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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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

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

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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

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

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

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 7, 2017**

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 13:32

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

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

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 326 – 4(3):
Recognizing Private Sector
Contributions of Financial Awards
to College Graduates**

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

my fellow residents of Igloolik, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize the tremendous support from the private sector of Nunavut which has contributed more than \$12,000 in financial awards to our graduates in Rankin Inlet this May.

I would like to specifically recognize the following for contributing financial awards to our college students:

- Piruqsaijit Society of Rankin Inlet
- Eskimo Point Lumber Supplies of Arviat and Rankin Inlet
- Umingmak Supplies of Rankin Inlet
- Atuqtuarvik Corporation of the Kivalliq region
- The Kivalliq Inuit Association
- The firm of Lester-Landau in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet; and
- Stantec Incorporated of Yellowknife

All of these organizations or companies contributed financial awards to our students this spring.

I would also like to recognize some special contributors to our student financial awards at the Kivalliq Campus. First I would like to recognize our Director of Sanatuliqsarvik Mining and Trades Training Centre, Sandy Napier, whom I will be recognizing later on as a visitor, as well as his wife Colleen, who have contributed their own financial award for perseverance in trades level training. This year the award went to Dennis Okpik of Pangnirtung in the Pre-Apprenticeship Electrician program. I would also like to recognize one of our Sanatuliqsarvik instructors, Michael Newcombe, who has contributed a

financial award for the greatest determination to succeed. This year that award went to Sharon Pialaq of Hall Beach, also in the Pre-Apprenticeship Electrician program.

What these gentlemen have done speaks to the tremendous dedication of the faculty of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging all of the businesses in Nunavut, as well as our dedicated college faculty like Sandy Napier and Michael Newcombe, who generously provide financial awards to our college students. (interpretation) 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 327 – 4(3):
Amaqtaarniq Education Program**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce a new education sponsorship program.

The Amaqtaarniq Education Program will sponsor long-term, post-secondary education leave for Government of Nunavut Inuit employees.

“Amaqtaarniq” means a bud spreading roots.

Mr. Speaker, the aim of this new education sponsorship program is to remove barriers to post-secondary education for eligible Inuit employees and to help the Government of Nunavut fill professional and specialized positions.

We will establish an Amaqtaarniq Education Program Committee to review applications annually and priority will be given to degree-granting programs.

Mr. Speaker, any Inuk employee of the Government of Nunavut will be eligible for this education program, whether they are casual, term, or indeterminate, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

My department will work with the individuals approved for this program, including support from when they start their studies to when they return to work as Government of Nunavut public servants.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut already supports public servants to take education leave to pursue post-secondary studies. The Amaqtaarniq Education Program will supplement this with funds made available by the settlement agreement for Government of Nunavut and Inuit employees.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut recognizes the need for qualified Inuit in professional and leadership roles within government. To achieve our Inuit employment goals, we are committed to providing programs

like the Amaaqaarniq Education Program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 328 – 4(3):
Accommodating Breastfeeding**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have heard me speak many times in this House about making the Government of Nunavut an employer of choice in Nunavut. I am sure that most will agree that we have put in place many positive changes to human resource policies and directives since 2013.

Mr. Speaker, we all understand the added stress that having a baby can put on a family. Returning to work during this time also adds another level of stress and anxiety to the household. That is why I am happy to announce another new directive that has been approved and added to our *Human Resources Manual*. That is Directive 1308(a) – Accommodating Breastfeeding.

This directive allows the Government of Nunavut to standardize the approach of accommodating breastfeeding in the workplace and to handle breastfeeding accommodations consistently and fairly while demonstrating the Government of Nunavut's leadership and commitment to non-discrimination and accommodation, diversity and inclusion, and to the promotion of a harassment-free workplace.

Mr. Speaker, employees can read the directive on the Department of Finance's website and they can contact their department's human resources coordinator if they have any questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 329 – 4(3):
Inuktit Language Assessment**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my fellow residents of Arviat as well as the people of Whale Cove and Nunavut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit have finalized the Inuktit language assessment tools in five different dialects.

The office of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is getting ready to start formally assessing territorial public servants' competency in Inuktitut.

In 2017-18 two new assessor positions will be created while using external assistance for the initial phase. This is made possible thanks to additional funding provided under the new 2016-2020 Canada-Nunavut Agreement on Inuktit and French Language Services.

Mr. Speaker, my cabinet colleagues and I are committed to continue to support

this important initiative and promote Inuktitut as a language of work within our government. (interpretation) Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 330 – 4(3):
Arviat's Uvaguqatsiangningniq
Project: Preventing Homelessness
among Inuit Male Youth**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, my statement is on Arviat's Uvaguqatsiangningniq Project. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share with you the important work being undertaken by Arviat's community-based, non-profit Aqqiumavvik Society to prevent homelessness among Inuit male youth.

Mr. Speaker, the eight-month Uvaguqatsiangningniq Project, which was funded through my department, focused on young men aged 15 to 25 experiencing homelessness or who were at risk of becoming homeless.

(interpretation ends) Men met weekly to build their cultural, life and employability skills. The project also offered hands-on toolmaking workshops, allowing men to connect with one another in a positive and supportive way, to generate income, and to increase their ability to be independent. On average there were 15 men and sometimes up to 24 men that attended the workshops.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to join me in showing our commitment and support to community-based organizations that continue to provide essential services to our most vulnerable Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Through the elder counselling and mentorship provided through this project, many of the men are slowly beginning to heal and feel life has purpose again. It is within the *Pijitsirniq* principle that we remind ourselves to help care for those in need, as everyone deserves the opportunity to live a safe, stable and healthy way of life. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 331 – 4(3):
Destination Nunavut**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues of our territory's new tourism brand, Destination Nunavut, which I am pleased to report is already making strides in promoting Nunavut.

The Destination Nunavut brand and its associated marketing strategy are the result of in-depth market research, as well as feedback and interviews with community and industry stakeholders from across the territory to determine what Nunavummiut feel should be featured when promoting tourism.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the resulting brand is one that appeals not only to the target audience but to Nunavummiut as well and truly encompasses “The Spirit of the Arctic.”

A new website promoting Nunavut and all that our territory has to offer visitors has been launched, to be followed by social media campaigns on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

DestinationNunavut.ca is focused on engaging potential visitors from outside of Nunavut. It will also increase awareness and interest and provide information to all our local tour operators and the activities they offer.

I am happy to say that we are making steady progress in promoting Nunavut as a destination and at the same time developing local tourism capacity.

I invite my colleagues to join me in the Great Hall during break to view the video from the website and the promotional material available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister’s Statement 332 – 4(3): Team Nunavut Heading to 2017 Summer Games

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say “good day” to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce Team Nunavut will be competing in two major games events this summer.

On July 16, 70 Nunavummiut will join 5,000 other participants in Toronto, Ontario to compete in the 2017 North American Indigenous Games.

The North American Indigenous Games are an international multi-sport event for indigenous youth aged 13 to 19. The Games were founded on the principles of promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging regular physical activity, and connecting communities through sport and culture.

This will be Team Nunavut’s fifth appearance as part of the North American Indigenous Games program and our athletes will compete in badminton, basketball, and volleyball.

Later this summer on July 28 Team Nunavut will travel to Winnipeg, Manitoba to compete in the 2017 Canada Summer Games. This edition of the Canada Games will be a special event marking the 50th anniversary of the Canada Games as well as Canada 150.

The Canada Games are the highest level of multi-sport competition in Canada, and Team Nunavut will compete in the sport of wrestling.

I am happy to announce that we will be represented at the 2017 Canada Summer Games by a cohort of Team Nunavut youth ambassadors who will participate in the Games as accredited volunteers. These youth ambassadors have been selected from communities across the territory and have participated in

leadership training to deliver introductory and recreational sport programs here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this will be a busy summer for our athletes and coaches. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their hard work and commitment as they prepare to measure their performance against their peers from across Canada and North America.

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to providing these opportunities for our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 583 – 4(3): 2017 NTEP Graduates in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, it always gives me great pleasure to rise in this House to congratulate Sanikiluaq students on the successful completion of their program of study.

I am very proud of Sanikiluaq's NTEP students who have just completed their second year of studies in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Sarah Kudluarok, Meena Hoyt, Silatik Qavvik, Leah Meeko, Charlotte Crow, and Alice Kavik Sala.

I would also like to congratulate Caroline Meeko of Sanikiluaq for graduating from her final year of the NTEP program here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that Nunavut is in desperate need of qualified educators and there is no doubt that Sanikiluaq residents are doing their very best to meet this need. I am very proud of their efforts and wish them ongoing success in their work in the field of education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 584 – 4(3): Exchange with the Minister of Health

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a brief statement about the issue that arose between the Minister of Health and I during yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I had some sympathy with the minister when he made reference to the "excessive" amount of correspondence that flows through his office. I can't recall the last time that he dropped by my own office, but he would also see that neither of us is suffering from a shortage of paper.

Mr. Speaker, I again acknowledge that the minister did send me a short letter in November of last year after I asked questions in the House about the issue of service contracts outside of Nunavut, so I also acknowledge that I could and should have noted that fact during the preamble to my questions yesterday.

However, the question of whether or not the minister's response fully answered the questions that I had asked him last fall is a matter of interpretation and debate between us. In order to clear the matter up, I am sure that the minister will welcome the opportunity to respond to my upcoming written questions on this subject, which I will endeavour to pose before the end of our spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 585 – 4(3):
School Year Ending in Baker Lake**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Prior to making my statement, I first wish to extend birthday wishes to my oldest child, who is celebrating her birthday today. I wish Doreen Niego a very happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, all day and obviously since several days ago there have been heavy rains in Baker Lake. Nonetheless, I am glad to announce and the reason I stand today is the students who attend the Rachel Arngnamaktiq School and Jonah Amitnaaq School have continued to attend classes.

Further, today is the last day of school for the students. It is obvious that the staff, teachers, and various assistants in both schools will enjoy their summer holidays. This includes parents who will recommence with the cultural training of their children based on the Inuit customs, such as meat preparation, fish preparation, and those types of activities.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious we all agree that education is integral to a good future, hence our wishes to create opportunities for our children so that they may have a fruitful life. With that, the Baker Lake elders watch our televised proceedings and for their support, I wish our elders in Baker Lake and all of Nunavut a very happy day. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

**Member's Statement 586 – 4(3):
Housing Initiatives in Gjoa Haven**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, the community of Gjoa Haven, and my family watching.

If my granddaughter is watching, I just have three more sleeps to see you.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about a number of positive initiatives that are underway in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, Gjoa Haven's local housing association has been taking the lead in identifying innovative ways of

addressing housing issues in the community. One of these initiatives is taking advantage of Gjoa Haven's most important resource: its own people.

Mr. Speaker, the LHA has been building capacity in the community by providing opportunities for residents to gain important skills and experience by working on such projects as building ramps and porches, renovating existing buildings, and painting many housing units.

Mr. Speaker, like a lot of communities, Gjoa Haven has experienced problems with vandalism, especially on the part of troubled youth. Mr. Speaker, the housing association has been working hard on identifying these youth and to help them turn their lives around.

