



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 85

Monday, September 18, 2017

Pages 4777 – 4863

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
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(Aivilik)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Monday, September 18, 2017****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emilio 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 13:33*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) visitors in the gallery, and staff, welcome to the House.

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Peter Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 372 – 4(3):
Sivumut Abluqta Accomplishments

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank all the members for that. Good afternoon to Nunavummiut and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the progress we have made under our collective mandate, *Sivumut Abluqta*.

As the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut draws to a close, I am reminded of how our new cabinet first gathered in Kugaaruk. Subsequently the Full Caucus met in Kugluktuk in February of 2014. There we discussed and prioritized our government's work spanning four years. Mr. Speaker, at times it feels like only yesterday we did that. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure all members can recall the hard work and long days of laying out our main goals for this Assembly.

Nunavut had many priority areas, but after lively debate and informed discussion, our themes emerged as: self-reliance and optimism through education and training; healthy families through strong and resilient communities; economic growth through responsible development across all sectors; and good government through wise use of our resources.

Mr. Speaker, this government has faced our share of obstacles. The Pangnirtung power plant fire and the Cape Dorset and Kugaaruk schools fires stand out as huge losses for our territory, but these challenges led to strengthened communities and fierce resiliency. Over the last four years we rebuilt a more efficient power plant in Pangnirtung, and we began work on a new school in Cape Dorset with extensive input from the

community and the district education authority.

Work is progressing on a new \$30 million community learning centre in Iqaluit. We have opened more modern health centres in Taloyoak and Arctic Bay. We also renovated the old wing of the Qikiqtani General Hospital and opened much-needed clinic space. We opened more long-term geriatric care beds in Cambridge Bay. This past August we completed the territory's first public-private partnership (P3) on the Iqaluit International Airport project.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, we started critical preliminary work on the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet deep-sea port projects.

>>*Applause*

We have also made great strides in securing federal funding to connect Nunavut with southern Canada through the Grays Bay Port and Road Project, which is currently under review by Canada.

Mr. Speaker, total investments in community and municipal infrastructure are close \$115 million over the past four years...

>>*Applause*

...from a variety of sources. We should all be pleased with this accomplishment.

Let's take a moment to highlight a few projects completed over this period: the hamlet offices in Arviat...

>>*Applause*

...Taloyoak, Cambridge Bay...

>>*Applause*

...a community hall in Igloolik, and hamlet office/community hall buildings in Kugaaruk and Grise Fiord.

There have also been water treatment plants in Baker Lake and Pangnirtung...

>>*Applause*

...as well as a water reservoir expansion in Igloolik and utilidor system upgrades in Resolute Bay.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, since 2014 we have opened Makigiarvik, Nunavut's new minimum-security facility in Iqaluit...

>>*Applause*

...which has alleviated some of the overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre.

After our cabinet retreat in Whale Cove in October of 2014, we reiterated our support for the community's request for a new adult learning centre. I'm happy to say that this facility is now also opened in Whale Cove.

>>*Applause*

In April of 2016 our government continued its commitment to an open and accessible government. We visited many communities over the course of our term and hosted a cabinet retreat in Clyde River. At the same time cabinet reviewed and reinforced *Sivumut*

Abluqta and set a path of action to get us to where we are today.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, throughout the mandate of *Sivumut Abluqta*, this Legislative Assembly has introduced and passed over 55 bills, new legislation and appropriations.

>>Applause

One of the biggest and most progressive Acts we passed is *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act...*

>>Applause

...ensuring that the rights of transgendered Nunavummiut are entrenched in legislation.

Cabinet successfully introduced a bill to appoint an independent ethics officer to look into matters concerning public servants.

>>Applause

As well the Department of Finance created a human resource associate deputy position to continue streamlining and facilitating matters under the *Public Service Act*.

>>Applause

In June of 2014 the Members of the Assembly unanimously approved a motion appoint a child and youth representative for a five-year term.

>>Applause

That office has now been operating for over three years.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't bring up our work to amend the *Education Act*. I'm sure we can all recognize without any doubt how very passionate Nunavummiut are about education here in our territory and their willingness to make their voices heard.

>>Applause

During this Assembly we formed a Special Committee to Review the *Education Act*. There was careful assessment of the recommendations we heard from the committee as well as from many community sessions and stakeholder engagement meetings. Staff worked hard to address the needs of all learners. What resulted from this, Bill 37, produced intense debate and discussion. We now know we have to do more work, but we agree that education is truly the foundation of success in our territory. I am thankful our system allows for the consultations necessary to make sure we get this right.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is fully committed to the implementation of Article 23, one of the cornerstones of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. We know this can only be realized with the cooperation of all parties, and we will continue to work with the Government of Canada and with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to ensure that wherever possible improved and new opportunities are provided to Inuit. We will continue to make all efforts to recruit more Inuit into our workforce.

The Government of Nunavut has already made great strides in Inuit employment. We continue to provide meaningful training and development opportunities to our Inuit employees. These include the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program, the Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Program, and the mentorship program. Recently we announced three new areas to promote, retain, and foster our Inuit employees in the public service. These are the Career Broadening Program, the Amaaqtaarniq Education Program, and the Policy Development Program. Mr. Speaker, these are indeed exciting times for our government.

>>Applause

I would also like to point out that while Inuit employment remains around the 51 percent mark, we see any training as value added for our employees, whether they stay in the public service or move on in their career into the private sector. As I said before, this is a win-win situation for employers throughout Nunavut.

From 2001 to 2016 we have seen Inuit employment almost double. This is an incredible accomplishment in terms of the number of employed people in our communities, and our government is proud of the work we have done in this area.

>>Applause

Additionally, in an effort to support employees to use the Inuit language as a working language of the public service, the Government of Nunavut recently approved the Inuit Language Incentive Policy...

>>Applause

...which begins implementation in just a few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, GN employees who demonstrate proficiency will be paid an annual allowance based on their proficiency level, from \$1,500 to \$5,000 per year. Language testing to assess proficiency level will be done by the IUT. This is an important component of the GN's *Human Resource Strategy* and I am confident this will encourage staff to speak and strengthen Inuktitut across the territory.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, we have also made significant progress in elders' activism and care. Elders are Nunavut's strongest tie to our history and strong traditions and to bridging our culture and language in the modern world.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to supporting one of our most vulnerable and influential groups. Under this Assembly we have created the portfolio of minister responsible for elders' advocacy and tabled the *Nunavut Seniors' Handbook* and the *Strategic Framework to address the needs of Nunavut Seniors*. We also conducted a long-term care needs assessment, which sees the transfer of responsibility to the Department of Health, which will ensure improved continuum of care.

Mr. Speaker, as well we have funded the Nunavut seniors' advocacy group. This independent, dedicated society aims to ensure active supports for seniors across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to draw your attention to the critical work we have done with regard to suicide prevention over the course of this Assembly. In late 2015, for the first time anywhere in Canada, this government declared suicide a crisis and committed to making effective changes to finding solutions to an issue that affects us all. We must all hold onto hope, light, and the certainty that we will find solutions and overcome this tragic epidemic.

Because prevention and response to suicide does not lie with a single department and must involve collaboration and action by our partners and our communities, I appointed an associate deputy minister of Quality of Life. This position oversees a secretariat that now leads the greater effort to see that all stakeholders are engaged in moving the *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy* forward and address real, meaningful change.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, suicide prevention is our shared commitment to move forward with a common vision. Earlier this year with our partners, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police “V” Division, and the Embrace Life Council, we jointly released *Inuuusivut Anninaqtuq*, the five-year *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan*. Mr. Speaker, with this plan the Government of Nunavut is taking bold steps to fulfill our commitments to the strategy, including \$2.8 million in grants and contributions funding to support community-led action. I believe this is the key to resiliency and overcoming Nunavut’s suicide crisis.

Mr. Speaker, we have created an alcohol harm reduction strategy and materials that have been implemented and distributed across Nunavut to coincide with the opening of the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, on the intergovernmental front we continue to negotiate with our federal government a devolution agreement for the territory. Control of our own resources on Crown lands and accompanying devolution of programs and services like our sister territories have negotiated is paramount.

It is anticipated that an agreement in principle will be completed within a year. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has been a strong partner with us at the negotiating table and we appreciate that support.

>>Applause

On the resource development front our Nunavut fisheries continue to grow. We are seeing increases in allocations of resources and increases in Nunavut ownership to manage and operate the industry. We have continued to advocate to our federal government that the principle of adjacency of fishing stocks and allocations be paramount in any decisions made by federal officials.

Mr. Speaker, we have also seen energetic growth in the resource extraction industry. After robust regulatory review, the TMAC Hope Bay gold mine has opened and the work on the Meliadine and the Amaruq deposits in Kivalliq are moving forward.

>>*Applause*

As well the recent Sabena mine announcement bodes well for our territorial economy.

>>*Applause*

These projects are bringing hundreds of new jobs and increased investments in Nunavut in the billions of dollars. The negotiation of IIBAs with the Kivalliq Inuit Association and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association as a result of these projects ensures that Inuit are benefiting not only from the creation of new jobs but from the benefits of the resource developments.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the Conference Board of Canada estimates that Nunavut will be at the forefront of economic growth in Canada in the coming fiscal years. With a vigorous regulatory, permitting and licensing regime in place, any project must ensure sustainable development and environmental protection are sound before any approvals to proceed are moved forward.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank all members for their tireless work over the last four years. It hasn't always been easy and we haven't always seen eye to eye, but we have always had the best interests of Nunavummiut at heart.

I am hopeful for what the next four years brings and I am encouraged by the continued hard work and commitment of our public service and I thank you to all.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is young and dynamic. At times we struggle to find

our footing, but above all else we have hope, resiliency, strength, and passion. I am so proud of our work and look forward to what the next Assembly will accomplish as we continue to step forward together. 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 Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

An Hon. Member: No.

Speaker: Why are you doing this?

>>*Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 638 – 4(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Ignored by the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut. Visitors in the gallery, welcome to the House, as well as our Premier, my fellow members, the people who are watching the proceedings, especially the people of Arctic Bay, my constituents, and the people of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to a matter I consider extremely critical. Since we have two days left in our mandate prior to the ending of our terms

as elected officials, I wanted to voice my thoughts on this matter.

During my campaign while seeking election for the High Arctic, I informed my electorate that it would be my priority to have *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* recognized in the House. That was my campaign promise, my constituents believed in my capacity and ability, and I was elected to the post on this basis.

