory.

With regard to the member's question on the facilities that we have taken over, the transition team worked very hard to make sure that it was a smooth transition and I'm very happy with the progress that has been taking place at this point. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

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

Question 752 – 4(3): Nunavut Housing Corporation Capital Plan

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved \$4.9 million in capital funding during the fall 2016 sitting for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to begin construction on a much-needed new warehouse and office complex for Baker Lake's local housing organization. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's tender for this project closed on March 31, 2017, just over two months ago.

Can the minister confirm what company has been awarded the contract for this work and when the construction will begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today is Friday, but let me start by thanking my colleague for his question. As today is Friday and the (interpretation ends) weekend (interpretation) is approaching, I wanted to leave him with a smile.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be able to say today in response to his question that the contract has been awarded and the construction is scheduled to take place this summer. This will include the office for the housing authority, including the (interpretation ends) workshop (interpretation) to house the maintainers' equipment. That is how it will be designed. Mr. Speaker, we expect it to be completed by 2019, most likely in the fall.

With respect to which company was awarded the contract, as per his question, I don't have that information, but I can provide it to the member later. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly also approved capital funding during the fall 2016 sitting for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to begin construction on five much-needed new staff housing units for Baker Lake. Can the minister confirm what company has been awarded the contract for this work and when the construction will begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, what the member says is true. There are five staff housing units that will be constructed under the NHC that GN employees will occupy, which is scheduled for the 2017-18 fiscal year in Baker Lake. Five units will be constructed.

As to which company has that contract, it is the only detail not included in the information I have, but the contract was awarded and construction will begin as scheduled for these five GN staff housing units. I will have to research the company awarded the contract in our departmental files. Once I have the information as to which company it is, I will ensure I provide it to my colleague. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that information. As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's public housing allocation formula did not result in any new public housing units being scheduled for construction in Baker Lake during the current 2017-18 fiscal year.

Can the minister confirm if the Nunavut Housing Corporation will review Baker Lake's numbers before any final decisions are made with respect to public housing construction during the

upcoming 2018-19 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. Mr. Speaker, I always state that it is a very important issue whenever the question comes up about which community will be getting housing units. With a widespread shortage of housing in Nunavut, we never have enough money.

Because of its importance, the housing corporation is working closely with local housing organizations to put together a list of priorities as to which communities will be getting the new units that will be constructed. We always use the same formula. We look at the communities that are most in need. That's what we base our decisions on.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure my colleague that the work is continuing and we look at the communities that are in the most need for new public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) 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. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions

for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 27, 45, and 46 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:40 and Committee resumed at 10:53*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good morning. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order.

Before we get started, Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome to your committee.

In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 27, 45, and 46. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 45, followed by Bill 46. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. You didn't have to rush, did you?

>>*Laughter*

Does the committee agree that we first deal with Bill 45?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 45 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
2, 2017-2018 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Yesterday we were considering this bill and we left off on page 12, so I'll return to that page. I would first like to ask Minister Peterson if he has officials that he would like to join him at the witness table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have two witnesses I would like to bring in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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 officials. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance. To my left is Eiryn Devereaux, Acting Deputy Minister of Community and Government of Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Chown and Mr. Devereaux, welcome to the House.

We can proceed where we left off yesterday. Bill 45. Page 12. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Turn the page. Page 13. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Community and Government Services. \$49,898,000. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On page 13, I would like clarification on the Baker Lake garage floor for \$500,000. When is this work scheduled to begin and can you indicate the completion date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the work has been contracted to begin and the project will be completed in November 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, can I get clarification? We're on pages 12 and 13, correct? Okay.

To start off with, can I get further explanation for Item 1, \$24,258,000, the energy management project in the Kivalliq? I understand that this is not an actual cash transaction, but maybe the

minister can clarify what this project involves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Because it's a fairly complex question that involves accounting, I'm going to ask Deputy Minister Chown to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project is going to do energy management retrofits. It is going to do retrofits to Government of Nunavut facilities in the Kivalliq region. The intent of this project is that the savings that are generated from reduced energy costs will be used to pay for the costs of the upgrades.