Instead of damaging homes and property, youth have been provided opportunities to make a positive difference by working for the LHO to repair damage caused by vandalism. That is good news.

Mr. Speaker, Gjoa Haven's housing association is also working on a pilot project called the "Igloo House Solution."

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my member's statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Gjoa Haven's housing association is also working on a pilot project called the "Igloo House Solution." I have been advised that the original idea for this "tiny house" concept arose from input received from community residents, including elders.

Mr. Speaker, the housing association has been working with a number of partners, including the high school, Nunavut Arctic College, and the community men's group to develop a prototype.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of the project is to have a low-cost, one- or two-storey, single-family dwelling that can be quickly fabricated and assembled in the community using materials that are suitable for our arctic environment.

Mr. Speaker, I have been advised that the pilot project is now underway and is using surplus materials from completed construction projects as well as materials supplied by local businesses. It is anticipated that the unit will be ready for occupancy this September.

The long-term goal is to allow for more units to be built that will provide for shared mechanical resources while allowing for individual privacy and security for occupants.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize a number of individuals in the community whose hard work is making these positive initiatives a reality: Mr. Allen Kaloon, Ms. Emma Pauloosie, Mr. Ron Klyne, Ms. Sarah Oogak, Mr. Wally Porter, Mr. Patsy Klengenber, Mr. Maurice Tungilik, Mr. Mike Cousineau, and Mr. O'Brian Kydd.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the community and people of Gjoa Haven for their energy and innovation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 587 – 4(3):
Supporting Inuit for Nunavut Law
Program**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to rise as I am here thanks to my constituents to whom I am eternally grateful. In my role, I represent all constituents who live in my riding and I wanted to first point that out.

Also, I wish to move towards the previous announcement made by the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and the questions raised by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu. I thank her for that.

I am here also as a lawyer and an Inuk. Inuit are very capable of achieving anything once we are committed to a goal. Although we must represent the public, we are all aware that Inuit still lag behind and we need to focus on educating them. I was a proponent of the program that allows our residents to take law courses over several years, and I am glad to hear that it will proceed.

Nonetheless, in reading the minister's statements and responses, I regretted reading that as Inuit, we continue to be kept in the lower rungs as it pertains to advancement in education. I also know

that many Inuit who are quite capable submitted their applications to this program to be part of the solution and to assist their fellow residents. This is where I harbour regrets as I know some of these applicants and their capabilities and I sense their desire to move forward. I absolutely regret that they will not be part of this limited program.

It is stated that we should represent all constituents. Even with that principle, why are Inuit under-represented? There were several capable Inuit who applied and they must now wait for the next round of courses to be offered, possibly in many years from now, if they wish to take a law program. I want to urge this government to remedy this state of affairs. We, too, deserve a future that is rosier and full of opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 588 – 4(3): 2017
Toonik Tyme Snowmobile Race**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the Toonik Tyme snowmobile race that was held from Iqaluit to Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, this event has been very popular not only for the residents of Iqaluit and Kimmirut but also for participants outside of Nunavut who are very enthusiastic about taking part in the snowmobile race.

Mr. Speaker, the distance of the race is approximately 240 kilometres. The first place winner took home \$18,000 for completing the race to Kimmirut and

back in a span of 3 hours and 11 minutes. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Kuuujuaq's Bobby Gordon.

I would be remiss not to offer a very big "thank you" to the Toonik Tyme organizing committee as they are all volunteers doing this work, with assistance from Kimmirut to plan the race route, and so on. To the racers as well as the viewing audience, I thank all of them for making this a success. It is an event that everyone wants to win. I will conclude by thanking these people and I wish them continued success in the future for the snowmobile races between Iqaluit and Kimmirut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 589 – 4(3):
Second Fishing Derby in Igloolik**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This month we have heard about local fishing derbies and announcements have been made in the House on winners. Igloolik held their derby last week and they are probably one of the last communities in Nunavut to hold such an event. There were two derbies in our community.

I would like to identify and congratulate the winners like other members announced winners from their own constituencies' derbies. However, Igloolik residents were beaten in this derby because Hall Beach resident

Rachel Aglak was the winner. The prize was \$10,000.

Even though there were no winners from Igloolik, there were other winners. A drum of diesel, sled runners, and a tent were amongst the various prizes. There were nine winners.

Also, a well-known person from our community, not just known in the Baffin region, was Peter Awa, who won the smallest fish category. He ended up winning that prize.

I wanted to announce the winners of the Igloolik fishing derby and I am proud of the winners in our community and the winner from Hall Beach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause.*

Speaker (interpretation): Yes, I congratulate them as well.

>> *Laughter*

Members' Statements. Member for Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Member's Statement 590 – 4(3): Ruth Kaviok, President of the National Inuit Youth Council

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate and celebrate with my colleagues. I'm happy to make a statement about Ruth Kaviok, a resident of Arviat and constituent of mine, who is well known by my colleague from Arviat and I. Ruth Kaviok has been voted in as President of the (interpretation ends) National Inuit

Youth Council (interpretation) and her term will be from 2017 to 2019.

Mr. Speaker, the (interpretation ends) National Inuit Youth Council (interpretation) represents all Inuit youth and they have a seat on the board of directors for the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. They will also take part as members of this committee called (interpretation ends) the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee.

Ruth is a 19-year-old Inuk youth from Arviat, Nunavut, who advocates for suicide prevention, climate change prevention, and the importance of education. In 2016 Ruth was John Arnalukjuak High School's Inuktitut valedictorian. Nationally Ruth won Samara's Everyday Political Citizen award for drawing on Inuit knowledge and western science to spread awareness of how climate change is affecting Inuit Nunangat. Congratulations to Ruth!

Mr. Speaker, I wish Ruth all the best in her new position as President of the National Inuit Youth Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 591 – 4(3):
Respect for Inuit Traditional
Customs**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Nunavut. To the people of Quttiktuq who are watching the proceedings, welcome to the House, as

well as our Premier and my colleagues. I am in a cheerful mood to share in the celebratory announcements made this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, there are roughly only four months left in our term and today I am placing great emphasis on this matter. I am getting concerned that what I have voiced over my term hasn't been completely understood. That is indeed unfortunate and is very sad to see. This is becoming stressful and it troubles me.

Mr. Speaker, what I keep hearing is this: I am a citizen of Canada, so all legislation pertaining to Canada is what I must adhere to. This indeed is something I agree to. However, when we try to adhere to legislation, Nunavummiut have difficulty complying with the legislation. Our people are getting shot. Our people are being found frozen outside in the cold. Our people are dying via traffic accidents. This is due to not following the legislation we ought to abide by.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation we are trying to abide by isn't what I am against, but rather the fact that I am a Canadian citizen and when I am told of my citizenry, I can't always agree since Inuit have lost their cultural foundations in our modern lives. This is very critical and Inuit culture isn't reflected, thereby causing Inuit to break certain laws.

I have many important things to say, so I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for the High Arctic is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr.

Shooyook, please proceed.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues, for allowing me to conclude my statement. I won't make it too long, but I will try to make it clearly understandable.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite capable of speaking for a whole day on this subject if I was to try to make everyone understand and it would continue onto the next day as well. I don't want to be misunderstood by the public watching on television, my fellow Canadian citizens, and my legislative colleagues here.

What I am adamantly advocating is to have the Canadian Constitution recognize Inuit traditional knowledge to ensure that I can abide by the legislation without any concerns about my cultural foundations. I want to get approval to have Inuit traditional knowledge incorporated into federal legislation, as this would allow official recognition. With petty crimes such as arson of school buildings and vandalism, if this was approved in one or two years, improvements would slowly materialize.

This is a critical issue and is the reason for the breakdown in our culture. I will try to keep it concise, as the first circumstances of traditional Inuit lifestyles being impacted was when Inuit were herded into communities and our children were taken from us to residential school. This was the first separation from Inuit traditional life when our children's historical connections were broken. Apologies were announced about that cultural suppression and compensation was provided to the victims.

The other aspect happened in the 1960s with a true loss of Inuit freedom when our dogs were slaughtered by our government overlords. This occurred from 1967 to the early '70s, where Inuit means of independence were slaughtered without any compensation. Although many Inuit hunters were extremely protective of their dogs, since this was a legal directive, Inuit at the time were unable to stop the killing or get compensated. This is the biggest reason Inuit lives and culture were broken apart.

Mr. Speaker, with that being the case today, our legislated terms have dwindled to four months, so we have no more room to make changes. Where can this subject I referenced, the legislation and official incorporation of Inuit traditional knowledge, come from? Here I talk about the Inuit traditional social resolution rules. We have no room left to manoeuvre and perhaps after the next round of elections this subject will be completely abandoned. That is so unfortunate! I don't want to see that.

The issues I am speaking to are the social interactive rules of Inuit, RCMP interactions and the court system, which is predicated upon our Canadian court system. In trying to abide by these alien criminal laws, Inuit are suffering since it is culturally inappropriate to adhere to alien concepts. This is very disconcerting to my being. Mr. Speaker, I ask: where can we cooperate and to whom can we direct our efforts towards?

If the Executive Council members and lawyers wish to learn, all you need to do is come and ask me about Inuit issues and I will gladly explain the issues and not just be painted as the unruly elder

who disagrees. I can clearly provide the basis for my arguments.

Nonetheless, it is only in the latter stages where I have started to get questions about issues and the Canadian Constitution. Incorporating traditional Inuit knowledge seems to be our only option, as we can't sidestep it any further. I would like to see work on incorporating this as a priority. I want to see that today.

With the importance of this matter and with our culture and lives deteriorating, outsiders will again suggest that Inuit have no laws. Mr. Speaker, we have many laws. These laws are already alive and if accepted, then these laws can be reinvigorated. This is an extremely important matter which I want to discuss prior to the completion of our term. There are still many issues to voice that speak to the subtle efforts to kill our culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 592 – 4(3): 2017
Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduates
from Pangnirtung**

Mr. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung.

I rise to announce that although I spoke yesterday about graduates, today I am speaking about three Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduates from Pangnirtung. The first year graduate is Lily Kilabuk and the second year

graduates are Avery Keenainak and Lynn Mike.

I want to share my pride in their accomplishments as numerous students have attended the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program since its inception and Pangnirtung alumni are many, I believe, ever since the program first opened in 1985.

Many youth from Pangnirtung have taken the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program where they learned about Inuit issues, graduated the course, and gained further capabilities. Many of them are quite independent now as they are taught to be self-sufficient students, even if it is evident from the start.

The students I just mentioned who graduated from Nunavut Sivuniksavut have had their future brightened. 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. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Languages, George Kuksuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions*

**Return to Oral Question 729 – 4(3):
Federal Funding to Support
Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun**

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Oral Question 729 – 4(3) asked by the Member for South Baffin on May 31, 2017 concerning federal funding to support Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 729 – 4(3).

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite detailed and I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into *Hansard* for the public record and for distribution to all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

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

Mr. Speaker, prior to welcoming this visitor, I wish to provide an introduction. Some of us MLAs would not function as well as we do if we did not receive the support that we do from our spouses. This is obvious.