Mr. Speaker, today I am discouraged in this House with respect to the issues our electorate want discussed, and all I see is the lack of desire by the representatives in fulfilling the wishes of our constituents, especially related to traditional Inuit counselling skills and cultural practices.

When the Government of Nunavut was created, I thought *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* would be a priority and it would be implemented within its operations. Nonetheless, over this four-year period I have worked extremely hard to fulfill my constituents' wishes to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, but to date, in relation to bills and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, we have nothing in law. Why?

Why does the Nunavut government not take the desires of Inuit into consideration even though Inuit form the majority of the population? Why aren't we as representatives considering the expectations of Inuit? This is absolutely regrettable to see.

In light of the upcoming election, perhaps this goal I have strived to attain will just slip away and die as an idea. At least that is my fear today. We can't

force our colleagues in the future Assembly to deal with some issues.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, as this is one of my last chances to speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Quttiktuq is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Shooyook, please proceed.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues for allowing me to conclude my statement. It won't be long.

To continue, in working on this matter I am so passionate about within the Legislative Assembly, if I were to invite every person supporting this desire here to the Chamber, there wouldn't be enough room to house every person who wishes to see Inuit culture incorporated into government operations.

That being the case, I believe every MLA will have to put a stronger emphasis on incorporating the missing elements of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in government operations in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. We have to consider their wishes if elected. If members again remain out of touch and do not take this into consideration, then Inuit historical knowledge will just disappear.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we as Inuit don't believe in our own cultural skills and social counselling techniques or that it has any power. I wonder if *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* will ever be brought back to life within this Western-driven

institution. That is extremely unfortunate.

Nunavut was created because of Inuit, so let us sincerely review what real Inuit want incorporated into our government. For example, Inuit social interactive techniques should be in court proceedings, RCMP operations, justice, and corrections operations. Inuit want to see *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* acknowledged by these western institutions and the departments, which is what I want to see so that Inuit can be full partners in these areas and be part of the frontline workers. This requires incorporation, absolutely!

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>Applause

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, as we are sitting in our last days as members, I may not be re-elected in my riding and perhaps no knowledgeable and passionate elders will be elected, as I believe I am one of the last of the generations who grew up traditionally in real Inuit ways here. I may be the last one to have been elected, not knowing my own future.

Mr. Speaker, the need to incorporate Inuit culture into government operations is something we feel is missing, where Inuit traditional practices, knowledge, skills and abilities in social counselling and proper Inuit family relations, such as Inuit parent-in-law rules or sons/daughters-in-law relations, form the best aspects of Inuit society.

Today Inuit have lost most of their traditional authority related to Inuit societal rules, resulting in many

dysfunctional Inuit families and communities. What I seem to understand today is that most of the younger generations don't believe in Inuit knowledge and skills. Not at all!

All MLAs have to understand this principle: as people will continue to run and get elected, this traditional Inuit knowledge, which many Inuit still believe in, may result in a future government. Many voters state that we don't do enough to incorporate Inuit desires and now they are hitting the nail on the head. We have forgotten the desires of our constituents and concentrated on legislation that is drafted opposite of what the majority want incorporated within our territory.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude, as this is my last statement, I am advising people who wish to run in the future that the Inuit strengths, skills, capabilities, and abilities must be fully acknowledged and incorporated into our foundational legislation with a number so it can become law. If we again sidestep our responsibility and ignore *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, our lives as a society will continue to deteriorate.

I passionately urge my colleagues and future MLAs who may be elected to continue the fight to deliver on Inuit expectations and desires that are relevant to their daily lives and cultural practices. There are many aspects of traditional Inuit that are better than western ideals. If we incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into these areas within government operations, it will perhaps lead, though not immediately, to a better society.

I therefore urge all colleagues and request agreement ensuring it is a priority that we recognize the strongest parts of Inuit societal values with a government that is for Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 639 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Baker Lake
Post-secondary Students**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, good day to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly acknowledge and congratulate four Baker Lake residents who have been accepted into post-secondary studies in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate:

- Kelsey Qarliksaq, who was accepted into Durham College in Oshawa, Ontario;
- Chillonda Uqayuittuq and Maisie Tunguaq, who were also accepted into Durham College; and
- Sally Kingilik, who was accepted into Georgian College in Orillia, Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot of work and dedication to graduate from high school.

While I am on this topic, I would like to take this opportunity to also congratulate

Jessica Avaala, Jade Kudloo, David Osbourne, Lisa Parker, and Magdalene Ukpaticku on graduating from Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School in Baker Lake this year.

Mr. Speaker, it takes additional effort to apply for and continue with post-secondary education after high school. I am very pleased that Kelsey, Chillonda, Maisie, and Sally have decided to continue their academic efforts in post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, I should note that despite being accepted and ready to go to college....

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Baker Lake is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Mikkungwak, please proceed.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, I should note that despite being accepted and ready to go to college, Maisie will be delaying her further education for a bit in order to stay with her family during a difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by these individuals who are embarking on the next phase of their education and taking the steps towards building a successful future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these young graduates the best of luck in their studies and academic pursuits as they begin their new college year. They make us all proud. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 640 – 4(3): High School Graduates in Constituency

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

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate I wasn't able to attend the beginning of the session due to inclement weather. We were stuck for almost an entire week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a congratulatory announcement for the students in my riding who graduated from grade 12.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Minister of Education for being able to come to Coral Harbour to attend the ceremony. Of course this took place over a day, but both of the communities held their ceremonies on the same day. The minister wasn't able to attend the one in Naujaat. I do want to extend my gratitude to the minister for going to Coral Harbour for the latest graduation ceremony in our community.

I take great pride, particularly in smaller communities, for their accomplishments and for the increases in the number of

students graduating from high school as it opens doors for opportunities to further their education related to their chosen career.

I also strongly encourage all students who have graduated from grade 12 to try to continue with their education as it can result in a very good career. It can also lead to employment opportunities in senior management positions within the Government of Nunavut, but again, it is contingent of furthering their education. I strongly urge all Nunavummiut who have graduated from high school to continue.

With that I would like to mention the names of the graduates in Naujaat:

- Albert Amautinuar
- Edmond Bruce
- Kelcey Evalaaq
- Shelly Iguptak
- Nellie Kopak
- Michael Kridluar
- Jane Katokra
- Christine Katokra
- Louis Kabvitok
- Susanna Mablik
- Jennifer Tungilik
- Lucy Siusangnark

Those are the grade 12 graduates.

In Coral Harbour:

- Johnny Jr. Ningeongan
- Malaiyah Nakoolak
- Ashley Eetuk
- Joe Bruce Nakoolak
- Sandy Jr. Saviakjuk
- Joellen Netser
- Brandon Netser
- Sabrina Nakoolak

Mr. Speaker, as I am not quite done my statement, I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Aivilik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Mapsalak, please proceed.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues.

I'll continue with the graduates' names:

- Brandon Netser
- Sabrina Nakoolak
- Renee Pameolik
- Dayna Kalai
- Desiree Pameolik
- Shana Taparti

There are a total of 12 graduates in that community.

I wish to state that the number of students in Naujaat is increasing exponentially. Many students enjoy their studies and the result has been many more graduates. They also expect that next year the numbers will be much higher than this year's number of graduates because of the enjoyable atmosphere to learn in. I urge all the grade 12 graduates to further their education so that they will have opportunities for better employment.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the grade 12 graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 641 – 4(3):
Bowhead Whale Hunt Underway
in Kimmirut**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. I also say "good afternoon" to the visitors in the gallery, people of Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations and to express my wishes for success to the hunters of Kimmirut who are preparing for a bowhead whale hunt over the fall.

Mr. Speaker, the right to hunt whales stems from the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, which allows for Inuit to harvest certain types of sea mammals. I am quite proud of the people in Kimmirut who will be exercising this right. We have heard of successes of other communities in past bowhead whale hunts within Nunavut.

The Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers Organization and their board members have submitted an application to hunt whales based on the wishes of the Kimmirut residents, so I thank them immensely.

Mr. Speaker, in the past Inuit were the sole hunters of the whales prior to the whaling era, when Europeans arrived to our shores to harvest bowhead whales, resulting in a near eradication of these cetaceans. Nonetheless, through careful management, the populations have increased to a point where harvesting can once again occur, which is one of

our traditional cultural practices and rights that we can again practise.

I wish the hunting party success in the bowhead whale hunt they are preparing for and to ensure they conduct a safe hunt. This applies to all the people who will be party to this hunt, in particular the Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers Organization and board members, as well as all the residents of Kimmirut who will participate in this hunt.

The *maktaaq* and meat will feed a lot of people. We look forward to this hunt, and we will most likely receive news of a successful hunting event sometime in our future. I congratulate the residents of Kimmirut for going ahead with the hunt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 642 – 4(3): Update on the Sailivik Society

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give you and my colleagues an update on the progress being made by the Sailivik Society towards opening an elders' long-term care housing facility here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I was interested to note the Minister of Health's comments the other day with regard to searching out partnerships to construct or reconfigure existing infrastructure to meet the need for elder care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, while representatives from the Sailivik Society have met a number

of times with representatives from the Department of Health on this issue, we are still waiting for a confirmed financial commitment from that quarter.

However, I am very pleased to advise you and my colleagues that the Sailivik Society has been successful in accessing funding support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and from the GN's Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in these days of limited resources I agree that partnerships are extremely important in achieving success with projects such as the Sailivik Society's long-term care housing project.

Mr. Speaker, the Sailivik Society has been working very hard towards getting this facility built. Having the Government of Nunavut involved as a full partner in that process would certainly help to move it forward.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many of my colleagues will agree that keeping our elders at home in Nunavut is much preferred to sending them out of the territory to unfamiliar locations away from family, friends, and the community.

I encourage the government to increase its efforts in this area by becoming a more active partner with societies and organizations which are working towards keeping our elders in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 643 – 4(3): Food Security in Nunavut

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When our Premier made his statement earlier, I didn't hear him say what I wanted to talk about, which was to see a four-year summary that we can provide to our constituents. I support it in that respect.

I say "good day" to my fellow Inuit and Nunavummiut.

I rise to talk about that issue.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the issue of food security in Nunavut has been raised on many occasions during the current Legislative Assembly.