The appropriation that's before you today is what we have called a non-cash appropriation. This contract, although it is not a capital asset *per se*, is a large long-term contract that we're entering into with multi-year payments. What we have brought before the Assembly today is an appropriation for the present value of those estimated future payments under the contract. That's so the Assembly has an opportunity to vote on the full scope of this project before the contract is entered into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to be clear, the retrofits that will be taking place are for GN-owned buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct, only Government of Nunavut-owned buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving along to a different project, the Cape Dorset Baler Shear, it says that you're carrying over \$79,000. From my understanding, this equipment was to be used to help clean up the debris of the Cape Dorset school that burned down. Can the minister clarify why they have to carry over some money for that project and what's intended for this equipment moving forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan this summer, working with the Hamlet of Cape Dorset, is to provide training to local people. This summer and subsequent summers we will move the baler around to other communities to provide those services in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. The other project listed here is the Kimmirut Waste Water Treatment, a carryover of \$625,000. I was looking at the substantiation sheet for this project under the scope of work. On page 3 of 4 it says that “CGS is in the process of looking into some promising new wastewater treatment technologies that may be suitable for Kimmirut.” I’m wondering if this new technology is already currently being used in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m going to deflect that question to the Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Savikataaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Savikataaq, if you would like to respond to the question, I now give you the opportunity to do so. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member just rephrase the last part of his question? I didn’t get it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Joanasie, rephrase it.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the scope of work for this project, it says that “CGS is in the process of looking into some promising new wastewater treatment technologies that may be suitable for Kimmirut.” Is this new technology already being used

in Nunavut? That’s my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Peterson gave the question to Minister Savikataaq. I would like Minister Savikataaq to continue responding to the question. Do you understand the question now? Please respond.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’re always looking at new technologies in terms of sewage lagoons and we might put a different kind of screening material to hold back certain types of solids or particulars or contaminants. I’m not sure if what we’re looking at is currently being used everywhere, but we’re always looking for better-priced items that we can use to get the job done. I can’t say for sure what the new technology is, but I can assume that it’s a different kind of screening or material to filtrate the sewage lagoon. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also for this project it says in the substantiation that the carryover is required to continue from the design phase to construction. I understand that for Kimmirut they had built a sewage lagoon in prior years, but it was never commissioned. Now there’s this project. They’re going to use the current existing sewage lagoon as the main sewage lagoon and they’re just going to build it up to be able to withstand the community’s need for the next 30 years. Is this a correct analysis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister Savikataaq will answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Savikataaq, if you would like to respond, I give you opportunity to do so, Minister.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not sure if we're going to build a new one or enhance the new one that never became operational. We're just looking at all options right now. The reason the old new one never got operational was due to poor planning. Now we have these preplanning studies to avoid situations such as this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Savikataaq, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm getting a little confused now. If they're not sure what they're going to go with in terms of options, what is this \$625,000 going to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

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

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

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the Kimmirut wastewater project, the carryover, it is our intention in 2017-18 to move towards the design phase. We have been looking at a number of options for this project and alternate sites for the sewage lagoon. That would be our intent in 2017-18, to begin the design phase such that we could move into a tender for construction the following year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given Minister Savikataaq's response about the old new or the new old sewage lagoon, but then there's the current existing one that's being used. Can I get clarification on which option CGS is moving towards in terms of spending more money on it to be the main sewage lagoon for the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I believe Minister Peterson has indicated that he wants Mr. Devereaux to answer the question and with that, Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated, it is our hope to go out with an RFP to begin design for the Kimmirut sewage lagoon project. During that early schematic design we typically look at schematic design alternatives. At the end of that component of design, once we move through that, we would solidify the exact location of the long-term Kimmirut sewage lagoon. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be a brand-new location for a new sewage lagoon site. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) The minister has indicated to me that he wants Mr. Devereaux to answer the question. With that, Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As indicated, when we get to the end of the schematic design alternative stage in the design process, we would solidify the particular option and location on that sewage lagoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, it's Friday and it's morning. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to progress on that project.

Moving along on the next page 13, this project has been on the books ever since we started out four years ago, the Cape Dorset Garage 525 Rehabilitation. It's still here in another carryover for \$500,000. I understand in the substantiation sheets, I read that land was an issue in acquiring. Can I get an update on if this project will in fact be getting done this coming fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for the delay in that particular project for the carryover is that the land had to be secured. That has been done and it's anticipated that the project will go to tender later this year and be completed on schedule. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Well, my turn. I thought I had a bit more time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm interested in finding out about these. I see in a couple of places it talks about code compliance on page 13. We have Pangnirtung to increase capacity code compliance. We have another community there. We also have the Nunavut Tank Farm Code Compliance. Can the minister tell us if all of these are related?