>> *Applause*

My spouse is currently visiting in the gallery. She is my partner, my good friend, and my lifelong soulmate. I would like to first have my wife welcomed, Mary Kilabuk. Welcome and please welcome her. She is here with a fellow resident of Pond Inlet, who is one of our friends, Jeeteetah Kalluk. Welcome to both of you and please welcome them to the gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurток.

Mr. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize a constituent of mine from Rankin Inlet who is the, to quote from the Minister of Arctic Colleges' opening comments, director of Sanatuliqsarvik Mining and Trades Training Centre, Mr. Sandy Napier. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Member for Aggu, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though this person was acknowledged, I want to recognize him, but perhaps I'll provide some background first.

Although this person's proper name is Alexander Napier, he is known as Sandy Napier. He started working at Nunavut Arctic College back in 2009. Prior to the opening of Sanatuliqsarvik, he was instrumental in helping set up the program when the preparation work was commenced. Due to his capacity to work, I grant him his due.

As well, for about 12 years now, he has been a (interpretation ends) cross-cultural instructor. (interpretation) Many Inuit take the training program. With his background in the program, he is well-versed in the trades and in preparing for a (interpretation ends) trades program, (interpretation) as he has been involved. On a personal level, he is a certified journeyman and a certified plumber able to work throughout Canada. He is also an oil burner mechanic, with a certificate

recognized in all jurisdictions in Canada. That is his background.

The students in Rankin Inlet at (interpretation ends) the trade school (interpretation) have more resources to call on when he is available at the school. Let's show our pride and gratitude to the man. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this individual was already recognized, I would like to recognize Sandy Napier, (interpretation ends) Director of Sanatuliqsarvik Mining and Trades Training Centre. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I will get another member to ask their questions first before I do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 777 – 4(3): Changes to Income Support

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister announced some upcoming changes to income support assistance that will take effect on July 1 of 2017.

Can the minister indicate what steps have been taken to inform and explain to income support clients exactly what changes they should expect with respect to the income assistance benefits they will receive after July 1? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that question. The Department of Family Services, along with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, funded a study. In actuality it was our government that funded a study on the legislation related to the Income Support Program. I will focus on that aspect in my response here.

At the conclusion of the study and with the presentation of the report, several priority recommendations were made specific to the review related to income support clients served by our department and also to improve the program

benefits. This, along with the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, was the reason for the review of services provided by our department to assist our residents who require these programs such as income support. This was prioritized as the key measure to improve the program and it was undertaken.

This being the fourth year of our term, reviewing it from above has been quite challenging. We anticipate we will start implementing these changes by July 1, where improvements will be forthcoming for our clients served by the Department of Family Services within the Income Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware there were a lot of changes that needed to be made to income support. My question was what efforts were made to explain it to the income support recipients in our communities and I don't think the minister answered it that way. I'm moving on to my next question.

I appreciate that the income assistance reforms will permit income support clients to earn more income before having their benefits reduced. Can the minister provide more detail on the specific amount of money a client can earn from employment while on income assistance and not have their benefits reduced? If the minister does not have that level of detail with him today, can he indicate where Nunavut residents can access this information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tried to be clear in my response on some of the improvements as to what further work is required to implement them. The changes to the program are based on the existing criteria for our clients.

As it is right now, if clients accrue some income through various means, such as seasonal employment, carving, or other types of income generation, the income is immediately deducted from their monthly income assistance. This will start to change.

Starting July 1, if a client is single and they earn income through employment, carving, or other means, the limit will now jump to \$500. Even if the client reaches this amount, they will still be eligible for income support. This was previously clawed back if their income passed the threshold. This has increased from \$200.

For family clients or couples, the income limit threshold has been increased to \$1,000. Clients will be able to create some disposable income through savings. This means that they can still receive benefits through Family Services. The clients can still make some money up to this new limit of \$1,000 and continue to be clients under this program.

Furthermore, respecting our disabled residents who live in our territory who have qualified for funding through other programs, they used to receive up to

\$175 monthly. This has been increased to \$250 monthly.

As well, our government will offer a new program of \$125 per month specific to an emergency temporary work disability assistance program for a period of 6 to 12 months if they suffer an inability to work and if they are residing with another disabled person.

These are the improvements to date which will be implemented by July 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has long been a concern of mine that the Department of Family Services is permitted to access the banking information of its income support clients. I note that one of the income assistance reforms announced by the minister will allow clients to save money in their bank accounts instead of being forced to spend all of their savings in order to qualify for social assistance.

I understand that the minister just announced some limits of the amount they can earn. Can the minister indicate whether there will be any limits on the amount of money that income support clients will be permitted to save in their bank accounts and, if there are, how will he ensure that the relevant information about those limits is provided to income support clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my previous outline, we will need to be aware of the clients' ability to save monies from income garnered outside of the Income Support Program. That can only be done by monitoring and working with the client. The income support workers in the communities will receive training on the new rules and practise filling the new forms with these changes.

With respect to the member's question about clients being able to save money in their bank accounts, with this new allowance, clients have the capacity to save by increasing the limit. The purpose of this claw back of income had nothing to do with preparing clients for employment. To focus more on preparing them for employment, these changes are now attempting to look at assisting the clients of our department and give them the ability to save by not having every cent of their hard-earned monies deducted from their income support.

We want income support clients to be able to save funds as this can allow a person to get back on their feet and regain their independence. This is the purpose and intention. As I identified earlier, the reason is to allow people to regain their independence and gain meaningful employment, which we want to encourage. That is the main reason.

As to the monitoring of client bank accounts, it is obvious that the workers will have to abide by the proper procedures touching upon banking information and privacy. I am aware of my colleague's concern related to that and that is why I have responded to his

question in this way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 778 – 4(3): Runway Extension for Naujaat

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, when we were in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the (interpretation ends) round-table session... (interpretation) I'm not sure what they call that in Inuktitut. When we were there, the president of Calm Air had an opportunity to speak. He stated that if the Naujaat Airport landing strip was extended by 100 feet, then they could carry 6,000 lbs. more on their aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, the Naujaat Airport landing strip is already very short, yet I have heard that when the terminal was being improved, they shortened the lights.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister because I know that it will help a great deal if the landing strip was extended by 100 feet. Sometimes cargo and passengers can't get on the flight because there is a load limit on the aircraft based on the length of the airstrip. Can the minister ask her officials to find out how difficult it would be to extend our airstrip by 100 feet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and

Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. We can have our officials review that matter. Currently the Naujaat airstrip is, as you know, 3,400 feet by 98 feet. An enquiry can be made to the airlines that have aircraft landing in the community to see whether the 100-foot extension would make any appreciable difference.

The main aircraft that land in most communities is the ATR-42 model and many communities are served by that model here in Nunavut. We would have to enquire if a larger aircraft would be able to land at the airstrip with that minimal extension. I have no idea, but we can ask our officials to review this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for agreeing to that. Mr. Speaker, it would help a great deal. Often when people have a lot of personal items or if they bought big-ticket items like snowmobiles, ATVs, and summer equipment, they have to wait a very long time to get them due to how long it currently takes for cargo to make its way to Naujaat. Can the minister have this looked into soon or some time this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. As to what exactly we will be doing, I will just talk to my department about this concern and try to see how difficult it will be to do. I will let my colleague know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed that may be, but when someone responds that way... . Calm Air is the sole airline serving our community. There are no other airlines serving the communities that I represent, especially Naujaat. As well, Naujaat is the only community in the Kivalliq region where the airline can't accommodate heavier cargo due to the limited length of the airstrip.

With that being the situation, can the minister agree to have this looked into this summer to determine the complexity? I would like to at least have a study, even if the work doesn't proceed, as obviously it would be an expensive extension. What I ask is that she have this looked into by having an official travel to the community in the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Minister Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking about that matter. Mr. Speaker, after I speak with my officials, I will send him a letter

as to what our plans are for this summer regarding his request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 779 – 4(3): Accounts Payable

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

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the minister will agree with me when I say that it is important that the government pay its bills on time, especially when we're talking about small businesses here in Nunavut.

As the minister will be well aware, *Financial Administration Manual* Directive 803-3 provides that, and I quote, "The standard payment term for suppliers listed on the Inuit Firm Registry or the Nunavut Business Registry is 20 calendar days, whereas, it is 30 calendar days for other suppliers."

Can the minister confirm whether or not this standard is currently being met across government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I'm not involved in the day-to-day paying of bills to suppliers across Nunavut or down south. I do know that the department makes every effort. When the Department of Finance gets all the bills with the proper documentation, they make every effort to pay the bills

according to the directive. There are situations that occur when proper documentation is not received.

I don't have the specific details of all invoices. I'm sure there are invoices that don't get paid within the 20 days. There are probably invoices that are paid way sooner than 15 days. If Ms. Angnakak has specific concerns with someone's bill that wasn't paid, I would be more than happy to take that information and follow up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his kind invitation. I will take advantage of that.

I am sure that I am not the only MLA who has received concerns from businesses regarding the length of time that it can take to get paid by the government. Although I recognize that every situation is unique, I would hope that the Department of Finance is keeping a careful eye on whether or not some departments are experiencing more problems than others.

Can the minister clarify how the Department of Finance ensures that the FAM-mandated timelines for payment are being met across government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as I said earlier, I've got constituents of my own who have come to me with concerns and I have followed

up. I don't want to name names, so I won't, but after following up, we determined that the invoices never got to the right place. They were sending invoices in late or without the documentation.

The departments are required to follow up. We're not going to just pay a bill based on "Pay me \$20,000." It's got to have some proper documentation so we know that the services were ordered or provided. There has to be confirmation that the services were received. The Department of Finance can't initiate payment on an invoice unless the department sends us the paperwork.

It is incumbent on the departments to ensure that when they get an invoice from a vendor, they make sure it's complete and then they send it to us, and then our internal systems will track and confirm that it's on schedule to be paid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. It's not always the vendor who is at fault; sometimes the government is.

For the benefit of our constituents following today's proceedings, can the minister clarify what steps a business should take if it is not being paid on time by the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Vendors can follow up with their MLAs or follow up with the deputy ministers in our department. I think they are all listed publicly. I have received emails and phone calls myself from vendors.

I have to caution, if people think they aren't being paid on time and then we follow up and it turns out that they didn't submit the paperwork, the documentation, we are going to ask them to do that. Go back to the vendor. Go back to the person who contracted them or sent them the purchase order and start the process that way and tell them that you haven't been paid. Within the department I'm sure there are mechanisms to allow the vendor or the supplier to follow up with "Where is my payment?" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 780 – 4(3): Inuit Employment Plans

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

Last week the Premier announced that the government is close to finalizing a "master Inuit Employment Plan." Can our Premier confirm today when this new plan will be publicly released? 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. I appreciate the question from the member. Mr. Speaker, when we started out our mandate here in 2013-14, we had indicated that we wanted to increase the numbers for Inuit employment. I know in the past it was very difficult, going back to 1999, when the funding that we got from the federal government was very small, approximately \$10,000 a year. Through hard work we managed to increase our funding from the federal government and through the Nunavut Settlement Agreement.