According to the 2015 *Nunavut Food Price Survey*, the prices of food in Nunavut communities have been steadily increasing with each passing year, making healthy food less and less accessible for our families.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are many programs that are currently being delivered in Nunavut that promote healthy living. However, without affordable access to nutritious food, healthy living will remain a distant dream for far too many families in our territory.

A balanced diet supports mental health, success in learning, and good decision-making. Mr. Speaker, the well-being of each community relies on the ability of each individual to eat and live well.

Many Nunavut families utilize their ability to hunt and country food to supplement their diets, but many families do not have this opportunity

either. The availability of certain wildlife in certain areas and the high cost of hunting equipment are just two barriers that many families are currently facing.

Mr. Speaker, during our recent spring sitting the Premier tabled his letter to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs regarding the federal Nutrition North Canada. I was pleased to note the Premier's commitment to working with the federal government to improve that program, and I encourage the next government to keep Nunavummiut updated on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will have questions on this issue for the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 644 – 4(3): Support for an Elders Facility in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of an elders facility for the community of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, this summer the government awarded a contract for the needs assessment and options development for an addictions and trauma treatment centre in Nunavut. While I do not oppose the establishment of such a facility, I feel it equally important that we examine what options are available for providing support and care for our elders in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, currently there is an extremely effective treatment centre which focuses specifically on Inuit culture and values. I am very impressed with the operations of the MAMISARVIK Centre in Ottawa. We also have a mobile treatment program in western Nunavut which also focuses on Inuit cultural values.

However, our elders are being sent to facilities outside of Nunavut where their language, culture, and even their regular diet are lost.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we must re-evaluate our current needs and challenges. We must determine our priorities and refocus.

I sincerely hope that the new government will make the establishment of elders facilities in Nunavut a priority in order that families and communities can stay together and support each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 645 – 4(3): Clyde River Succeeds in Halting Seismic Testing

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate some individuals.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the people of Clyde River worked very hard in dealing with the issue of seismic testing in the ocean. The people of Clyde River and the representatives of the hamlet council, as well as the hunters and trappers organizations took a stand

against seismic testing around their communities. That was a petroleum development company.

If seismic testing had been done near Clyde River, it would have had a devastating effect on the marine mammals, especially the crustaceans and smaller animals. These crustaceans and small animals are the major food source of larger marine mammals. Seismic testing would not only affect Clyde River but all Nunavut communities.

I would like to congratulate the individuals of Clyde River who worked very hard to oppose seismic testing. I received some invitations to go to Ottawa to deal with this subject. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in opposing seismic testing. They were able to win a case in the Supreme Court. I am very proud of that. If we had not created Nunavut, I am certain that we wouldn't have been able to do that.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Uqqummiut is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, please proceed.

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

This was a very important case and very likely if Nunavut wasn't created, we wouldn't have been able to achieve what we did.

We all know that it indicates in the land claims agreement that if there's going to be major development in the oceans or on the land, the communities must be consulted prior to the development or testing being started. I am very pleased that we will be able to exercise the power that's outlined in the agreement.

We are able to sit here as Members of the Legislative Assembly because of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. We have to implement and make sure that the signatories follow what's in the agreement. All Nunavut communities, especially the outlying communities, have to be consulted prior to the start of any development.

I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating all the individuals who participated in that successful court case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 646 – 4(3): New Book Titled “Inuit Laws”

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful to be able to rise today to make my statement especially in light of our colleague's passion about IQ, as his statements are full of information. I am referring to the High Arctic MLA who voices the need to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* that he generally promotes and advocates for. He isn't alone in pushing for it and I wanted to let him know that.

The law society also provides this discussion, as they assisted in the production of a book. This book was produced from a collection of files from Nunavut Arctic College and the title of the book is *Inuit Laws*. The Inuktitut sections relate to *Tirigusuusit*, *Piqaujait*, and *Maligait*. This was done in conjunction with several elders no longer with us, but who were all very wise residents of Nunavut and they were: Mariano Aupilardjuk, Marie Tulimaaq, Emile Immaroitok, and two of my previous constituents, Akeeshoo Joamie and Lucassie Nutaraluk.

The stories were very strongly worded. They were printed and are now available. The contents are such that any person who wishes to live by those words can do so as it specifies how people can become contributing members of society, and it applies to everyone who is Inuk. The stories are very practicable and believable as it is based on Inuit traditional knowledge. It is a source of pride and showcases their level of knowledge.

The books are available here at the stores, and I believe they are in most of our libraries today since being produced and circulated. This obviously won't be the only edition which can assist Inuit to strengthen their cultural foundations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 647 – 4(3):
Long-term Service Award
Recipients from Pangnirtung

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People of Nunavut, people of Pangnirtung, and visitors in the gallery, I wish for all of us to have a great day.

I rise to acknowledge several long-term service awards for people working in our government. This Saturday awards were given to a number of public servants and we had a dinner hosted by Human Resources to recognize government workers serving many years.

I am quite proud of two individuals who were given long-term service awards. This year marks their 25 years of employment within the government. They are Jeannie Metuq, who has worked for the government for many years, and Apea Sowduapik, who has spent over 30 years with the public service.

With respect to their long-term services and contributions, both have assisted many people and our community of Pangnirtung through their work. I am very proud of their accomplishments as well as the many others who received long-term service awards on Saturday.

In particular the Clerk of the House, who has been with the government for 45 years, I am very proud of his commitment and he has contributed a lot to the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Thank you. I'm sorry. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today to recognize visitors in the gallery. This is a group of elders who have been working with the Department of Justice on the design of the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre. This group has also taken an active role in reviewing and developing programming, cultural orientation and training for corrections. One of their main focuses has been on giving advice for staffing of existing and future correctional facilities. They're extremely important to the department and we value their wisdom and advice which has helped shape the design of this project.

Please join me in welcoming, they're right behind me here: Nipisha Bracken, a full-time counsellor at the Baffin Correctional Centre and facilitator of this committee; Nash Sagiatoak, an elder counsellor at the Makigiarvik; Abigail Idlout, an elder counsellor at the Nunavut Women's Correctional Centre and Baffin Correctional Centre; and Paul Idlout, an elder counsellor at the Utaqqivik, the community residential centre.

I would like to welcome them to the gallery and congratulate them on their important work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery, those who were just mentioned. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the individuals who were just recognized.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize my cousin. He has been working with the government for 30 years. He doesn't look over 30, but he has been working with the government for 30 years. I would like to welcome my cousin and a fellow Pond Inlet community member, Joapie Killiktee. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the community of Gjoa Haven.

I would like to recognize a constituent from Gjoa Haven. He was one of the recipients of the 35-year award. He was asked earlier if he was ready to stop working, but then he told the person, "Maybe someday." He will probably go as far as 45 years, as our Clerk.

This person at one time was also a mayor of Gjoa Haven and he does a lot of work for the community, especially on the radio programs. He goes to the radio station at eight o'clock in the morning just so that the students can go to school, if there's any information that needs to be put out into the community. He's at the radio station from 8:00 to 9:00 in the morning. Also, he does radio shows for local elders so that they can stay home and listen to the radio and give them a chance to tell their story or anything that needs to be told.

He's an important person. I would like to recognize Mr. Allen Aglukkaq from Gjoa Haven.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the galley. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am quite happy today to recognize several individuals who received long-term service awards working for the government. A day after our session on September 16 we were very happy to recognize Inuit who worked for a long time.

(interpretation ends) The following individuals have served a service of 30 years and we are pleased to welcome them all to the gallery. I'll say their names and hold your applause, please, because I have a number of people to recognize here for 35 years. Irene Tanuyak for 30 years, Anne Mullin, Saimata Arlooktoo, Joapie Killiktee; and

for 35 years of service: Saa Pitsiulak, Allen Owljoot, and Mr. Dave Monteith.

Mr. Speaker, from what I can gather out there in the public, there are whispers of this person becoming a legend. For the first time in the GN, to recognize 45 years of service, John Quirke.

>>*Laughter*

We thank them all for their years of service and welcome here to the House. (interpretation) 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 Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize my niece who was from Chesterfield Inlet but has now moved to Iqaluit. She's the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Department of Family Services, my niece Irene Tanuyak. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome each and every one of you, but especially the elders and my constituents, Paul Oodlateeta Idlout and his wife, Abigail. Welcome. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite pleased, as I have felt like a loner for not recognizing people, and with only two days left in our mandate I will recognize a person in the gallery.

I recognize Levi Barnabas. If he could please stand so I can acknowledge him. He has been working for many years now, although he is middle-aged and no longer a youth. He is one of my constituents, so I am very pleased to recognize a person I can actually recognize in my last days.

He works for the Qikiqtani Inuit Association as a board member and he is working on the Mary River file. He was also previously an MLA in the legislature, so his accomplishments are something I take pride in. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a visitor in the gallery for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to recognize visitors here, especially an individual whom I have represented for a long time.

Although he was recognized earlier, I am quite glad Dave Monteith stayed a bit longer. His name is well known. Whenever we go to the river at the territorial park, we mention his name and wonder how he is doing. Please welcome him.

I also have a relative here in the gallery, Nash Sagiatoak, who is my cousin. I would like to welcome you to the gallery.

There is also an individual I grew up with. It seems like my age group doesn't have much opportunity to come and visit here. We usually played outside a lot because he used to be my neighbour. I would like to welcome Andrew Karpik. He's not a stranger at all. I know that he has made every logo for the Nunavut government. I want you to acknowledge him and his uncle, Imoona Karpik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery, those who were just mentioned. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. As usual, my colleague immediately to my right took the opportunity to recognize one of my constituents.

I will recognize him this way, as Andrew Karpik is also a relative of mine. He is a master artist specializing in art. I can only acknowledge him as a master artist as he is one of most well-known artists in the world and in Canada.

As per my colleague's remarks, the logos we see around the Legislative Assembly were largely drawn by Andrew Karpik.

Further, I wish to also acknowledge my paternal uncle, Imoona Karpik, who is an original Pangnirtung resident.

There are some other people who grew up in Pangnirtung, and as I am almost at the end of my term I want to recognize a person with whom I spent my childhood with, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

If you didn't know the name of the person sitting next to me, I would also like to recognize Pauloosie Okalik. I wish to also acknowledge him at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery, those who were just mentioned. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know this person was recognized already, but it's somebody I used to work with when I worked in the Department of Education and it was always a pleasure going to work in the morning. There was always a smile on her face and she added to the friendly atmosphere of the division I worked with. I would like to welcome and congratulate Anne Mullin on her work service and also her recent retirement from the Department of Health, of which I am responsible for.