When I look at the Nunavut Tank Farm Code Compliance, seeing it says, "Nunavut," I'm assuming that the amount of a little over \$3 million would include communities across Nunavut. That's a little over \$3 million. I'm wondering if that budget would be enough to address all issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Premier mentioned this morning, we have a lot of aging infrastructure in Nunavut and tank farms

are no different. The federal government has identified four tank farms that need code compliance. I think there's an annual...yes. I'm trying to remember everything here.

There's annual funding that we're seeking. This year there will be \$3,250,000 to deal with code compliance and then going forward over the next several years, there would be an additional \$9,750,000. I'm not saying that's all that will be required, but we're working with, I just forget, the environmental protection agency of Canada. We're working pretty closely with them. We understand that it's important to bring our tank farms up to code and standard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have another question? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you very much. I wonder that because I know this issue of code compliance came up in a recent settlement for a tank farm that led to quite a bit of money.

When we are not in compliance, what kind of a risk does that pose to Nunavummiut when tank farms are not in compliance? Furthermore, do you have a good indication or an inventory of all of them to see which ones should be made a priority versus the others that maybe aren't in such dire need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember when I was

mayor and then the president of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, quite often some of the mayors would receive letters from the federal regulatory agency saying that if your tank farms weren't brought into compliance, you could be fined and/or receive an X number of years in jail. A joke among a lot of us was that maybe some time in jail would relieve some of our problems.

All joking aside, yes, the PPD in Community and Government Services has a pretty good idea of the tank farms that are aged and that need to be brought into compliance. They have identified 18 additional facilities that are non-compliant and need to be brought into compliance. Close to \$18 million has been identified in the capital plan to address the deficiencies between 2016 and 2021.

Of course some tank farms probably have to be replaced entirely, so you may, in future capital estimates and we're talking... For example, the Gjoa Haven tank farm has to be upgraded and that will be coming up in Bill 46. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how old most of the tank farms are? What is the lifespan of a tank farm? How long is it supposed to last? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that level of detail here today, but we can certainly get that information provided to the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to that information. I think Nunavummiut should know.

My other question was: is anybody in danger with the current state with the current state of the way when they're not in compliance? Are there any risks that residents should be made aware of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't believe any residents are in danger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, ministers and staff. On page 12 you have the Gjoa Haven Warehouse, \$1.3 million. In your substantiation sheet on page 2 of 4 it states that a "portion of the building is in violation of building codes and has severe structural issues." The next paragraph also states that "...the community recognized the benefit of repurposing their old fire hall building into a warehouse and small workshop." On page 1 of 4 the current status states that it's "...currently out for tender."

The next bullet says that the project was tendered in the spring of 2017. Can you explain that to us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, I wasn't following that. I understand what you're asking. Is there a particular issue? Our briefing note says here that the anticipated completion date is October 2018. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says that they're using an old fire hall for a warehouse right now. The building that they're using now, I guess, is a garage. It's a pretty old building and it's in violation of codes. I'm just trying to find out if they're trying to renovate that old building they're using now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for clarifying that. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're talking about two buildings? Okay.

I believe that the hamlet has identified the reuse option rather than a new building. The original scope of work had to be revisited, so that's why the delay. Rather than construct a new building, they want to just rehab the old building. Obviously if you're rehabbing an old building, it's probably a project that will be completed faster for the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on page 12. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Turn to page 13. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Local Government Services. \$49,898,000. Turn the page. It continues on page 14. It reads, Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Petroleum Products Division. \$11,724,000. Total Department. \$61,622,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 15. It reads, Economic Development and Transportation. Capital. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is regarding the Iqaluit marine infrastructure, although I don't see it there, but the Pond Inlet one as well. I would just like to know the percentage. Can you confirm what the federal share is of the funding for the Pond Inlet and Iqaluit marine facilities for the 2018-19 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak, (interpretation ends) for the excellent question. Minister Peterson

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the actual dollar amounts, but typically the feds... Just these two projects, I believe they fund 75 percent of the projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you (interpretation ends) for the excellent addition of the "s." Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask about the... It says here under Item 2 on page 15, relocate the airport in Pangnirtung, \$529,000. This is being transferred again from a prior year. I think this project seems to have been on the books forever. Where are we at with that project now? What's the next step? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to bring in a new witness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Members, Minister Peterson would like to bring in a different witness. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort one of the witnesses out and the other one in. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is Sherri Rowe, Deputy Minister of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Rowe, welcome to the House. Ms. Angnakak, I would like you to repeat your question for Ms. Rowe, please. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Ms. Rowe, to the House.