This is the first time ever that we are coming up with an overall GN plan and it is something that is very near completion. I can say that I'm hoping that I could either sign it today or tomorrow. It's something that we have to continue to carry on and this is more or less a first generation Inuit employment plan that includes every department, every corporation, in fact 15 altogether, 15 departments and corporations. This master plan is going to be something that's going to be adhered to by the departments.

Again, in the past, when there was more or less a shotgun approach to the Inuit Employment Plan, it wasn't based on actual data. Since 2015 we have data. We have historical data that we can actually use and base our decisions on that in our strategy. This is something I'm very proud of because again I've got to say that you don't increase Inuit employment in the government by having hotdog parties. This is something that we're going to take very seriously.

With this plan, it's the first of its kind and I'm hoping I could do it within this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have spoken before in this House about the importance of clearly identifying the number of positions in the government that need to be filled by Inuit in order to achieve a representative workforce.

For example, the government's most recently tabled quarterly employment report indicates that only 348 out of 1,738 professional level positions in the public service are currently filled by Inuit. In order to achieve an 85 percent employment level, approximately 1,130 Inuit employees will need to be hired over time in order to fill the present gap. That number is almost the size of Clyde River.

Can the Premier confirm that the government's new Master Inuit Employment Plan will include these kinds of detailed analyses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since 1993, through the ratification of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, Article 23 has been a process since 1999, where we're trying to increase the number of Inuit employment within the territorial government. There are obligations too for the federal government to increase those numbers.

I've got to say that there have never been so many training programs and assistance for the ones that are employed now to increase the level of supervisor, managerial and professional positions within the government. We have many training programs and the programs are certainly increasing. With that we certainly hope to get to a representative number, but keep in mind that as things evolve in Nunavut, there are other things that are evolving economically. There are other jobs out there that didn't exist previously.

Again, there's a fairly high number of training programs that we administer through Arctic College and through EIA, again, with the help of NTI and an advisory committee. Also, Mr. Speaker, as you know with the 2015 Nunavut Settlement Agreement with Canada, we have opportunities there too for long-term training, for professional Inuit to be trained so that they can gain employment, not just in the territory but everywhere. First and foremost we want those Inuit to work within our territory and close to home.

Mr. Speaker, the opportunities are there. Minister Quassa and I both sit on the Makigiaqta Training Corporation, which is run by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. There are opportunities there for every level of organization to access funding from there to train Inuit. It's specific to Inuit only. Again, the Inuit employment training plans, yes, there are those obligations and strategies to include those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier's statement about the government's Master Inuit Employment Plan did not make any reference to the work of the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation. As he stated, both the Premier and the Minister of Education sit on this entity's board of directors.

Can the Premier clarify the role of the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation in developing and supporting the government's Master Inuit Employment Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the hon. member for that question. Mr. Speaker, in 2015, when the settlement agreement was signed with Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Government of Nunavut, there were obligations and stipulations within the agreement to set up such training entities as the Makigiaqta Training Corporation and to have government representatives on the board.

Mr. Speaker, we work with in conjunction with NTI to maximize the training opportunities. We want to make sure that we don't duplicate the training programs, whether the government is doing that or Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated through the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation, and we're aware of that.

I am not the head of the Inuit Makigiaqta Training Corporation, but we work very closely with NTI through that board to

ensure that funds expended maximize the benefit of training Inuit for employment going into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 781 – 4(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation Activities in Taloyoak

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

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

In November of last year Taloyoak's new power plant was completed.

As the minister will be aware, the mayor of Taloyoak wrote a letter to the minister in April of this year. In his letter the mayor requested an update on the status of decommissioning the community's old power plant.

Can the minister update me today on the status of decommissioning the old power plant in Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to look into the present status as I am not aware of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister has taken this as notice. We will proceed onto the next item. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Question 782 – 4(3): Issues with Medical Travel

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, in the winter sitting my colleague from Baker Lake raised the issue of elders being stranded at the Rankin Inlet Airport. The minister indicated that his department was looking into the flexibility and the options that are available in Rankin Inlet to address this type of situation.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of options are provided for rest and respite to medical clients in Rankin Inlet that have been considered to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about boarding homes in Rankin Inlet and in addition to that Cambridge Bay, it is something that has been looked at and analyzed. There are discussions with Health Canada, who assists us with setting up these types of facilities.

That being said, there are recourses available and I would never want to see anyone, especially an elder, having to hang out in the airport for hours on time or not have a place or a safe place to go to. We do have availability of dayrooms that can be arranged at hotels. We also have like a patient relations office or medical travel people can get a hotel room for people if their stay gets extended or if there's a delay in their flight. Right now there are procedures in place to find some type of an accommodation for all medical travel travellers if there's any type of flight delay.

As far as negotiations or discussions with Health Canada, those are ongoing, so I wouldn't be able to say anything firm today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister in part answered the question that I was going to ask, but I'm going to go ahead with my question.

Mr. Speaker, in his previous response on this issue the Minister of Health indicated that in case of extended delays for medical travel clients, his department negotiated dayrooms in Rankin Inlet hotels so that individuals who are going to be in the community for a period of time can have a safe and clean place to rest.

Can the minister clearly describe how his department determines when a dayroom of this type is needed and what steps are necessary to make the

necessary arrangements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member raising this. It gives me an opportunity again. If somebody is delayed for longer than two hours, they can contact their medical travel contact and arrange to have a dayroom set up. That being said, not everyone wants or needs that type of service, so it is initiated by the patient travelling. If they know that their flight is going to be delayed for more than two hours, they can contact Medical Travel and they will arrange accommodations for people to go to.

A number of people have family in the area or friends where they may wish to hang out, if you want to call it that, with family and friends if there's a delay. It is a patient-initiated request and those requests are dealt with immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am sure the minister would agree that having a permanent, full-time boarding home would make it much easier to provide a safe and comfortable place for medical travel clients to go to, whether they are stranded in the community for an extended period of time or whether they are in the community for other medical reasons.

A local company, Pituk Supplies and Services, has already submitted a proposal to establish such a facility in Rankin Inlet. Can the minister confirm whether this proposal is one of the options being considered by his department to address the need for the boarding home services in Rankin Inlet? If not, why not? 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. As I responded earlier, discussions with Health Canada are needed. As they help fund boarding homes and help establish rates, any type of discussions have to include Health Canada.

With regard to the specific proposal that the member has raised, I'm not aware of it. Maybe it has been sent to my officials and it's under analysis. It's something I'll look into and I'll get back to the member. Thank you.

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

Question 783 – 4(3): Status of Decentralization

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Last week the minister tabled his response to my recent written question concerning the status of decentralization. His response indicated, and I'll say this

slowly as I don't want to make mistakes in the number, that 14 of the government's decentralized positions in Pond Inlet were vacant as of March 31, 2017. Six of those positions had been vacant for more than six months or more, and five of those vacancies were all in the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, recognizing the leadership role that the Premier has with respect to ensuring the success of decentralization, I would like to ask him: can you indicate what direction you have given to the Minister of Community and Government Services to prioritize and accelerate the recruitment process for these vacant positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. Mr. Speaker, there are many vacant positions throughout the government and throughout our communities.

Specifically to his question, we have always instructed our Department of Finance to ensure that these positions are filled as quickly as practical. There are a lot of positions that aren't filled and some are filled with casuals and some with term. Those don't necessarily reflect the numbers of the positions being filled, but I certainly sympathize with the member. It's not just within his community; there are many communities that are affected.

Mr. Speaker, as I look at the data here, the numbers of unfilled positions are going down throughout the territory, so that's a good step forward. We want to ensure that these numbers continually go down. As indicated previously, there are many unfilled positions, but as you can see on the chart there, these numbers are continually dropping. It's a trend that hopefully continues on.

Mr. Speaker, specific to the CGS positions, I'll have to speak with the minister responsible and get detailed information on the specifics of that and possibly get back to the member specific to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the excuses that I am often given for why vacant positions in Pond Inlet cannot be filled in a timely manner is that there are problems with the availability of staff housing.

The minister's response to my recent written question indicated that the government's current review of the Staff Housing Policy will re-examine the "category rating system used to prioritize staff housing by position." His response also indicated that the review is "expected to be complete by July 2017."

Mr. Speaker, we all know that it's now June. Will the minister commit to tabling the conclusions from this review during our September sitting of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier and Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, again, that's one of the things that we had indicated that we're going to be doing, doing the reviews on programs and such things as policies and other matters. That included a lot of different things within our departments and our corporations.

Once I have the detailed information in front of me, I'll be certain to make sure that the member from Mittimatalik knows exactly when I can table that document. Again, as we indicated in the past, we are hoping to complete all of the review and have all the information available for the members before the end of this term. I'll certainly look into that and make sure that information gets passed on down to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will also expect that information. I know the review will be completed before July 2017 and I expect it to be completed and ready for the fall session.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's response to my recent written question concerning the status of decentralization indicated that the federal government will, and I quote, "complete a Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis report in the last quarter of 2017-18 in consultation with the GN and NTI."

Can the minister clarify what role the Government of Nunavut is playing in this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sure hope that we have the same documents of returns or responses to the written question, but I'll certainly look into that.

It's something that we want to ensure the right things are done, especially when it comes to employment in our smaller communities. Again, decentralization is a plan that we want to adhere to. As you know, we want to maintain the 60 percent of the number of employees outside of Iqaluit. That's one of the things we want to maintain.

Again, in the past I have indicated that we're working hard with our HR people and our HR negotiators when it comes to devolution. Those numbers are going to change drastically. Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure that we're prepared for that type of situation. Again, we want to ensure that these positions within the smaller communities are looked at seriously and filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 784 – 4(3): Removing Social Promotion in Nunavut Schools

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We all

agreed that education would be a priority during this term through *Sivumut Abluqta*.

In our earlier session I quoted the Premier about his prior commitment to removing social promotion in the classroom in the territory. Yesterday I tabled a document that had been signed by the previous Premier, which opened the doors for social promotion formally.

The Premier mentioned that this issue would be addressed in the amendments to the *Education Act* that were being put forward when he responded to me last. In looking at the proposed amendments that were put forward, there is no mention of social promotion being removed.

I ask again: when will the Premier honour his promise and remove social promotion from the classroom in the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I did answer that question previously, but as you know, there are difficulties within the amendments to the *Education Act*. Mr. Speaker, since this is going to be operational, I'll defer the question to the Minister of Education to explain the operational side of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since he spoke in English, I'll be speaking in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that the directive is dated 2013 and at no point does it endorse or support the concept of the term "social promotion." My department does not support in any way the term "social promotion" and never has. The directive seeks to explain the cooperative roles of various school staff, DEAs, and parents when seeking to determining student achievement and communicating to parents.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to providing Nunavut students with the best learning opportunities available. As a minister, my role is to ensure that all students receive the highest quality of education possible and that student outcomes are the main focus of our school, our work, and partnerships. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) You can choose to call it any other way you want, but it's social promotion. It's passing students on to the next grade when they haven't met the competencies outlined in this actual directive. You can call it whatever name you want, but it still continues today. I ask the Premier once again: when will he honour his promise and remove this artificial education system? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'll simply say that I'll pass on operational discussions to the minister responsible for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want members to understand that the issue under discussion is not one we believe in nor does it exist. There is no policy to that effect. There are no policies directing this idea the member is suggesting and the term he is using. I don't understand nor do I have any idea where the term emerged from.