I would also like to take this time to recognize somebody I met at the event on Saturday night. I had the pleasure of talking with him for a few minutes on the future technical advances that are coming with the digital imaging equipment that is going to be sent up to Pond Inlet in the next year. I would like to welcome Joapie Killiktee to the House as well.

Speaking of the event on Saturday night that most of us attended and the staff, the organization of that event was exemplary. I would really like to take this time to welcome one of the representatives of the Department of Finance here. Mr. Speaker, she's no stranger to the House, but she's normally sitting at the witness table. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Alma Power to the House as well. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

As the Speaker, I would like to recognize an individual who was part of the Nunavut government at the very start of its operations and who fulfilled the role of the Speaker firstly. Levi Barnabas, welcome.

>>*Applause*

I have no more names for Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 853 – 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.

Mr. Speaker, during the last session I asked the minister about this matter, so I will follow up with these questions. It relates to the airport's airstrip in Naujaat which is still too short to accommodate larger aircraft.

I stated at the time that the Calm Air manager whom I met with informed us during the Manitoba round-table meetings that if the airstrip in Naujaat was extended by 100 feet, the aircraft could carry an additional 6,000 lbs. of cargo.

With that being the case, I felt this was the least of the issues to deal with. I asked the minister if this extension to increase the length of the airstrip by 100 feet could be studied. I asked how difficult it would be to do that and requested a study be done for an extension. I felt it wouldn't be too onerous since I have seen the airstrip personally and I see it all the time.

The actual work to extend the runway by 100 feet would be very little work. With that being the case, I would like to ask the minister: did she task her officials to look into extending the airstrip in Naujaat? 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 the member for the question. I discussed this matter with my officials. To date nothing has been done. Although it seems like a simple matter, we would need to come up with funding. I can tell the member that the air terminal is part of the expression of interest to the federal government. We haven't heard from them yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I already know about the expression of interest for terminals in Nunavut. I know that the terminal is too small, but as I stated, I asked questions during the last session in regard to the airstrip.

It's only 100 feet and I know that it's not very complicated to work on this. I just wanted her department to look into how difficult it would be to extend the airstrip. I don't think it would be very expensive. I think it was more along the lines of planning. If they can go over to the community and do the fact-finding, I know that it would be very easy. They shortened the airstrip when it was reconstructed. I believe that it is a very simple matter. That's what I was asking the minister.

I wonder if the minister can ask her officials to look into how the runway can be extended and find out how difficult it would be to do so. This will allow the next government to do planning and it's something that Calm Air has asked for.

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. In regard to the member's question, we also have officials in Rankin Inlet and perhaps we will go through their office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my very last question. Since I doubt I will ever get the chance to ask the minister again, I'll pose this question for the third time since tomorrow is our last sitting day.

I would like to ask my very last question because the benefits will be significantly greater. Can the minister commit prior to the end of her ministerial term to tasking her officials in Rankin Inlet, since it is close by and the project isn't a capital project, to look into how to resolve that tiny extension of the airstrip? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. I already indicated that our staff in Rankin Inlet will be directed to

go to that community. I can't say when a good time would be to do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Paulosie Keyootak.

Question 854 – 4(3): Compensation for Damage Caused by Polar Bears

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as the people who are listening to and watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, I asked questions to the minister previously on this same matter. It is about Inuit who have their equipment and materials destroyed by polar bears, and hunters who try to request compensation for destroyed property.

The compensation process is very complicated and we all know of people who have never been approved. Further, polar bears are increasing in numbers and there are more cases of polar bears destroying property. In the old days we recall we had no worries of polar bears approaching hunters.

Hunters would sleep in canvas tents or in the springtime many hunters would sleep on their *qamutit* without having to bother setting up a camp. This was in the spring when many Inuit had no experiences with dangerous situations in our area on the land due to the lower numbers of polar bears.

Currently we are all aware of the dangers and most hunters now need cabins to ensure they are protected when they are in their hunting areas. Many Inuit now own cabins outside of the communities. Although there are many cabins now, a polar bear will ransack a cabin with all the contents strewn outside.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked the minister questions about compensation in cases where property and belongings are destroyed by polar bears. I wonder if the minister can identify how much damage one has to suffer before compensation can be approved. Is there an upper or lower limit for damages one must suffer? For example, what's the monetary value that has to be damaged before applications for compensation can be approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The compensation is for any kind of damage from any animal. It doesn't matter if it's a polar bear or something else. I can tell my colleague that there is no minimum amount set for damages, but there is a maximum amount of compensation they can get for damages. There is no minimum limit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just said that there is a maximum amount that is available and can be applied for, but

there is no minimum.

In my community there have been many instances of damage because we have so many polar bears around our community being we're so close to the ocean. Every year the contents of somebody's cabin get damaged, such as sleeping bags, and we've had to bring them with us in order to make sure they don't get destroyed.

Whenever a polar bear breaks into a cabin, everything inside is destroyed. All the stuff that we own is expensive, such as sleeping bags, mattresses, and cooking utensils. They are all strewn outside by polar bears. Of those who have tried to get compensated in our community, no one has ever successfully been compensated.

Mr. Speaker, there was one person who said that his cabin was destroyed three times. I also have a cabin nearby. Our cabins are close to each other and both our cabins were destroyed with all the contents strewn outside. They are totally useless now.

Many people have tried for compensation from my community and up until now nobody has ever been approved. Why is it so difficult to get compensation? Even though they tell us that compensation is available, to date no one in my community has ever been compensated. What do they have to do in order to get compensated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I stated

previously, when cabins are destroyed by wildlife, the owner can apply to the Department of Environment for compensation to replace their personal belongings or the cabin. We have policies that have to be followed and if they meet those criteria, they can get compensation.

I can't say whether or not the people he's talking about have been approved or not. As I stated earlier, for damages to equipment or personal belongings, there is no minimum damage that needs to be done. There is a maximum amount of compensation that is available, but we don't set a minimum for the amount of damage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there are many people who have applied for compensation and they have to follow the policies. They're told to take pictures of the damages and to write down what happened. We try to do that and we take pictures. They take proper pictures and they also write down what was destroyed and provide that to the officer in the community. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate who approves or denies these compensation requests? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am unsure if you meant who approves or denies the requests.

The process starts at the community level where the local conservation officer would receive an application from the hunter with supporting correspondence from the HTO, and then it would be sent to (interpretation ends) the regional centre. (interpretation) For the Baffin region it is in Pond Inlet, so the application would go there and here in Iqaluit. Once all the offices have approved that request, the application for compensation would be approved.

For the listening audience in Nunavut, the hunter has to fill out a form and they're supposed to be notified within 45 days as to whether they have been approved or not. That's set so that they don't wait for extended periods of time for their answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 855 – 4(3): Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College.

In June of this year the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation announced that its board of directors had approved its annual work plan.

The minister sits on the board of directors of the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.

Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the Makigiaqta Inuit Training

Corporation's most current work plan in the House before the end of the current Legislative Assembly? (interpretation)
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 requesting information on that. Yes, what you said is correct. We sit on that board. The report is drawn up by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, but we know that there are only two days left of this House and tomorrow will be the last day. It is still set like that. It can be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
The Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation was established with funds provided by the Government of Canada following the 2015 settlement agreement that was signed by the federal government, the territorial government, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. It has provided approximately \$4.5 million in funding to date for various training initiatives.

For the record, can the minister confirm if any of this funding has been used to support the new Nunavut Law Program that is being delivered at Nunavut Arctic College? 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. During the board meetings we are presented with information on who has applied for funding that is available for requests through the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.

As you are aware, Nunavut Tunngavik successfully sued the federal government, where the federal government was charged with losses and they had to pay that amount. Ever since the creation of this fund, many organizations have applied for and received funding from this money.

However, what I can tell my colleague is that with respect to the Nunavut Law Program, it has its own funding separate from our government and their funds are not from that fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June of this year the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation announced \$1.5 million in funding for four Inuit-specific training initiatives to be delivered by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Pirurvik Centre, the Nunavut Literacy Council, and Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik. The stated purpose of this training is to, and I quote, “enhance the preparedness of Nunavut Inuit for government and other employment.”

For the record, can the minister confirm how many people are currently participating in the four training initiatives? 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. This \$1.5 million fund my colleague referenced will provide substantial benefits. It is going to different organizations. Nonetheless, I can't say exactly how many people will benefit from this funding.

Alternatively what I can say is that the funding will benefit many Inuit with their spoken language, especially our preschool students who will be taught Inuktitut literacy starting programming, to see how they can be taught to speak in Inuktitut. This is primarily geared towards Inuktitut literacy programming, as that is the main focus.

Although I can't provide an exact number of residents who would benefit, I can say that many people will benefit from this funding. The organizations my colleague named have many employees and many more children they serve who are within these programs. It's obvious that the funding will be spent wisely. However, in looking at these bodies, many Inuit use these facilities. I can't provide an exact figure of how many people would benefit from these funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 856 – 4(3): Human Papillomavirus Vaccine

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll direct my question to the Minister of Health.

I'm not aware what the terminology is in Inuktitut, so I'll be speaking in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the human papillomavirus is an illness that can cause cancer in its victims, either male or female. There is a known vaccine that is very effective and has been used elsewhere in our country.

I want to ask the minister; these vaccines have to be administered on young people at an early age. Has the department been administering this vaccine to the young people in our territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this question. There have been a number of advances in the vaccination program for HPV, as it's called. I couldn't even pretend to know the Inuktitut version. It's something we're going to have to work on with the IUT to make sure we have defined language and descriptions of these things.

I can confirm that we do utilize vaccines across the territory. They're done at the grade 6 level. There are doses that are provided at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information has been released about the effectiveness of this vaccine and the consequences of not being vaccinated are that it can lead to cervical cancer or other cancers on both sexes later on.

I wonder if the Department of Health will provide more public health information on this vaccine to the public and which age groups require this, as it can affect anyone who hasn't been vaccinated and vaccinations can stop this disease from affecting people throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for his continued interest in this. It's a very good program. I can say that the decision to offer it at a grade 6 level has one of the main benefits as it allows the people to build an immune system so that they can't contract this virus. I'm not aware of the benefit of these types of vaccinations at later stages of life. It's something we can look into.