I'm on page 15 of this document that we're currently reviewing. Under Item 2 it says, "Relocate Airport Pangnirtung, \$529,000." As far as I can remember, this project has been on the books. I would like to know if you could provide the House today with an update of what's happening with this project and what are the next steps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Rowe to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I can tell you today is to date the geophysical and geotechnical work has been completed, as well as a road and safety study and an airport power supply strategy. What we need now is additional weather data is required before the design and the estimates can be finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can get perhaps a bit more

clarification. I remember from this project that I think it was a period of like three or four years that weather data was being collected beyond the community towards where the potential site of the airport was going to be. What has happened to that data and why are you requiring more years now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

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

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of it is there are still more weather studies needed. To actually provide you with more technical information, I can get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that response. Is there a potential site that has been identified then? Have you narrowed it down? I know there were some different options that have been presented. I'm wondering if the department, along with your consultants who are working on this project, has actually narrowed down exactly where the new airport is going to be located and, if so, where would that be. If there's anybody from Pangnirtung that's watching, maybe they would like to know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Rowe indicates that the site hasn't been narrowed down yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can Ms. Rowe tell us how many sites are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Several sites are being considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Did he respond to your question? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Oh my. I guess we will have to get back to this one, I'm sure.

What else was I going to ask under this? Let me get to the Grays Bay Road and Port Project. Can the minister confirm: is the \$2 million for this project new funding or is it a capital carryover? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can confirm it is new funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister clarify how

much money or funding to date the GN has provided towards this project through either capital spending, grants or contribution funding to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Rowe to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Grays Bay there's \$175,000 that was for capital funding and also in the last fiscal year some of our Strategic Investments Program dollars have been applied for by the KIA for Grays Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. In looking at the \$2 million of new money, will the Government of Nunavut own any of the physical assets or infrastructure associated with the Grays Bay Road and Port Project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, there's an MOU that was signed last summer with the Inuit organization. The Government of Nunavut signed it to look at this project. It's one of the projects that are identified in the four pillars document from 2014.

There have been a lot of high-level discussions with the federal government and also with the Government of the Northwest Territories. There's a possibility of accessing some significant funding to build a road and port in the Kitikmeot. I'm not sure what's happening on the Northwest Territories' side.

To be in a position to access or be considered for that funding, when the Government of Canada finalizes their program and their treasury board finalizes it... . There was some funding announced in the federal budget. The partners believe that to be positioned, they have to continue to move with the momentum and undertake these studies.

There's \$2 million. It's for studies related to... . If you have to submit Nunavut impact review applications or Nunavut Water Board applications, you have to have all of this information available. A mining company by the name of MMG has contributed several tens of millions of dollars of studies as well.

It's early stages yet. There's no guarantee of anything. It's envisioned that the Government of Nunavut would own some of the assets. It's a long ways off before that is even something that's on the table to discuss and finalize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that it's this document that I have been looking at. Don't get me wrong. I think this is a great thing and in any way that we can

stimulate our economy is always good. We want to keep jobs in Nunavut and we want to have opportunities provided to Nunavummiut to benefit.

We also have other mines in Nunavut. Has the Government of Nunavut provided funds like this, perhaps, to Agnico Eagle or Baffinland? Have they been asked? Maybe they haven't even asked. I don't know. I'm just curious. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Rowe indicates that they haven't asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's interesting. Maybe in the future now you're going to get a couple requests. That's all from me. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I probably only have one or two questions on this item depending on the answers I get.

Going back to the same item that my colleague just brought up about the \$2 million funding, has the federal government committed any money at this point to this project as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They haven't that I'm aware of, but I believe that the other partners in this MOU have submitted applications for funding to CanNor for funding. Depending on the outcome of those applications, we would be able to give you a clearer answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously this project is being pushed through at lightning speed as compared to other capital projects that have been requested by other regions and other capital projects that are really needed in our communities.

My understanding is that eventually this road is going to connect the port to Yellowknife. Has the NWT been approached to provide funding for this project as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understating, as I indicated earlier, there have been some high-level discussions with the Northwest Territories and federal ministers. The road will have to go through the Slave Geological Province from Yellowknife through to the area where the diamond mines are on the Northwest Territories' side, connect up to near Contwoyto Lake and then across the Slave Geological Province to the

Coronation Gulf. They would be doing their work on their side of the border. This MOU covers and partnership is with the people in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. T. Sammurtok, do you have any other questions?