The practice today, to ensure all of us understand, is our students are taught the grade level they are at, whether they pass or fail the grade. This is what is used. Within our schools, partnerships emerge between the affected parties as to what future each student has. The parties are the school principal or vice-principle, including other staff such as counsellors or advisors and the parents. They work together to determine the future of the student and whether they will pass to the next grade or remain in the grade. These are the practices we use. The way a student is kept in a grade isn't done without planning.

I am unsure if my colleague has actual examples where he has seen that, as I have never seen that practice myself. As I stated earlier, once all students have

completed their grade competencies, they are graduated to the higher grade. If any doubt exists, then what I stated would apply with respect to the operational procedures.

I just want to repeat here with respect to this word used today in English, which I don't think has an equivalency in Inuktitut. With respect to this word my colleague used in his first comment, there is nothing written about whether we support or disagree with that concept in the document he tabled to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I turn to page 4 of 15 of the document that I tabled, it's titled "Social Promotion," is "allowing a student to proceed from one grade to the next without achieving the required competencies and without a learning plan that supports remediation or growth." This is the actual directive that I tabled yesterday.

I ask the Premier once again: when will he reverse this directive that was issued on the last days of the previous government, and can the Premier commit to honouring his commitment to removing this directive? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was given out as a directive in 2013. As the Minister of Education, I have maintained

my position while in this role that this directive is not in effect nor will it be referred to or even the conceptual connotations will not be used.

We have already announced and the Premier had previously stated that this is what we are following now. However, what I want to clarify here related to the member's question is the connection to Bill 37. It still hasn't entered the legislature. If he did have a concern, we can discuss it with him openly if he wishes to change the wording.

Further, I want to repeat here that there is no such policy in the government related to that matter which the member referenced. It was a previous government that enacted that policy. Nonetheless, we as a government have maintained that we don't believe in that concept nor do we want to see such a practice.

I explained the process where students are promoted to a higher grade and how this promotion is approved. How the parties work together is clearly highlighted, including the parents who must be involved. The parent has to know exactly what will happen to their child and whether or not they will move on to the next grade. We have no interim policy in place anywhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 051 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for

Hudson Bay, to extend question period. Thank you.

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

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Question 785 – 4(3): Fur Pricing Program

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, during our winter session I asked the minister about furs sent out for auction, specifically polar bear hides. I believe these polar bear hides have sat at the auction house for quite a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I keep asking this question due to some of my constituents' wishes to clearly understand the current situation as they have patiently waited for results. Many hunters have had their furs sit without being bought.

Mr. Speaker, during the winter session the minister's response was an auction would occur in the springtime. Does the minister know if any furs that were previously sent down get sold during that auction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can inform my colleague that some of these polar bear hides have been sold, but roughly 300 hides have yet to be sold. There are two main reasons for this.

Back when the hides were sent down, the market prices were quite high and the hunters received a commensurate apportion of the expected price when they sent the hides down for the auction. When the market dropped, the interest in purchasing the hides also disappeared.

Secondly, some of the polar bear hides can't be exported outside of Canada. The Canadian government has stated that certain polar bear hides from the Baffin region can't be exported outside of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister can indicate for the benefit of the public when the next auction sale is or if it is too difficult to ascertain whether another auction would be held. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that I didn't really understand his question. Was he asking

when another auction would be open? Can my colleague clarify his question as to what exactly he is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Uqqummiut, please clarify your question.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our winter session the minister indicated that an auction would be held in April for the fur auction house. Now with April having already come and gone, does the minister have information as to the next scheduled fur auction for the hides that were sent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for clarifying that. Yes, an auction was held in April and I am unsure when the dates are for the next auction, but I believe it is scheduled for June.

However, the polar bear hides currently there are available for sale at any time, as any person can go to that store anytime to purchase a hide, if they agree to the sale price. These hides can be bought at any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hunters who sent out their hides were paid a specific

amount based on the expected price if their furs are bought. Since they received a pre-payment, some hunters received a substantial amount based on the percentages at the time of shipping the hide. Now, if these hides can't be sold, will the hunters who received the pre-payments receive an invoice for the hides? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This winter he asked the same question and I responded by saying that those hunters will not receive a bill or be required to pay money back if their furs are not sold at auction. Now, if the furs are sold and the price was lower than what the government paid initially, then yes, according to the government regulations, an invoice would be sent for the overage.

We know that the market price for polar bears is low and some hides haven't sold in quite some time. We anticipate working with the people who run the auctions or consider returning the hides to Nunavut if they haven't sold in some time. Perhaps we can return them for purchase and use here by coming to an agreement with the hunter and if agreed to, then the pre-payment amount would be all they receive. However, no decisions have been made as to how the process for that would be laid out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 786 – 4(3): Summer Studies at Nunavut Arctic College

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my next question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Arctic College campus generally closes down during the summer months. I feel that this is an unfortunate loss of opportunity for students, college students, high school students, and even part-time students who are trying to upgrade their skills and qualifications to catch up on academic work.

One year ago about or a little over, June 3, the minister indicated that he was looking into options to keep the college open during the summer. The minister has had a year to review and approve these options. Can the minister provide an update on what steps are being taken to keep Nunavut Arctic College open for courses during the summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for her question on that matter. As it stands, we presented a report on that as we conducted a review starting with Piqqusilirivvik. Piqqusilirivvik is sometimes open in the summer since the operations are based on Inuit traditions and some classes are specific to the summer seasons, so it is open at certain times. That is why the review started with Piqqusilirivvik.

We are currently reviewing the larger community learning centres and regional campuses to see how we can use them during these periods. With respect to the Inuit language, many of our government workers are unable to speak in Inuktitut. Due to that reason, we have contemplated summer classes that would be open for specific subjects within our campuses in the larger communities. We are thinking of offering Inuktitut courses for public servants wishing to learn Inuktitut, as they are our priority. This is part of our deliberations.

Further, parts of the programs offered at Piquisilirivvik could be offered in smaller communities, either in the summer or when it is convenient. All communities are different and each community has their own idiosyncrasies of culture, such as ways of hunting and building things. That's what we're focusing on right now. If we can get it started this summer and it runs smoothly, then we can build on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that keeping our college campus open during the summer months will also incur additional costs and expenses for operating the facility and providing classrooms and staff. However, by not investing in the ongoing education of Nunavummiut, the costs to our society may be even greater in the future.

Can the minister clearly describe what kind of cost analysis has been applied to deciding whether or not to open Nunavut

Arctic College during the summer months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Arctic College, Hon. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As to how much that would cost, it is being looked at right now. We can't open up anything just like that. I explained the first steps that need to be done. We have enough resources right now to get it started, but then we will have to find out actually how much it's going to cost.

After we start the first program, we will be able to get a good idea of how much it will cost. Right now I can't give you an actual figure as to how much it will cost. We ask for new funding every year. At the moment we are going to try to do it with the budget that we have now. We will only find out how much it is going to cost after we do the initial trial run this coming summer. We are really trying to get that started because it would be a good fit.

It is understandable that in the summertime a lot of people want to go on holidays and our teachers also want holidays in the summertime. We will have to try to figure out a way to do that. Will we be ordering teachers to come? Those are some of the things we will have to consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for

your response. I understand the challenges that you have and your comments about Piquisilirivvik that's in Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is important that we provide every possible opportunity for Nunavummiut to learn and expand their potential as employees, as businesspeople, and as well-rounded citizens. Will the minister commit to seriously considering opening Nunavut Arctic College for studies during the summer months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, this is our primary focus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 787 – 4(3): Staff Housing

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister had the opportunity to see with his own eyes when he visited Sanikiluaq earlier this year, the community continues to suffer from a shortage of staff housing, a problem which impacts the ability of the government to fill such essential positions in the fields of health care and education.

Last fall the Legislative Assembly approved \$5.0 million in capital funding towards the construction of new staff housing units during the current 2017-18 fiscal year, including two new units for Sanikiluaq. Can the minister update the House today on the status of the tender for this construction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank my colleague for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have current information on where it's at on the question about our staff housing work. I have the information that was given to me on May 25. I'm sure more work has been done since then. The construction of staff housing units in Sanikiluaq was 99 percent complete in May, and they may be occupied today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure where the minister is getting his information, but from my understanding this is new construction coming this year and the ships haven't even arrived. I'm not sure how he can say it's 99 percent complete.

Mr. Speaker, moving on, last fall the Legislative Assembly approved \$500,000 in capital funding for modernization and improvement of staff housing units across the territory. On average that works out to just \$20,000

per community. Can the minister indicate if this amount is adequate? 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 want to apologize to the member because I thought he was referring to the ones that were built earlier. If I can go back in regard to staff housing for Sanikiluaq and what the status is for this construction, the contract was awarded to build a duplex in March. I do apologize to the member for giving the wrong response.

Again, for the supplementary question, I can't remember because of the mistake I made. Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to ask the member to repeat his second question so that I can respond accordingly. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister would like you to rephrase your question. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his clarification on my first question.

My second question was asking about the \$500,000 in capital funding that was approved for staff housing repairs, which works out to only \$20,000 per community in Nunavut. I asked the minister if this amount is adequate in order to maintain the current staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. In regard to the \$500,000 for modernization and improvement of staff housing units, I agree that this amount is not nearly enough. However, we can reconsider the amount because we need to provide funding for modernization and improvement of staff housing and public housing units. As long as we continue to make do with inadequate amounts of money, we will continue to lobby the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation or the federal government for more funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of at least one staff housing unit in Sanikiluaq that has been vacant for almost a year because the unit needs repairs. Can the minister assure me today that this unit will be repaired before the end of the summer and the start of the new school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information on the vacant unit that he is referring to. I will look into it. I know that my officials at the housing corporation are watching and listening. If it's possible, I would be very

happy to have that information before the end of this session. If it's not possible, then I will make sure that I provide the information to him at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 788 – 4(3): Foster Parenting for Profit

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Family Services, my *angajuksakuluk*.

I was questioning Minister Mike yesterday and I would like to go back and make a reference to his responses. I will follow the *Blues* for June 6, 2017 and I do know that they are not the final *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I was asking questions to the minister, we were discussing whether or not people are taking in foster children just to make money. In his response he indicated that he will look into it and review it carefully to make sure that there were no instances of that kind.

Mr. Speaker, my question is this: was the minister saying that he has not heard of foster parents just taking in children for the money? Is that what he said? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Personally I

have never heard of such cases. I have received correspondence from his constituency and we're looking into the matter. I have directed my staff to review it and then from there we will see if there are any people taking in foster children just for the money. I can respond by saying that my staff are currently looking into the matter, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further, for the benefit of my *angajuksakuluk*, my question has no relevance or relationship to the correspondence you mentioned as having recently received. This has nothing to do with my question whatsoever.