I do want to confirm that, as the member stated, there are other jurisdictions that do it and there are currently nine other jurisdictions that are switching over to the HPV-9 virus which actually gives immunization against nine different strains of the HP virus, two of which are responsible for 70 percent of cervical cancers and then additionally up to 90 percent coverage of genital warts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 857 – 4(3): Difficulties with FANS

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier in my member's statement I was very proud to recognize four Baker Lake residents who are going on to post-secondary education in Ontario.

However, they almost didn't get to go due to problems in accessing the FANS support that they needed to have in place before they could attend. I am grateful that the staff at the FANS office were able to make it happen in time.

Can the minister provide an update on the current operating status of his department's Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students division and indicate whether it is struggling to keep up with the growing demands for student support? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, funding assistance provided for students who are Nunavut residents continues to increase both in terms of the amount per student and the overall funds. That is the situation.

For various reasons, any Nunavummiut wishing to pursue post-secondary education can apply for these assistance funds for courses outside of Nunavut. Though I can't provide an exact amount, several of the challenges or difficulties students face are due to the fact that there are different funds with different dates for providing the funding, some of which are last minute and can cause delays.

There are some assistance funds available through the Department of Family Services or if they are attending an institution outside of Nunavut, there are funds available through the Department of Education. There are also post-secondary institutions they may wish to go to that are also affected. There are different reasons that can prevent them from obtaining funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the increasing number of high school graduates across Nunavut is a very good thing. We have more and more students graduating successfully, and more and more students looking to go on to post-secondary education at college or university.

At the same time we, as MLAs, are constantly hearing from students who are having great difficulties in getting timely and adequate responses from the FANS office. Sometimes the lack of response and support even jeopardizes their opportunity to go on to higher education.

Is the minister aware that there are ongoing problems with the administration of the FANS program and, if so, what is currently being done to address those problems and fix them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague, as he appears knowledgeable about the challenges faced by students as well as the numbers of students in high schools increasing, along with the numbers of graduates. This is one of our goals as a government and this is the case.

As to what happens in the process after grade 12, there used to be only four places where funding was available to students wishing to attend post-secondary institutions. Any student from Nunavut who wished to attend courses outside would only be paid to the four identified cities. The airline tickets were payable to Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and I believe the last one was Montreal. I can't recall the last city, but today there are 34 institutions recognized that a student can apply towards for funding assistance from the FANS program. This is the reason why it can be problematic, especially if the university or college isn't on the list.

I also want to state that the biggest problems we note are the incomplete funding applications from Nunavut students. Sometimes it's due to missing information on the application which has caused issues. Further, some of the administration offices of the institution

where the student may want to attend can't just be contacted.

To provide an example, a post-secondary institution was identified as the place for one student's studies. However, due to the funding assistance applied for, a problem occurred. The students themselves could receive funding, but the post-secondary institution they wanted to attend wasn't listed and further, the Department of Family Services application had other issues once the institution identified was not on the listing. The funding was for tuition at that institution, but due to the inability to fund their tuition, it can become problematic for the student. If the post-secondary institution has rules pertaining to outside funding assistance, then the rules in place become a problem and if the institution is not on the list, it can't be paid for the courses.

Another issue that I am aware of relates to the other issues in our offices since we are open to many different means of communication, whether it is through electronic mail or website application forms that include the policies which apply to that funding. The information is available on the website. Further, we produced a booklet on the funding assistance programming and how it is set up and the different requirements for attending institutions outside of Nunavut.

With respect to the issues that arose in Baker Lake, I know that both individuals received some assistance and we looked for ways to assist them, but most likely it was due to the closing dates for submitting applications, so they were dealt with up to the ending date of school registration. That is all I can

provide to the member at this time.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the intent of having the administration of the financial aid for Nunavut students program delivered by the Department of Family Services is to support the department's mandate regarding employment and encouraging Nunavummiut in finding opportunities to lead a productive lifestyle.

However, there may also be merit to having Nunavut's student financial support program operated by a department which focuses on education and promoting educational and academic opportunities.

Would the minister agree that restructuring the financial aid for Nunavut students division from the Department of Family Services into the Department of Education would be a good initiative for our next government to consider? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be up to the new government. We can't make decisions on what they will do. I can't say what the next government will do. For the candidates who are running, we can't provide a platform on how they're supposed to do this, but it's only the present situation that I can talk about right now. For those reasons, all I can

say is that it will be dealt with by the next government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 858 – 4(3): Nursing Staff Vacancies

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

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

I know a very big problem exists in Nunavut and that is a lack of nurses, mental health workers, and other health professionals. I am aware that there is a shortage of nurses internationally and that nurses can work anywhere.

In Pond Inlet we have a severe shortage of workers, which began last year. I would like the minister to tell me whether the severe shortage was just in Pond Inlet or if it was all over Nunavut for this past year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking this question. It's something he has asked me on a number of occasions, although I don't believe it has been in the House here. We've had numerous discussions on the challenge of staffing in Pond Inlet. I commend him for bringing forward his community's concerns repeatedly.

Mr. Speaker, over the past year we have made a number of improvements in our recruitment, especially to nursing positions. There are continual challenges with retention. A lot of it is with our health professional recruitment strategy, which a number of people in the Department of Health have been working on, making sure that it's aligning to our model of care report that's hopefully going to be coming out from the Department of Health sometime very soon.

The challenges are not just in Pond Inlet, and I appreciate the member's patience with myself and with the department. I know we have spoken on numerous occasions. I can confirm that there is one indeterminate nurse that will be starting in Pond Inlet in the next few weeks. That is some silver lining, but we are forced to use casuals and contract nurses across the territory to maintain our level of care.

I'm sure all members can attest to any contact they've had with me on the challenges of staffing and the challenges of providing health care in the territory. Some days seem dire. We're working very hard with our officials to make sure that not only are we recruiting nurses across the territory, but that we're retaining them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like further clarification. I do understand that there are a variety of reasons why we have a shortage of health care professionals. Can the minister tell me what the main

reason of this shortage is? Is there an indicator of why we have a shortage? Is it lack of staff housing or maybe the nurses don't want to work up here in the Arctic? Do you know the reasons why we have a hard time retaining workers, especially health care professionals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings up some very good points. Those are true in some cases, but there are also additional challenges. When we're looking at different reasons, that's part of the work that's being done in the health professional recruitment strategy. Staff housing is obviously always a concern. Although nursing staff specifically do rate a little bit higher than most GN employees on the priority list for staff housing, we have a number of cases where nurses are being forced to live together and share accommodations.

There is not just a nursing shortage in Nunavut itself; there's a national and even an international shortage of nursing. One of the real unique circumstances of Nunavut's nursing shortage is that it takes a special type of nurse, a special type of individual to be able to work in a community health centre. It's not your standard nurse that you could just grab from any occupation from across the country. You need that ability to be able to work in a remote location.

As I'm sure all members and all our nurses that work very diligently across this territory can attest, you never know what you're going to see when that door

opens in the morning. That's the first level of care and in a lot of times the last level of care without having the support through physician services at the QGH or through other means like telehealth and that type of thing. Our nurses are our frontline and I can't stress enough the importance of making sure that we keep nurses in a community as long as possible so that they get to know the community, they get to know the people, and they get engaged in the community.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately she wasn't able to make it to the proceedings today. On Saturday we celebrated 35 years of a nurse working in a community here in Nunavut. To me those are the types of successes that show when somebody comes up to Nunavut, works in Nunavut, and gets engaged in the community. I say that with emphasis, Mr. Speaker. It's very important to be engaged in the community and that's what's going to keep our nurses here longer, welcoming them into the community and making sure that they feel like they're supported.

I can't stress enough how stressful of a position it is and I commend all nurses that are working across this great territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my last question, the minister indicated that there's a shortage of nurses not only in Nunavut but also nationally and internationally. Does your department have unique incentives for nurses? For example, they are unique if we look at the national and international levels. Do you have incentives, for

example, staff housing, salary, or something unique that is Nunavut-specific so that we can retain nurses longer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if "unique" is the right word. We do have retention bonuses for nurses, but even that is part of the evaluation on the recruitment strategy to make sure that we're doing everything we can. There have been numerous, different suggestions. As we're aligning with our model of care, we want to make sure that we're covering all our bases.

Just to mention a few things that the recruitment strategy is looking at, I think there are some very important projects in here that are worth mentioning:

- A proper orientation: when a new health care provider comes to Nunavut, we need to set the expectations to them up front and let them know what type of culture and community that they're going to;
- Training and development: nurses always deserve continued training opportunities to be able to develop their careers to enhance the services they can provide to Nunavummiut;
- Respect in the workplace is a huge factor not just in Nunavut but all across the country and even internationally on safety and making sure that our nurses are protected and feel secure in providing care and treat people with respect and

therefore themselves treated with respect;

- Performance management: to make sure that when we're looking at, with any type of function, but health care specifically, if there are any issues or any special attention that needs to be taken to certain practices that need to be addressed on a constructive and positive way; and
- Leadership skills: a lot of community residents look to our nursing staff as leaders within the community.

I think it's important to say that as people spend more time in the north and they get to know the community, there's a role that they have and a responsibility that they have in making sure that people are aware of all the options that are available to them. I think the more well-rounded that knowledge base is, the better level of care that can be provided.

I touched on health and safety earlier. There's also a mental health component to it, Mr. Speaker. When I said earlier that our nurses are working in a very stressful environment, the hours that they work in providing care after-hours, overnight.... During the pertussis outbreak there were nurses that were working days at a time without getting proper relief. That's something that I feel I need to do a better job of as the Minister of Health. Going forward, I know the department takes it very seriously to make sure that we've got the resources for our nurses to be able to do their job properly. That's where the model of care is going to lead direction in that matter.

Again, I can't thank the member enough for his patience. I know we've had numerous discussions over the past year on staffing in Pond Inlet and I hope your colleagues are aware too that I've had discussions with some of them as well on individual communities. It's a continual challenge, but I really appreciate the member's patience in our resolving the situation specifically in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 859 – 4(3): Inuit Employment Initiatives

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and they concern his minister's statement of September 14, 2017 concerning the issue of Inuit employment in the public service.

In his statement, the minister informed the House that the government has conducted an "internal strategic workforce analysis to understand Inuit employment." Will the minister commit to tabling this study before the end of our Legislative Assembly? 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 Mr. Joanasie. As the Premier I committed to ensuring that we increase

the level of Inuit working within the government. We're well positioned, after NTI and the Government of Canada have signed their lawsuit agreement, where we can take advantage of some of these long-term plans.