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at the way this thing is coming down and it seems to be a case of, "If we build the road, they will come." At this point in the NWT in that particular area, I don't see any operating mines whatsoever. I know there are some intentions to resume explorations in that area.

As much as I disagree with this particular item, maybe because of the fact that this \$2 million is new money that you're looking for to proceed with this thing, it makes me kind of wonder why couldn't that \$2 million wait for the next capital project process that will be happening after the elections. That is just a comment. Actually I would like an answer to that one. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's fairly straightforward. As I mentioned earlier, the federal government, in their federal budget, announced a large federal... I just forget the name of the program, but a program that provinces and territories will be able to access for major infrastructure projects.

In the federal budget, when they make these announcements, they don't give

you all the details because they don't have all the details. They work on the details and then they have to get those details finalized by the Treasury Board of Canada, and then they can do a re-announcement of the announcement. Once that happens, there is a very good chance, because we all know this is how it works, they're going to ask for shovel-ready projects from provinces and territories, "Do you have any projects that are ready to go that we can consider?"

Now, the summer season is here in Nunavut. A lot of the key work that is required for these types of major infrastructure projects is environmental work and studies on wildlife. Those such things can only be done in the summer season. Some of the data has to be updated so that they can submit applications to the appropriate regulatory bodies, as I mentioned: the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Water Board, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. We know the process can take quite a long time, so we have to be prepared for those.

The idea is to keep the momentum going, is my understanding of it, and be positioned to respond to the federal government when they ask if the provinces and territories have shovel-ready projects or projects that would be nearing shovel-ready application.

If you miss an entire summer season, as we all know in Nunavut, you're set back a year. I think that is the intent of this, to keep the momentum going, do the necessary urgent and vital studies and updates this summer to incorporate into the work they have already done and that MMG has done over the last five or six

years, and then be ready to get the applications ready to submit and also be ready for the federal government to clarify some details of their federal program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 15, Item 3, Grays Bay Road and Port Project, there's a \$26,000 figure there. Can the minister explain to me what that entails? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's carryover of funding. There's \$175,000 that was budgeted in the last fiscal year and they're carrying over \$26,000 to complete the work that was underway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the \$175,000 that the minister just mentioned in addition to the \$175,000 that was taken from the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre recently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$175,000 was transferred from the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre project. It was a base transferred on analysis that the visitor centre project had an original budget in

place. The tender went out and the bids came in lower than expected. That freed up some budget money for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to use in three other projects throughout Nunavut without impacting the delivery of the original project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I would like to go back to the minister's opening comments on page 3, the second-last bullet, "\$29,824,000 in 14 projects for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation covering a number of" items. In there, it also includes the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre. You're pulling money out of that project because it has a surplus. However, looking at this document, it looks like you're requesting more money for that particular project. Can I get clarification on that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's \$29,824,000; there are 14 projects. The Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre, that's \$906,000 that we're carrying over to finish that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for putting up with my questions up to this point.

I would encourage this government to also take the same approach with the Manitoba-Nunavut hydro and road from Manitoba to the Kivalliq because by 2019 we will have two operating mines in Nunavut. These two mines are going to make a huge impact on the [GDP] for Nunavut. I would strongly encourage this government to do the same thing that they're doing for the Kitikmeot for the Kivalliq as well. That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) That was just a comment, but do you care to make a reply or statement, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Government of Nunavut recognizes that's a key infrastructure project. I believe it's one of the four-pillar projects that we identified in 2014. There were a couple of marine port facilities. There was the Grays Bay and the Kivalliq-Manitoba transportation corridor. The Premier appointed Minister Savikataaq as one of the co-chairs of the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable. There are regular meetings.

There's a lot of effort going into advancing that project with meetings and bringing federal ministers and explaining stuff to them. It's still a high priority project. Some of these projects proceed at different paces and not everything is going to come together at the same time. Some are faster and opportunities there for that project versus getting things in place for another project. It's certainly still a high priority project for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out. Thank you.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 45 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. Mikkungwak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder of various meetings, first of all there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities at half past one this afternoon in the Nanuq Boardroom. A four o'clock meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation is cancelled. On Saturday there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board at nine o'clock in Tuktu Boardroom. At half past one Saturday afternoon a meeting of the Full Caucus and there is a meeting of the Full Caucus on Monday at nine o'clock also in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 5:

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 27
 - Bill 45
 - Bill 46
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 5, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:57*