Now, the minister stated that he had never heard of any cases. Let me ask him this: if any such case were to surface, and in the past stories of this happening have filtered down to some of us, what policies do you have in place to ensure this never happens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. If there were such cases, then social services workers would look into it. If there was a need for a review, then our rules would apply. I wasn't expecting to hear such a question, but I can say that the social workers in our communities know about everything that happens in their communities and they

would look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Family Services officials would conduct a review. What I am trying to ask here with my question is: are there existing policies in place should such a case emerge that provide guidelines or procedures to put a stop to this type of behaviour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): This would immediately be stopped once a case came to the attention of the officials. It is obvious that the reason would be to ensure the safety and protection of the child. Also, if we find cases where foster parents applied only for the revenue generated by having foster children placed in their homes, it would be a grievous act. That is why this type of case couldn't be handled by existing policies.

If a case emerged, then it is obvious that it would impact the foster child and the family. It would also impact the status of the foster parent. If that occurred, it would obviously be dealt with by utilizing existing departmental policies and legislation, including the overarching need to protect the foster child. These would be the only avenues.

If that was the case, then the first priority is to ensure the child's safety. That is the usual practice. It would involve the withdrawal of their status as foster

parents if that was ever determined to be the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 789 – 4(3): Community Access Road Program

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, over the past winter funds were earmarked for the access road program and breakwater repairs. This fund was increased, which was gratifying to hear, as many people depend on this fund in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister can respond to my question. With the set increase in this fund, will it include a cap on each community application under this program, either for access road or breakwater repairs? Will there be a cap set for applications? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the recent appropriations approved for the program, I am unsure whether a cap or limit will be set. His question was whether this additional funding will result in a cap for community applications.

Mr. Speaker, I can only respond that this additional funding approved resulted in an increase of \$2.5 million and it was specific for the 2017-18 fiscal year. It was what we call (interpretation ends) one-time funding. (interpretation) However, our future government may have to contemplate their options, if any. If they are also encouraged to increase these funds, as you have, they may deliberate those options.

What I can state now is that this fund received many applications, but I don't have the information on the funds that were approved last year. This fund will allow us to partially catch up with the demand, as many applications are sent. To date the total amount of all the applications has surpassed the available amount that was approved by the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I was not clear with my question about whether a cap was contemplated.

The reason for my question is my other constituency community of Coral Harbour absolutely depends on this funding. The road is now quite distant as it takes about five hours to reach the current site where they are building the access road to. It is obvious that a lot of funding is used just to reach the site.

Having seen their local project first hand, which the minister has seen as well, they are progressing quite fast. It also allows opportunities for development, which will be beneficial to the residents of Coral Harbour.

The reason I asked is because this is one-time funding. Has a funding limit has been placed for each application? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, this project underway near Coral Harbour, as per the member's comments, is quite far from the community that falls into the area where they want to construct an access road. We had anticipated them reaching their goal this summer, at least from snippets of information.

With the way this fund is set up now, it doesn't have a limit in place for each application, but it's more in terms of the amount of funding required based on the percentage of the funds we now have. I believe, with the increase, it will still require allocations regionally to the communities as some communities will apply for more funding while others have smaller amounts. We will carefully review each case.

Some communities may be asked to submit a two-year funding application to ensure that only the priority section of the project can be completed while the other parts can be applied for at a later date. That is another option we have. Officials consult with the applicants on the actual needs without setting a limit and our officials then negotiate with the applicant on the type of funding they would receive. We want to have as many

projects funded as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. I think I understood her response that many communities apply for the fund and it's obvious that many communities do apply for these funds. Is the minister saying that when they are negotiating the funding agreements, it results in real progress and incremental improvement for these communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. Applications for this funding are processed in this manner: the feasibility of the project is reviewed, along with the overall goal of the access road and (interpretation ends) objectives (interpretation) of the community, and their capability to complete the project. This includes whether they have the capacity and personnel to complete their project.

As well, it can be perceived as an economic development project if they provide employment for locals, as well as what equipment is provided for the project. The finances and in-kind contributions each applicant can provide are included in the review, either the

number of employees or machines each community allocates for the projects. These types of details are included in the review when assessing the feasibility of each project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, the time for question period has expired. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Hon. Member for Aggu, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 001 – 4(3): Mr. Paul Quassa

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to respond to the Hon. Commissioner's Opening Address to the legislature and Nunavummiut at the opening of this current session on June 2, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, in her speech the Commissioner underlined the importance of education to the current mandate of this government, particularly our work on language and literacy. Those were her priorities according to her speech.

I am pleased to say that updated curriculum for Inuit Language Arts from kindergarten to grade 6 is almost ready for rollout. This curriculum, which is based on a significant amount of research and development, will drastically improve the way that Inuktitut is taught and delivered in all of our schools. The final review and preparation for implementation will happen in the current fiscal year. This

includes preparing Inuktitut-speaking teachers and principals to use the curriculum effectively. We expect full rollout to happen in the 2018-19 school year.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner also spoke of the vital work to develop and launch the Inuktitut Guided Reading Program as part of the ongoing balanced literacy initiative. The guided reading series was developed in consultation with experts in education and the Inuit language to ensure that they are well founded and relevant to student development in the Nunavut context.

Mr. Speaker, the guided reading series is the first of its kind for Nunavut and represents the highest quality literacy materials developed to date for the Inuit language.

I would like to update my fellow members about the objectives of this vital project. Over the next three years it is expected that the guided reading program will be developed at least to grade 7 in Inuktitut and to grade 4 in Inuinnaqtun, along with associated teacher training materials to ensure effective implementation in the classroom. By 2020 we're expecting that there will be over 500 levelled books available in Inuktitut and approximately 300 books in Inuinnaqtun, with associated teacher resources to support reading, writing and word work, which are important to our schools.

Mr. Speaker, the guided reading series will improve the literacy outcomes for students across the territory in their first language, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. This in turn will improve their learning outcomes across all programs of study

by ensuring that student progress is accurately assessed by teachers and reported clearly to parents.

Development and implementation of the guided reading program and the updated Inuktitut Language Arts curriculum represents an enormous amount of work on the part of my department. This is a noteworthy and exciting moment for education in Nunavut that will have a positive impact for our students. These projects are something we can be very proud of as a territory and will contribute to establishing a strong bilingual program.

In addition to curriculum and resource work, my department is also addressing the issue of human resources. My department is currently working on a revamped Inuit employment plan in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The plan will be developed within 2017 and it will contain short-, medium- and long-term goals and strategies.

This forward-thinking plan will focus on the entire employment cycle, which includes pre-employment, orientation, mentorship, retention, professional development, and promotion. The plan will aim to reduce training and recruitment barriers for Inuit for all roles within schools and at the department, including leadership roles.

The plan will increase the number of Inuit educators prepared to use Inuktitut as a language of instruction. This is essential in achieving the legislated objectives of delivering a fully bilingual education system and graduating students fully proficient in the Inuit language. This work, along with the

ongoing review of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, is an important step to ensure we have the human resources and Inuit educators in place for a truly bilingual system.

We must always remember though that the challenge we face in achieving our goal of a fully bilingual education system from kindergarten to grade 12 is not just a lack of Inuktitut-speaking teachers. To create curriculum, assessments, and resources, we need a standardized Inuit language and education-specific vocabulary. Some of this work has happened to date. However, this ongoing priority has been met with a lack of political will for many years now, despite recognition of its importance to improving educational outcomes.

As Minister of Education, I need the support of the Members of this House on this issue. This question does not get the attention it deserves, despite the fact that a standardized vocabulary is the foundation that we need to make Inuktitut the first language in our schools, our government, and our businesses here in Nunavut. Without standardization of vocabulary, other efforts to improve our system will not be effective. We will not be able to achieve our goals.

Standardizing vocabulary will take time, especially for upper level secondary courses. Standardization does not mean losing local dialects. We know from lessons with other languages, Greenlandic for example, that it is possible to teach a standardized version while maintaining the strength of community and regional dialects.

The Department of Education plans to make this a priority moving forward, and we need to support the writing system and standardization of the Inuktitut vocabulary. It's going to benefit through this.

I'll be speaking in English, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, all of the work that I have described is part of the implementation of *Sivumut Abluqta* and its priorities and objectives. As you know, *Sivumut Abluqta* states that "Education is the foundation for employment and self-reliance of individuals and families. Government, communities, teachers, parents, and students share responsibility for improving education outcomes to provide the best possible opportunities for the future."

The review and improvement of the *Education Act* is a central objective of *Sivumut Abluqta*. This was the purpose of the work of the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act* in 2014 and 2015. I was pleased to join my fellow MLAs, George Hickee, Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, and Mr. Joe Savikataaq as we toured Nunavut and spoke with stakeholders for over a year.

The special committee acted as a voice for this Legislative Assembly. It made 23 recommendations with respect to student outcomes and operations, and directed that certain priority amendments be dealt with in the life of this government. The recommendations focused on how to make our education system better, including making the delivery of programming more consistent to improve student outcomes

no matter where they live in the territory or if they have moved between communities.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing Bill 37, the government is working to meet the recommendations of the special committee.

Prior to the review of the special committee, the Office of the Auditor General conducted a review of the implementation of the *Education Act*. The findings of the report and its recommendations were comprehensive, and my department and I agreed in full with the changes that needed to be made. In response to the recommendations, we have made great strides in our policies and programming with respect to curriculum, balanced literacy, and parental engagement.

However, there is still more to do and some of the work that was identified by the Auditor General requires legislative changes. Bill 37 represents the changes needed to improve the implementation of the *Education Act* by making vital changes to how the system operates. These operational improvements are common sense and based on the logic that students need a system that is consistently delivered, but also where there are clear avenues for local input, priorities and know-how.

(interpretation) In addition to the work of the special committee and the Auditor General, government consultation in 2016 guided the development of Bill 37 and resulted in major alterations to the proposals that were consulted on. Public consultation is essential and I thank all members of the public, the district

education authorities, and our education partners who participated.

The department hosted 10 public meetings in all regions of the territory. By September 2016 the department had met with DEA representatives from across all regions and the vast majority of DEAs took the opportunity to send representatives to attend two separate consultation meetings. All stakeholder organizations were consulted with during this time.

Officials from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and my department had lengthy and productive discussions over the course of the summer of 2016. NTI made a series of formal written comments in regard to the work we were doing. My officials responded fully to NTI's written submissions and many of their ideas are included in Bill 37. We noted that many of NTI's recommendations are non-legislative. My department has indicated to NTI that a robust and continuing working relationship will be required moving forward in order to collaborate on programming and policy initiatives. This includes the ongoing work to develop an updated Inuit employment plan for educators and the implementation of that plan.

Mr. Speaker, the 2016 consultations made a difference and the feedback was incorporated throughout Bill 37. Feedback resulted in new proposals being added to the bill. Many of the original proposals were modified to reflect local priorities and concerns, and some proposals were dropped altogether based on the second consultation process.

Mr. Speaker, we have made an effort to listen and learn from what we heard and Bill 37 responds to many concerns heard during the consultations. New ideas that were incorporated include the creation of the DEA council to improve supports for DEAs and additional clarity about the purpose of locally driven enhancements to the education program, additional clarity about the purpose of locally-driven enhancements to the education program, additional clarity with respect to the processes and timelines for individual student support plans and related parental rights, as well as increased government accountability in reporting and communication with Nunavummiut on how the government is meeting the needs of students.