As I indicated in the last sitting, previously the funding that came from the federal government to assist us in the Inuit training program was not enough for a hot dog party. Again I say that because we did put out a lot of our own money. We used a lot of our own money to create initiatives and create programs to increase Inuit employees within the government.

Mr. Speaker, once the lawsuit was completed, there's an agreement there where we put in a strategic workforce analysis and that continues. The draft is completed and that draft is going back and forth between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has alluded to hot dog parties a second time around through one of my lines of questioning. Maybe he can enlighten us on what kind of parties we need to have in order to get Inuit employment increased.

Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly point out that the number of Nunavut Inuit employed by the government increases by about 50 people each year. At the government's current rate of hiring, we will not achieve a fully representative public government until the year 2063 at

the earliest, which is almost half a century from now. That's not acceptable to me.

In his statement the minister said, and I quote, "...factors of Inuit employment have shifted since 1999. We need to look at the whole picture, not just through a narrow scope. There is value in looking through a lens based on numbers and not projected assumptions."

Can the minister clarify in plain language exactly what he means by using "numbers and not projected assumptions"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Strategic workforce analyses are done by just about every organization in Canada and throughout the world to understand the needs, your labour force, and your future needs. That's one thing that we aim to do because just doing something out there that is not going to prove effective.... We do have to understand what's out there. This is the first time that it has ever been done and this is the first time we're going to understand exactly what we have to do.

What the member says is absolutely correct. Just putting out numbers and trying to increase the level of employees within the government doesn't necessarily work. We've got to understand our situation. We've got to understand what's out there and come up with plans that will benefit our training programs and benefit the number of Inuit

working within the government. If it takes half a century, it's something that I'm not looking forward to because I know that we will have more Inuit working within the government through better education and more graduation.

As a review by Justice Thomas Berger indicated, in order to bring our Inuit numbers up within the governments both territorially and federally, we do have to have graduates. I am really pleased that over the last number of years our graduation rates are increasing. With that in mind, we do have to take into consideration how we're going to plan for the future.

This is the first time and this is the first generation strategic planning is taking place and we're doing that with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One aspect of the government's most recent quarterly report on Inuit employment was the relatively high number of Nunavut Inuit who have worked or who are working as substitute teachers or relief teachers in our schools. The report indicates that 2,556 Nunavut Inuit are or have been employed as relief or substitute teachers.

Can the minister describe what efforts the government is making to provide the necessary training for these relief and substitute teachers so that they can become full-time teachers in our schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member, Mr. Joanasie. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, we have a master Inuit employment plan. It's government-wide through each individual department and corporation, and it's centrally coordinated by the Department of Finance and EIA. With this plan we aim to increase the number of Inuit within the workforce. When I say that, again I've got to say that Inuit who are trained through the programs that we administer or Sivuliqtiksavut or internship, some of these employees do move on to private enterprises.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I can say some of these things about Kugluktuk because I live there. I know that there are 121 employees within the hamlet and most of them are Inuit. That's not necessarily because they want to work for the government. There is the labour force that we've got to pay attention to. We can't start saying that if our labour force is 15 to 65 years old, it doesn't mean they're all available for work.

We have to be strategic. We have to plan well into the future to make sure that our numbers increase in Inuit employment. There has to be a plan with numbers. If there isn't, if we're just grabbing people out there and talking about increasing numbers with no plan, it doesn't work. That's why we have gone through the strategic workforce analysis to ensure that we have a good plan going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 860 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet’s Freshwater Supply

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is aware, Nipissar Lake is unable to meet Rankin Inlet’s long-term demand for freshwater. The community had previously pumped water from Char River to replenish Nipissar Lake. However, this may no longer be a viable option as Char River’s water levels are now also quite low, as demonstrated in the photographs that I tabled in the House last week.

On May 31, 2017, during our recent spring sitting, the minister stated that his department, at that time, was waiting for approval from the Nunavut Impact Review Board in order to obtain a water licence that would allow Rankin Inlet to begin pumping water from First Landing Lake to Nipissar Lake. The minister also stated that his department had anticipated that all necessary permits would be in place by the summer of 2017. It is my understanding that as of today the community has not been able to begin pumping water from First Landing Lake.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide the House today with an update on when Rankin Inlet will be permitted to pump water from First Landing Lake to Nipissar Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On some issues here like the water supply in Rankin Inlet and the sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq, I seem to talk like a broken record and my answers are all the same. A common factor on that is those projects have stuff beyond our control for the regulatory process.

I can give an update for the Rankin Inlet water situation with an explanation. The hamlet has a water licence to pump from Char Lake and, as the member knows and as we saw from the pictures, Char Lake has pretty well dried up.

Another factor that comes into play there is the water licence only permits 10 percent of the water flow to be pumped while Char River is pumping. All we can pump even when the water is pumping is 10 percent of the water volume. We have tried to argue that this water ends up in the ocean and we would like to pump more, but that is going nowhere.

We had hoped that the water licence would be in place and that we would have been pumping from Char Lake, but we have not received the water licence yet to pump from Char Lake. We have the piping in place to pump from Char Lake. A larger pump to pump from Char Lake has been ordered. Everything is in place and we are just waiting for a licence to build a pump from Char Lake, but I am sorry to tell the member that that is out of our control. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the pipe that was previously used to pump water from Char River to Nipissar Lake was left unused for a number of weeks earlier in the summer. It is my understanding that the community has only recently begun pumping water from Char River.

Can the minister explain who decides when the community may begin pumping water from Char River and how that decision is made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The conditions are set out by the water board as to when we can pump from Char River and when we can't. As I explained earlier, we can only pump 10 percent of the volume that is going through. When the water level gets too low, it triggers a process to stop the pumps. It's a part of the condition of the water licence that was issued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. During our recent spring sitting, the minister indicated that his department monitors each community's freshwater supply in order to keep track of those which may be at risk of suffering from water shortages.

Can the minister tell us today: when was the last time that his department formally analyzed Rankin Inlet's Nipissar Lake to determine its lifespan and its capacity to meet the community's demand for fresh water? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't tell the member exactly when the last time it was evaluated.

As I stated earlier in this week too when the question was asked about water supplies, it's very easy to analyze where there is a man-made reservoir where you know how much it holds and you know what the consumption is. It's a bit trickier when it's a lake or a natural reservoir because the natural replenishment rate is different from year to year. If it snows a lot or if it rains a lot, if there's lots of runoff, then the water levels go up naturally by that.

I can assure the member that once we have the water board licence, we will be pumping with a 10-inch pump from First Landing Lake. I can assure him that 10-inch pipe will be pumping that water quicker than it can be used, so there should be no problem with replenishing Nipissar Lake once we have our water licence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Motion 061 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the member from South Baffin, that the time allotted for Oral Questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Question 861 – 4(3): Sanikiluaq’s Corrections Officer Vacancy

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, being in a non-decentralized community, every GN job counts to a community's success.

The community corrections officer position in Sanikiluaq has been vacant since July of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has previously stated that his department was unable to fill Sanikiluaq's community corrections officer position due to a lack of housing for that position.

Can the minister clarify if, as of today, his department has secured housing for this position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I have been to Sanikiluaq a couple of times. I am familiar with the shortage of housing and office space in the community. Mr. Rumbolt has been lobbying actively for housing and office space over the years. I am sorry to report that we haven't secured housing for that position as of yet. We're still waiting for a unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can explain or clarify what specific actions his department has taken to fill this position since July of 2016 and when does he anticipate having housing for this position. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't been sitting idly by. We have been actively trying to secure housing. I'm just reading my briefing note. We did have a job evaluation process. There was a formal request for a housing unit submitted in February 2017, earlier this year. Again, the serious lack of GN staff housing in Sanikiluaq has been plaguing us. We haven't received confirmation yet for that. In the meantime we have been

trying to hire a casual to fill that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Community corrections officers, also known as probation officers, provide an important service for individuals who are re-entering society after being discharged from correctional centres. Community corrections officers can be essential to those individuals' success in leading to a productive life within their community.

Can the minister tell me if his department provides long-distance probation services to individuals in communities that do not have a community corrections officer and, if so, can he describe how this long-distance service works? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do provide probation services done on weekly telephone calls right now from, I believe, Rankin Inlet. There are attempts to have in-person meetings where someone would fly in from another community. There have been a couple of attempts, I believe, from just reading my information. There was an attempt earlier this year and it was cancelled due to weather and a second attempt where there were no hotel rooms in the community. I believe the plan is to try to go again in October.

We do appreciate Mr. Rumbolt's concerns and we are complying with the responsibilities to offer probation

services. I am not aware of any concerns with any of the people on probation communicating, but we would prefer, obviously, if we had someone in the community. Hopefully at some point we will be able to secure the housing and go to a competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 862 – 4(3): NNI Policy

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

The government's new NNI Policy came into effect on April 1, 2017 and has been in place for almost six months now.

The new NNI Policy establishes a new NNI Tribunal. The role of the tribunal is to, and I am quoting from the NNI Policy, "hear and decide on complaints regarding the application of the NNI Policy in the award of any contracts covered by the NNI Policy."

During our spring sitting, the minister announced the names of the new tribunal members. Can the minister indicate today how many formal complaints have been submitted to the tribunal since its establishment earlier this year? 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. To date I haven't been informed of how many complaints the tribunal has heard. The members that we identified haven't changed to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to revisit an issue that I raised with the minister during our spring sitting.

Section 17 of the new NNI Policy provides for bid adjustments in the government's procurement process. The new NNI Policy now provides for additional bid adjustments for Inuit firms with higher ownership levels. To illustrate, the new NNI Policy provides that a firm with 100 percent Inuit ownership level will receive an additional bid adjustment above what firms with lower Inuit ownership levels are entitled to receive.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that it is the responsibility of NTI to determine the relative levels of Inuit ownership of firms in its registry. My question for the minister is simply this: can she confirm whether or not NTI has provided the government with an updated listing of firms, including their new Inuit ownership ratings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for her question. The NNI Secretariat works closely with NTI to develop policies, which also occurred in this case. They dealt with the draft regulations and NTI stated that they didn't have issues with the NNI Secretariat's list of recommendations.