Mr. Speaker, I am not just speaking to the people of Nunavut; I'm speaking to my colleagues here as well. As MLAs we have to properly review proposed legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak for a moment about why amendments to the *Education Act* are necessary. We all know the purpose is to address and fix operational challenges that have existed since 2008, but also to establish an Act that is forward-looking. We also know that our government is big and we always have to keep that in mind. The changes being proposed will increase consistency of delivery across the territory. Increased consistency in schools will improve the quality of education, resource development, and the ability to properly assess students and student outcomes.

Currently schools do not have the direction they need to effectively implement the bilingual education

models. Schools can choose how to deliver the model. This lack of direction creates an unacceptable level of inconsistency between different schools, which impedes the delivery of the curriculum and impacts on how resource materials are developed, all of which impacts on student outcomes.

Bill 37 addresses this issue by providing a mechanism to the Minister of Education, working with the DEAs, so that the minister can give directions on how each bilingual education model is delivered. These directions will involve assigning the language of instruction for each grade and program of study, and it will help achieve much-needed consistency.

Currently in Nunavut we do not have standardized instruction minutes, which is the time spent on each program of study each week. It's not explained very well in the present legislation. Bill 37 provides a mechanism to do this, which is an important step towards having better assessments to help track student progress and teaching quality. There would be a lot less confusion if it's set up properly like this. That is what Bill 37 is trying to do. Being able to properly track student progress and teaching quality is fundamental so that we will know where our students are at.

Bill 37 also provides a mechanism to make school calendars more standardized than they are now. That's what Bill 37 tries to do, but let us be aware that it does not take all control away from local communities in the development of their calendars. It simply ensures that there are consistent and efficient opportunities to do high-quality teacher orientations and professional

development. Teachers need to upgrade their skills as well. That would give us an opportunity to do that. We have also known that grade 12 graduation day is not the same day across Nunavut. We're trying to see how we can set it up so that they can have graduations during the same time period.

(interpretation ends) Bill 37 ensures that there are clear roles and responsibilities for everyone working in the education system. My staff and I recognized the consultation feedback that we did not propose the right balance of responsibilities between the district education authorities, schools, and department. We have made many changes to our proposals so that Bill 37 strikes a better balance.

In response to the recommendations of the special committee and the Auditor General of Canada, the proposed amendments find an appropriate balance with respect to capacity, training, and specialized expertise for the roles assigned by the *Education Act*. This will improve how our system functions and does not inappropriately constrain local input. Instead it focuses the work of DEAs (district education authorities) on the functions that their input is needed on: programs that will ensure local schools reflect local needs, priorities and values.

Bill 37 shifts responsibility to the principals for the implementation of the inclusive education provisions in schools. Principals are expected to have the expertise needed to manage oversight. DEAs, or district education authorities, are still given vital roles in ensuring parental rights for student supports. Bill 37 also ensures that DEAs

will know what is happening in their schools with respect to meeting the needs of their students so that they can advocate for their communities when the student needs are not being met.

Another example of a common-sense shift in responsibility is the proposal to make the department responsible for the administration of principal and vice-principal appointment panels. Principals and vice-principals are government employees. Their employment rights are established in the *Public Service Act*, the government *Human Resources Manual*, and the Nunavut Teachers Association Collective Agreement. The minister is responsible for compliance with all of these rules and therefore it is logical and common sense for the department's human resource professionals to manage the administration of appointment panels to ensure that all rules are followed.

Bill 37 ensures that advocacy and capacity is strengthened for DEAs by establishing the DEA council, which will have the staff and funding needed to carry out enhanced responsibilities, including DEA training and support. By establishing this organization in the legislation, there is an opportunity to ensure increased accountability for the spending of public funds and accountability for important issues, such as records management, protection of privacy, and council elections.

(interpretation) The department recognizes the hard work of district education authorities while at the same time noting the significant capacity and administrative challenges they face in our communities. Legislative amendments will address this imbalance between responsibility and capacity

while also respecting the benefit of local impact on schools and students. This will improve operations across the territory in schools and at DEA meeting tables.

Language of instruction has been a much-discussed topic with respect to Bill 37. I recognize the concern amongst Nunavummiut, partners, and stakeholders that the amendments in Bill 37 will have an impact on the implementation of Inuktitut as a language of instruction in the Nunavut education system. I want to briefly go over some of the reasons why I am proposing changes to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Bill 37 establishes that a parent has the right for their child to be educated using Inuktitut as the language of instruction during the majority of instructional time. If this change is made to the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, it means that more than 50 percent of instructional time must be in Inuktitut. That's what Bill 37 is proposing to do. It identifies what percentage of instructional time must be in Inuktitut.

This change is proposed for several reasons. The proposed change provides a clear entitlement for Inuit language rights for Nunavut students, that being the right to have the majority of instruction in Inuktitut as the language of instruction. Part of the purpose of this right is to make this right clear to all parents. While we're on this subject, for example, we will be increasing the use of Inuktitut as the language of instruction following the increasing number of Inuit teachers in the school system.

I'll be speaking in English.

(interpretation ends) In Nunavut we have a bilingual education system and two languages of instruction in the classroom. This is established in the 2008 *Education Act* and is a core policy recommendation in the 2000 Bathurst Mandate, the 2006 Berger report, and the 2015 *Report of the Special Committee to Review the Education Act*. The proposed changes to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* establish the proper legal foundation for a bilingual education system that supports graduating students who are fluent in the Inuit language.

Nunavut's bilingual education system is not quite ready for full rollout across all grades. To address this, the Department of Education continued to work to revamp the Nunavut Teacher Education Program in collaboration with Nunavut Arctic College; the ongoing development of an updated Inuit employment plan in collaboration with NTI; and the implementation of that plan, which will increase the number of Inuit educators in our territory. Finally, to establish standardized vocabulary for programs of study at all grade levels, particularly the upper secondary course level, standardized vocabulary is a central building block for Inuktitut instruction.

(interpretation) There are some important changes in Bill 37 that have not received much attention in public conversations or coverage about the bill. I want to bring attention to the practical aspects of the bill that have been ignored and that I fear may not be considered fully. These aspects are the following:

The proposed amendments increase government accountability by ensuring that the government is consistently and thoroughly reporting on its work with respect to the implementation of bilingual education and inclusive education, and how it is meeting the language rights and support needs of students. Those have not been considered fully. It would be up to us to ensure that the information gets out there.

Bill 37, in response to consultation feedback from the Representative for Children and Youth, adds an affirmation to the *Education Act* of the territory's commitment in the public education system and to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Bill 37 expands the role of skilled Inuit cultural experts to include people of all ages, not only elders. The younger people, for example, can teach about hunting or sewing and they are now knowledgeable in all other aspects of the Inuit culture. This measure will offer an avenue of increased employment in the communities and increased engagement, especially of young men and women who have mastered traditional skills.

Consultation feedback indicated that the role of the department in supporting the development of local education program enhancements must be clearly established in the legislation. The amendments do this and also bring greater clarity to the purpose and structure of local education program enhancements, something the 2008 legislation does not do. This will help guide the DEAs in their work to identify and develop these programs.

Bill 37 establishes clear timelines for development of individual student support plans.

An amendment in Bill 37 establishes that the minister, in addition to being required to establish territory-wide assessments of numeracy and literacy skills, would have the discretion to establish territory-wide assessments on any other learning outcome.

There were a lot of discussions taking place in regard to Bill 37 and there are still quite a number of questions. I would like everyone to know and I have indicated earlier that we are open. We have to be very open to the people out there before the bills are given assent. We must have open dialogues in order to understand what's happening.

I can say in English that (interpretation ends) I continue to be fully prepared to discuss and compromise on the proposed amendments. I made this very clear in our letter to the standing committee of May 9, 2017. At a minimum we should be able to say to Nunavummiut that we made an effort as a legislature to improve the *Education Act*.

(interpretation) I would also like everyone to know that there was a wide variety of discussion when it came to the review of the legislation and the recommendations of the Auditor General of Canada and the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act*. I'm just reiterating that we are open and as we indicated earlier, it still applies today that education is of utmost importance. This is something we wanted to accomplish and we agreed that we would review the *Education Act*. We would like this to go ahead so that we can

improve the *Education Act*. The people of Nunavut also wanted to see an improved *Education Act*.

We have to work together to create a better education system that operates efficiently and effectively. We can improve student outcomes to prepare young Nunavummiut to become social, economic and cultural leaders. While we have this opportunity, let's all try to take this issue seriously. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 10. Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Hon. Tom Sammurtok.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 030 – 4(3): Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 25 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 25 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 25 is now before the Committee of the Whole.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Hon. Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Committee Report 031 – 4(3): Bill 29, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 29 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 29 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 29 is now before the Committee of the Whole.

Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 326 – 4(3): 2017 Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut Annual Report

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be read for the third time.

(interpretation) Where are we? My apologies, colleagues. I went ahead of myself.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today the *2017 Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 327 – 4(3): Correspondence Dated May 9, 2017 to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling today a letter sent to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation regarding Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the*

Education Act and Inuit Language Protection Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 328 – 4(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation Waste Oil Management Report

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today the QEC's Waste Oil Management Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 329 – 4(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Report for 2015-2016

Hon. Johnny Mike: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today the QEC's Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Report for the fiscal year 2015-16. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 330 – 4(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project Report

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today (interpretation ends) the QEC's Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Tabled Document 331 – 4(3): Excerpt from 2003-2004 Business Plan of the Department of Education

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling today an excerpt from the 2003-04 business plan of the Department of Education, which I encourage all members to review with care. Members will note that the department's budget for curriculum, program development, and student support increased from \$3,211,000 in the 2002-03 fiscal year to \$4,771,000 in the 2003-04 fiscal year. As I recall, quite a lot of curriculum material was developed during this time period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 47 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Legal Profession Act* to provide the Law Society of Nunavut with additional rule-making powers to provide for a rules committee and to regularize rules made by the society since April 1, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and Bill 47 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Bill 48 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Second Reading

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Aggu, that Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes various amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy*

Act. In particular it provides an application of the Act to municipalities, the anonymity of applicants, and the making of regulations respecting the disclosure of the remuneration of a member of a public body. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 48 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 25, 27, and 29 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 47 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we commence with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 17:11 and Committee resumed at 17:39*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): Welcome back, everyone. (interpretation) People of Baker Lake and Nunavut who are watching and listening to the proceedings, welcome.

I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 25 and 29. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of Bill 25, followed by Bill 29. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 25?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq, if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Jodi Durdle-Awa. She's the director of policy for CG&S. To my left is Thomas Ahlfors. He works for Justice and he's a legislative drafter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome to the witnesses. You can now proceed with your opening comments, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*, is the result of an ongoing commitment by the Department of Community and Government Services to update Nunavut's consumer protection legislation so that Nunavummiut are provided the same level of consumer protection as consumers in other Canadian jurisdictions.

I have worked closely with the Standing Committee on Legislation to ensure that any concerns that they may have, have been addressed. I am happy to have the opportunity to outline the proposed changes in this bill before the House today.

The major changes to the legislation under these amendments include cheque-cashing fees and unfair business practices.