Yes, it's true that Inuit firms are identified through NTI and the list is updated regularly. New businesses, from my experience, can submit applications anytime with updates being regularly done by NTI. There are no closing dates set on the listing of an Inuit-owned company, so this application and list can be changed when the need arises related to their business ownership status. With respect to a company that may be submitting a bid, the secretariat checks with NTI's list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her response. This year's Nunavut Trade Show starts tomorrow in Iqaluit, and I am looking forward to attending a number of the events myself, hopefully. I also want to take this opportunity to express my congratulations to all of the people at the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce who work very hard each year to make this event a success.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that conference session no. 5 will focus on the new NNI Policy. Can the minister confirm if she will be attending this session so that she has the opportunity to

directly receive feedback on the success of the policy for which her department is responsible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I will be attending the Nunavut Trade Show. I don't particularly think I need to be sitting on the panel discussion on the NNI Secretariat as staff will be there that are quite capable and certainly they can report to us at any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I do thank you. My question is for the Premier, but he is not here at the moment. Can you delay it? Thank you.

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

Question 863 – 4(3): Grise Fiord Community Freezer

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

During the spring session we met with officials from your department regarding damages to the community freezer and things along the shoreline in Grise Fiord

that were caused by waves. After the meeting, I asked if you could send someone to go investigate. Can you inform me of whether this proceeded or not? 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 my colleague for requesting information on that matter. I don't have that information in front of me right now and I haven't looked into the matter, so I will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an important matter.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. The minister doesn't have that information with her right now that would help her answer your question. I will move on to the next person. My apologies.

Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Question 864 – 4(3): Food Security in Nunavut

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister I was going to ask is now back. My question is for our Premier.

(interpretation ends) During our recent

spring sitting, the Premier tabled a letter in which he strongly encouraged the Government of Canada to implement our government's recommendations to change and improve the Nutrition North Canada Program. Can the Premier tell us if he has received a response from the federal government as of today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the Member for Netsilik. Mr. Speaker, I have not received any correspondence or a response to my letters. In fact, during our Council of the Federation meetings in Edmonton last July, it was in my communiqué to Ottawa about the high cost of living.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry to say that I have not received any response from the minister of INAC on the Nutrition North Canada letter that I had written to her with recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Access to affordable store-bought food is only one of many factors that contribute to a community's food security. Food security is also dependent on the success of community initiatives, such as breakfast programs, soup kitchens, and food banks. Mr. Speaker, these types of initiatives require government policies and funding support.

Can the Premier provide a detailed explanation as to how this government, under his leadership, has supported community-based food security initiatives over the past four years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My letter writing to the minister of INAC to improve the Nutrition North Canada Program to assist Nunavummiut.... As you know, Mr. Speaker, 60 percent of the program is used by Nunavut. As you know, Mr. Speaker, all of our communities are under that program.

Mr. Speaker, we do have statistics through our Nunavut Bureau of Statistics that we do community food price surveys. In 2011 there was a pilot project that took place initially in several communities, but in 2014 the program was so successful that we included all 25 communities just to make the federal government understand the cost of daily living that we face here in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, those programs are ongoing. We use that in collaboration with our partners to ensure that we get the right data to our partners down in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to try to find ways to improve the program, and that has to be done with our partners and the federal government. That's a federal program. We want to ensure that we give them the best information so that they can improve the program to suit northerners and Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier for that response. (interpretation ends) In his letter to the federal government dated June 8, 2017, the Premier states that, and I quote, "Public money spent for public good has to be accountable to the public." Mr. Speaker, I agree entirely.

Can the Premier tell us the amount of funding in dollars that the government has distributed to community food banks and soup kitchens within the past four years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have those numbers in front of me. As a government, we assist with the food security collation. We have the poverty secretariat and that's run through the Department of Family Services. There are a couple other departments that assist in ensuring that these organizations are assisting in ensuring that we bring forth the needs of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, once I gather up the data and cost of funds given through contributions or grants to other organizations or communities in trying to assist in alleviating food insecurity, I'll certainly let the member know. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we do have programs within ED&T, Family Services, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation that help with the anti-

poverty secretariat. Once I have those numbers, I'll make it available to the member from Netsilik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 865 – 4(3): Family Visits Outside of Territory

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

Mr. Speaker, I had previously asked a question, but I'm not sure when that was. It was in regard to people who are sent to mental health centres who require 24-hour care, a service we don't have in Nunavut. I stated at the time that their policy outlined that we were able to visit patients twice a year, but once they have reached the age of 20, the visits were reduced to once a year.

Mr. Speaker, at the time I stated that even when they have reached the age of 20 and they have mental health issues, their minds are like infants. He stated that they were going to make changes to the program. Can the minister indicate right now how much longer it is going to take to make changes to that policy that he spoke to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that issue. Yes, the various transportation policies and

guidelines used by the Department of Family Services specific to visiting clients in institutions outside of Nunavut apply for clients that need family visits with relatives.

Due to the complexity of this issue, originally when health and social services were located in one department before the Department of Family Services was created separately, it would have been easier to resolve in terms of the funding. Currently the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services collaborate on these files, especially in trying to deal with resolving these issues. At this time we anticipate completing this work soon.

We now have an interim policy directive specific to this past practice the member asked about. Currently, with these interim changes and prior to the completion of the formal changes that will be made, both parents are allowed to visit their child if the child is at an outside institution, whether they are placed by our department or the Department of Health.

I would like to clarify that part because when it was under one department, the divisions were able to deal with it. If the file is under the Department of Health, our department can still provide assistance if funds aren't available elsewhere to provide funding for the parents' travel. Alternatively this can apply to relatives as well.

At this time we expect that although a review is ongoing to resolve this challenge, at least one visit can take place. After the completion of this policy, other family members will be able visit the client. It would be

approximately twice a year where visits could take place. Due to the review on this file, that is all I can respond with at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also know in our community there are, I believe, three families who are in that situation requiring visitation rights.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the minister for clarification. He stated that the policy is under review and in prior cases it was under one department, allowing it to be a less complex issue before separating into two departments. They need to collaborate on these files. Obviously that is the case and it gets very confusing when dealing with the Department of Health or the Department of Family Services. Exactly which department is responsible for this program? The visits seem to usually fall under the Department of Family Services, at least from my perspective.

Do I understand that his officials and the Department of Health officials are working on this review? Upon the completion of this review, will this policy immediately be applied? Will this be in less than a year or would it apply for the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, the

Department of Family Services can provide assistance when funding isn't available elsewhere. That is how it has operated since the departments were divided into separate departments.

Programs under the Department of Health are generally funded through the federal government through (interpretation ends) Non-Insured Health Benefits (interpretation) which funds many programs. They operate seamlessly for travel costs that are part of this funding list. It also applies to places like Tammaativvik or Larga. I can't recall the name of the place in Winnipeg, but it is also a boarding home similar to the two I just mentioned. Travel costs are covered through these program funds.

However, the Department of Family Services isn't responsible for (interpretation ends) Non-Insured Health Benefits (interpretation) that fund medical travel, and social services aren't funded under that program. These programs that the Department of Family Services is responsible for are administered by the Department of Health. That is why we have run into operational difficulties. That is why we work together with the Department of Health to find solutions.

This area is undergoing changes so that we can eliminate the complexity that previously wasn't there before it was shared by our department and the Department of Health. It is somewhat challenging. All I can say is that we're working closely with Health to come up with a more sensible and simpler arrangement for both our department and the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 866 – 4(3): Conditions at Kivalliq Inuit Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the only elevator at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre in Winnipeg recently broke down. A number of elders were stranded on the upper floors and due to their mobility issues they could not go to the main floor or to the kitchen until the elevator was fixed.

Can the minister clarify what steps are in place to ensure that our residents who stay at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre are safe and secure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's ongoing monitoring. I believe I answered a question last week on working with Health Canada on a monitoring strategy for boarding homes that should be finalized in the next number of weeks.

That being said, when a one-off occurrence such as an elevator breakdown or another piece of mobile equipment breaks down, the first point of contact would be to the facility management themselves for one, to make sure that the situation gets rectified and for two, to make alternative arrangements so that people, in this case, with mobility issues should have been

given a room on the ground floor or sent to another facility that would be able to make sure they were cared for.

That being said, I have said numerous times in the House that if anybody feels that their concerns aren't being addressed appropriately or they feel that somebody else needs to get involved in a scenario, our Office of Patient Relations does an extraordinary job of following up with patient and family concerns to make sure that any issues are dealt with and any concerns are mitigated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that incidents such as the malfunctioning elevator at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre do not happen often. Luckily no fire or other major incidents occurred while the elevator was out of commission. Would the minister consider asking the owners of the Kivalliq Inuit Centre to install another elevator in case this type of incident happens again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we set up these contracts with outside organizations, there are parameters to the contracts. It's something maybe my officials can bring up with the contractor.

That being said, fire and safety inspections are conducted regularly by the City of Winnipeg at the Kivalliq

Inuit Centre. In addition, a Winnipeg public health/environmental health officer performs regular inspections of the facility to make sure that the provincial standards in Manitoba are met. To date any issues that have been raised have been addressed.

I know it's always nice to be able to have backup infrastructure in place, but right now, unless there's a long-term issue with the elevator in that facility, I'm sure my officials are listening and they can bring it up with the contractor to see if that's a reasonable request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents was at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre escorting an elder who was in a wheelchair. Will the minister commit to ensuring that the Kivalliq Inuit Centre installs a wheelchair access ramp to ensure the safety of elders who are wheelchair-bound? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any facility in a jurisdiction such as Manitoba would have to follow stringent building codes. It's the first time I have been aware that this is an issue at that facility, so I'll have my officials look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written

Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Hon. Members of this House, we will now take a 15-minute break.

>>*House recessed at 16:25 and resumed at 16:47*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for coming back, my colleagues. Item 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 002 – 4(3): Mr. Peter Taptuna

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, it seems like only a short time ago that I began a journey as an elected MLA, a minister, and then Premier for our territory of Nunavut. Previous to being elected as an MLA, I had served as an elected representative and deputy mayor of our hamlet council in Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, when you observe our Legislative Assembly from the outside like I did for many years and like many of the currently members here have, you decide to run and make a difference and become an MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly). Mr. Speaker, it's a real eye-opener when you get elected. Mr. Speaker, you want to make Nunavut a better place. You want to assist your community and your region. Mr. Speaker, you want to make a difference for our territory and our communities.

No elected member can be successful without the support of their family and friends. When I put my name forward for MLA in 2008, my wife, Joanne, was my biggest supporter and confidant, and she still is. I thank her for that. The life of an elected person can be very stressful and being in public life affects your family and it also affects your friends and relationships.