At this time I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*. As members will recall, Bill 25 received second reading on October 25, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 25 proposes to introduce new provisions to the current legislation that are intended to provide further protection for consumers in the following areas: relief from unconscionable loan transactions, protection from unfair business practices, and regulation of cheque-cashing fees.

For a number of years the department has been planning to introduce amendments that would provide for the regulation of cheque-cashing fees. Members of the standing committee appreciate that the department also took this opportunity to bring the current legislation up to par with similar legislation in other jurisdictions by introducing those new provisions that will allow Nunavummiut to seek relief from unconscionable loans and protection from unfair business practices.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 25 will provide the minister with the power to introduce regulations that may limit or prohibit cheque-cashing fees in Nunavut. The department has indicated that it plans to introduce regulations that would limit cheque-cashing fees for government cheques. The standing committee emphasizes that any regulated cheque-

cashing fee must take into account the financial reality and needs of Nunavut residents, specifically the high cost of living that Nunavut residents experience.

The standing committee also emphasizes that government cheques should be defined to include local housing organizations, and therefore is in full support of an amendment to clause 4 of Bill 25.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 25, as amended, to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. General comments. I don't see anyone raise their hand. (interpretation ends) I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed with the clause-by-clause review of Bill 25.

I believe everybody has their legislation binders now. (interpretation) Bill 25, (interpretation ends) *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*. Clause 1. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the minister was done with his opening comments, I was supposed to ask this question then. Minister Savikataaq, welcome and good afternoon.

I would like to get clarification on cheque-cashing fees. We usually go to the Co-op store and the Northern. Those are the two stores that are very prominent in our communities. They are the largest stores. I'm not sure about

your community, but they are the largest retailers in my community.

Currently we have federal legislation for cheque-cashing fees and I believe there are no fees for cashing federal cheques. What about fees for Government of Nunavut cheques? What is the process for them here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that there are no actual regulations on Government of Nunavut cheques. Some retailers do not charge for cashing government cheques, but there are no regulations. The regulations that are in place for cheque-cashing fees are federally regulated and they are aimed at the banks and not the retailers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously you do consultations once you feel the new legislation is ready for public presentation and you take into consideration what you hear from the public, whom we represent, and we are obliged to take into consideration what we hear from the public before we consider any legislation.

Have you ever considered that there are no fees for cashing Nunavut government cheques, especially in the larger stores such as the Co-ops and Northern? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it was part of the consultation process. If I can redirect this question to Ms. Jodi Durdle-Awa because she was directly involved in the consultation process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Awa.

Ms. Durdle-Awa: It is something that we have considered. It wasn't brought up in terms of feedback from the general public, but it is something that we have considered. The feedback we did receive from the retailers indicated that they're not in favour of any sort of limit to what cheques fees can be applied to. It is certainly something that we would be willing to consider. We haven't started the regulation process yet and that will be forthcoming once we're completed this bill. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. The stores like the Co-op and Northern would not be in support of this in order not to have cheque-cashing fees for government cheques, which leads me to my next question.

As we are all aware, we have Co-op stores in the majority of the communities in Nunavut. Our Co-ops are our own stores; we own the stores. We control the stores and they're not controlled by outsiders. Each Co-op can make regulations or policies on their own for anything because this store is owned and operated at the community level. They're not controlled by outsiders.

Have you consulted with all the Co-op stores in each community? Were the responses similar to each other or were they totally different from each other? Did you consult with each Co-op store in Nunavut? I'm not talking about the Northern stores because they're out of our control, but the Co-op stores are our own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this is part of the consultation process again, I will pass this one on to Ms. Jodi Durdle-Awa, as she was directly involved in the consultation process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Durdle-Awa.

Ms. Durdle-Awa: Thank you. Appendix C of the last correspondence we had with the standing committee includes the report on consultations. We started with letters to the retailers, to their headquarters in Winnipeg. We did do phone surveys of the local Co-ops and it's outlined on page 2 of the appendices. We were able to contact a total of 17 Co-ops. We had trouble getting any information from some of the Co-ops. Each Co-op, as the member suggested, has their own rules and so they differ in terms of the fees that they charge. All the information that we collected is outlined in the appendices.

Six of the Co-ops charge no fees on government cheques. One charged a flat fee of \$2.50 for non-Co-op members. Six Co-ops charged flat fees for all cheque cashing and their prices ranged

from \$2 to \$10. Two of these would waive the fee if part of the cheque's value went into a particular Co-op service.

One Co-op specified that it has to be 10 percent of the cheque's value. One Co-op would only cash cheques that were deposited at the Co-op and would only allow withdrawals of \$200 per day.

Two Co-ops charged percentage-based fees and 1 percent for non-government cheques and 1.5 percent for government cheques. Two Co-ops used a two-tiered fee system ranging in price from \$2.50 to a maximum of \$15 or 2 percent depending on the value of the cheque. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a bit confused now, as usual. For example, in Pond Inlet we have the Co-op that we control, operate, and own. Why is Winnipeg included? Is the Co-op owned by Nunavummiut or are we members of the Winnipeg one even though the Co-ops are independent?

If I can ask another question at the same time, although I hear that there are various cheque-cashing fees in different Co-op stores, I note that the Northern stores are included, but I'm not asking questions about Northern stores because we don't own and control them and we can't do anything about them, at least me personally.

The Co-ops charge different fees. I was asking about what you said that you would like to do. What was the input from each of the Co-ops in the

communities? Did they agree or make any recommendations during the consultations as community-owned Co-ops? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason ACL in Winnipeg would have been in contact and consulted with is because, I believe, all the Arctic Co-ops in Nunavut are part of ACL. I don't know the exact relationship in terms of what they dictate to the ACLs. I guess the closest way to try to explain it in my view is the ACL is the mother company of all the Arctic Co-ops in Nunavut. That's how I see it.

The cheque-cashing fee has been brought up many times and we have heard that where there are elders or people who are not well off are getting charged huge amounts for cashing cheques. This is one of the reasons why we are dealing with it. How we're going to deal with it is once the amendments are passed to the Act, we can make regulations limiting what people can charge for cheque-cashing fees.

We are treading a fine line here because, during the consultations, the retailers said that this is a service they provide for Nunavummiut. They don't have to cash cheques if they don't want to and they said that if it becomes too financially burdened or too cumbersome, then they may stop providing the service. When the regulations come out, we will be treading a fine line and coming up with a balanced approach to regulate the cheque-cashing fees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. I just wanted to get clarification. Since you are treading through a fine line here, do I understand that our Co-op stores that we own in our communities are saying, "If you do this, we will stop cashing cheques"? Did you hear that coming from our Co-op stores in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that recommendation came from ACL and other retailers, but the ones from the Co-op came from ACL that it's a service that is provided and if it becomes too financially burdened, then they wouldn't do it.

They said that what they want to avoid is liabilities in terms of they take people's cheques, give cash out, and then they have to bring more cash in if the cash leaves the community. That is a liability. It's just something that they're willing to keep charging roughly what they charge now. Right now the average for northern retailers is \$3 a cheque or 1.5 percent of the cheque value. That's the average right now. Some charge more and some charge less, but that is the average currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly, do I understand, when you were doing the consultations,

our Co-ops in the communities themselves were not able to talk to you on their own? Were they not able to express their opinions and you had to get it from Winnipeg instead in terms of what they can do? It wasn't our Co-ops up here that said that, the ones that we operate or manage, and it was ACL in Winnipeg that said that. Do I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. The local Co-ops gave what they charge, but none of the local Co-ops put forward a recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Next on my list is Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recognize the clock and I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 25 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for June 8:

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 25

- Bill 27

- Bill 29

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

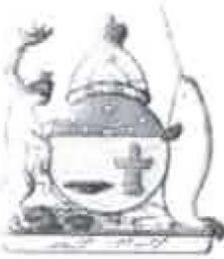
Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 8, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:08*

Appendix – June 7, 2017



Return to Oral Question

Asked by: David Joanasie , MLA for South Baffin

Asked of: Hon. George Kuksuk, Minister of Languages

Number: 729 - 4(3)

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Subject: Federal Funding to Support Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun

Questions:

- (1) A breakdown of how \$15.8 million will be allocated [under the new Canada-Nunavut Agreement on Inuktitut].
- (2) The specific expenditures made under the Official Languages Fund [established under the territorial *Official Languages Act*] during the 2016-17 fiscal year.
 - a. The balance of the Official Languages Fund as of March 31st, 2017.

Response:

Since 1999, the Government of Nunavut has been advocating for more adequate and sustained federal funding for the continued protection and promotion of official languages in Nunavut, as per its legal obligations under the federal *Nunavut Act*, the territorial *Official Languages Act* (OLA) and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* (ILPA).

The new, multiyear Canada-Nunavut Agreement on Inuktitut will provide a total of \$15,800,000.00 to support the Government of Nunavut's efforts to implement its legal and language obligations.

Until recently, federal funding under the Agreement for Inuktitut amounted only to \$1,100,000.00 per year. The new multi-year agreement will significantly increase third-party federal funding annually for Inuktitut; up to \$1,500,000.00 starting in 2016-17, then \$4,100,000.00 in 2017-2018, and \$5,100,000.00 in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.

Key objectives and activities covered under the Agreement for Inuktitut include the following:

1. Improving language learning for school children through the development of guided reading resources and the mentoring of new Inuit teachers;
2. Supporting language acquisition and upgrading for adults through the design and expansion of post-secondary language training;
3. Supporting Inuktitut as a language of work through enhanced language training programs and formal assessment of government employees' level of competency in the Inuktitut; and
4. Supporting language revitalization at the community level, by funding local language activities and establishing a collaboration framework.

2016-2020 Inuktitut Financial Summary

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
A. Inuktitut Guided Reading Resource Development (Department of Education)				
	\$400,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
B. Nunavut Teacher Induction Program (Department of Education)				
		\$600,000	\$700,000	\$800,000
C. Language Acquisition and Upgrading for Adults (Nunavut Arctic College)				
		\$650,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
D. Enhancement of Inuktitut Language Training for Public Servants (Nunavut Arctic College)				
		\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
E. Inuktitut Language Assessment Program (Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit)				
		\$350,000	\$450,000	\$350,000
F. Inuktitut Language Community Initiatives (Department of Culture and Heritage)				
	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
	\$1,500,000	\$4,100,000	\$5,100,000	\$5,100,000

Response to the second question:

There were no direct expenditures incurred under the Official Languages Promotion Fund, established under Section 13.1 of the *Official Languages Act*, besides some banking fees. The fund was established to receive monies from potential penalty fines issued under Section 27 of the *Official Languages Act* and Section 33 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Since the coming into force of the Acts, there has been no conviction under these sections. The fund can also receive court ordered monies, donations, bequests, or a working capital advance appropriated by the legislature. On behalf of the Minister of Languages, the Department of Culture and Heritage is responsible to administer the Fund.

As of March 31st, 2017, the balance of the fund was \$121.00. In 2010, the Office of the Languages Commissioner donated \$161.00 and was paid to the Fund. The Office held a Film Festival in Iqaluit, and accepted donations from members of the public. Since then, the Department of Culture and Heritage did not receive any new money into the Fund.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. George Kuksuk
Minister of Languages