I didn't run for MLA expecting one day to be a Premier, but when I became your Premier four years ago, I committed to being open and honest and to serve all people of Nunavut with integrity, and I kept that promise.

The first job of any MLA is to serve your community. Meeting with your hamlet or city council, holding community meetings to hear what your constituents have to say, meeting with your elected mayors, councillors, and also meeting with your DEAs and other community groups are important and cannot be overstated. That is why we are really here, to ensure that our communities have a voice in the legislation, policy, and direction of our government.

Mr. Speaker, my community of Kugluktuk has seen a lot of improvements over the last nine years: new housing units built; new career and job opportunities for young people in the development of mineral resources in our region; as well as new capital infrastructure in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that Kugluktuk's hamlet and our community leadership have been proactive in seeking new economic and social development opportunities. The hamlet

has moved forward to look at the construction of a community geriatric care facility for our elders. We have also moved forward in experimenting with solar panels to help lower our electrical costs and help cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, as MLA for Kugluktuk, I have been supportive of these projects and proud of the proactive work by my community members and the hamlet council. As MLA, many times you are pulled in different directions. You have to balance the needs of reality of what can be accomplished, communities' needs and territorial-wide needs, what monetary resources are available, garner support for projects or ideas, and prioritize these projects and policies.

Mr. Speaker, we have been able to work cooperatively with many varied stakeholders and advocacy groups. Sometimes you have to convince the bureaucracy that a policy or project should be included in a given discussion. Those discussions, conversations, and indeed work are not seen by the general public and can be at most stressful and difficult at times.

Today, with the advent of social media, Facebook, Twitter, and so on, criticism of policies and government direction or of the MLAs are more widespread than they are in the open. This can also be stressful and affects not only the member but the family members and all of your relationships in your community.

Over the past nine years I have seen how good government works and don't work. It takes time to implement changes and direction, and today we have our own Legislative Assembly. We decide on our

own legislation, directions, and policies, and this cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to thank the good people of Kugluktuk for their continued support and help over the past nine years. It has been an honour to serve them.

I want to thank the members of this and previous Assemblies that I have been a member of for their excellent service and questions, debate, and work on behalf of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, it's a great honour to serve the people of our territory as an elected MLA, minister, or Premier.

To serve means that in a way your family also serves. My wife, Joanne, our children and grandchildren, thank you for supporting me for the past years.

I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Kugluktuk and Nunavut in many capacities over the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

**Reply to Opening Address 003 – 4(3):
Mr. George Hickes**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this second-last day of the final sitting of this Fourth Assembly of the Nunavut legislature, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many people who are moving Nunavut forward together in various ways.

I would first like to thank Elisapi Nowdlak, my constituency assistant, for her dedication to me and her community. She has been an incredible resource to me in my office.

Mr. Speaker, while I was a regular member for the first half of this term, the support I received from the team here at the legislature was certainly welcomed and appreciated as a new MLA.

When asking questions to the government, I always strived to get information out to the public in a collaborative, non-personal manner. Questions are asked for a few reasons, but to me the two most important are:

1. To get information where it belongs, in the public hands; and
2. To make sure that the government is accountable and transparent to the public.

I feel I did a good job as a regular member and believe that is one of the reasons my colleagues supported my bid for cabinet. Although some joked it was to keep me from asking more questions, I'm sure my cabinet colleagues can attest that the questions didn't stop; they just changed to a different form.

When I was elected by my peers to join the Executive Council, my learning curve dramatically increased, but being accountable and transparent remained at the forefront.

I was first given the responsibility for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation by the Premier. Although it was for a fairly short period of time, I have to take this

opportunity to publicly thank the board of directors and then-president of the NHC Lori Kimball and now-president Terry Audla for helping me to understand the challenges and successes of the work they were tasked with.

I know Ms. Kimball has moved to Community and Government Services and is providing that department with great leadership, and it was an absolute pleasure to work with her.

With regard to Terry, I can't say enough how impressed I was with how fast he grasped the workings of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the leadership he is providing there. It was an absolute honour to be a part of it with him.

There are so many fantastic individuals working hard to make housing more accessible to all Nunavummiut. To all of them I say "thank you."

As some people may know, I worked at the Qulliq Energy Corporation prior to my election, and it should come as no surprise to anyone the respect and dedication at all levels of that organization that I have seen can't be expressed adequately.

Although I didn't stay long enough to work with Bruno Pereira as president, the team led by Jamie Flaherty and the Qulliq Energy board of directors helped my understanding at the highest levels on the operations of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. For all intents and purposes, I hear many great things about the direction Bruno is leading the corporation in.

Mr. Speaker, a little over a year ago the Premier rewarded my efforts on cabinet

with the privilege of leading arguably the most challenging portfolio in the GN: the Department of Health and suicide prevention initiatives.

As Minister of Health and Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, I would like to publicly recognize all staff at the Department of Health and the Quality of Life Secretariat for their tremendous work in improving the health and wellness of all Nunavummiut. Although it is impossible to recognize each employee, program, or division, I would like to take this opportunity to single out an outstanding individual who doesn't often get recognized for the tremendous work she does.

Mr. Speaker, many of the improvements made to our health care system have been made possible through the leadership and direction of our Deputy Minister of Health, Colleen Stockley. Colleen's remarkable skill set as a knowledgeable government administrator is doubly complemented by the fact that she has also been a social worker and a trained nurse, giving her an astute awareness and clinical understanding of what it's like on the frontlines of delivering health care. Her reputation as a deputy minister who not only leads but also listens has earned her the respect of her colleagues around the table, departmental staff and frontline workers alike.

I am very grateful for the guidance and support that Colleen has provided to me as Minister of Health and hope that we will continue to work together to further improve Nunavut's health care system. Thank you for all that you do, Colleen.

I would also like to take this time to

recognize Associate Deputy Minister of the Quality of Life Secretariat Karen Kabloona and her team for their outstanding work in suicide prevention. Leading the territory's efforts in preventing suicide is a difficult task and one with particularly challenging and emotional circumstances. In the face of even the most difficult situations, the tenacity, resiliency, and positivity of this group are both inspirational and infectious to all. The Quality of Life's work in developing *Inuusivut Anninaqtuq*, our Suicide Prevention Action Plan, is truly commendable. I would like to sincerely thank them for all of their continued dedication and leadership on this important issue.

Aligned with *Sivumut Abluqta* objectives, there has been incredible momentum achieved with the Quality of Life Secretariat. Worth noting and critical to any successes I've had is my team on the second floor. Susie Alainga, my executive secretary, thank you. The diligence in the way you do your job is unequalled and I am so proud to have you on my team. Hillary Casey, my executive assistant, what could I say? You have been invaluable to me in my role as a Member of the Executive Council, but even more so as a person. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply humbled by the confidence put in me by this legislature and our Premier to serve in these capacities.

I would like to thank my family for the support and many sacrifices they have made to allow me to serve in these roles. The Premier talked about how our serving, our family serves, and there are truer words that I have heard spoken.

There is absolutely no way I can tell you what I would have to do without my wife. I could not have done this without the support of my wife and daughters.

Equally important I am grateful for the opportunity provided to me by the people of Iqaluit-Tasiluk to allow me to represent them and their interests here at the legislature. I hope I have proven to be a responsive and hard-working MLA and minister, and it is a role I would accept again with great pride and without hesitation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Reply to Opening Address 004 – 4(3):
Mr. George Kuksuk**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my fellow residents of Arviat and the people of Whale Cove who are watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer while I was home in Arviat, I had an opportunity to reflect on the past four years as an MLA and minister. Time has gone by very quickly and a lot has been accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, in particular the elders in my constituency are often grateful for the care they receive from elders’ programs. I especially appreciate the comments of my colleague from Quttiktuq on the issue of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit customs in

general. The Department of Culture also produced a (interpretation ends) new elders’ handbook. (interpretation) This was reviewed and deemed to be useful and referred to often.

(interpretation ends) My constituency takes in part of the community of Arviat and of Whale Cove.

Shortly after the election, I visited Whale Cove to meet with the hamlet and the people of the community. They had asked me to ensure that the promised and much-needed learning centre and daycare for the community will not be put on hold for whatever reason.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to say that the centre is now completed as well as the new daycare. Further, I look forward for the new terminal building to be built in the near future for Whale Cove.

The ongoing issue with the water supply in Whale Cove has been problematic. It is not acceptable, and I have had several discussions with my constituents as well as the hamlet about the water issues in Whale Cove. I have also worked with my cabinet colleagues and in particular the Minister of CG&S and Minister of Health to ensure that we can get a solution for this issue. A new water source for the community is now in the discussion phase.

It is important that your colleagues visit and see some of the issues that your constituents are facing. That is why I was pleased when the Premier and cabinet agreed to my suggestion of hosting the cabinet retreat in Whale Cove. I also want to take this opportunity to thank many of my

minister colleagues and the Premier for visiting both Arviat and Whale Cove over the past four years.

Mr. Speaker, the completion and opening of our new hamlet office in Arviat is a source of pride for the community. It is a modern building that has quickly become a landmark in the town. Arviat is a growing community. It is by population almost the second largest community in Nunavut.

One of the major concerns that were raised by my constituents during the last election was the shortage of public housing in the community. I am happy to say that the new housing construction in Arviat has been well-welcomed by the many families in dire need of affordable and functional homes, with close to 70 new public housing units built during my role as the MLA for Arviat. In addition to that, we were able to build an additional two staff housing units with the Government of Nunavut's staff housing funding.

In addition, Whale Cove saw five new public housing units built and four staff housing units built during my role as MLA. A new boat launch pad is being planned and access road funding over the past four years has doubled. We are also in preliminary discussions with the hamlet to look at a deeper freshwater source for the community.

As MLA, you have to listen to what your constituents say and ask for. I have made sure that I am available by phone or email constantly. I also made sure that I have a community contact so that people can reach me where and whenever they want.

One of the ongoing concerns has been the loss of the airline competition in the entire Kivalliq region, which has affected all communities, including my hometown of Arviat and Whale Cove. I have spoken with the representatives of Calm Air and I will continue to raise cargo and passenger airfares and other airline issues with them. I have been assured by the president of Calm Air that good news will be coming shortly, which would be a beginning of service to those two communities and the Kivalliq, which will be beginning in early November.

Mr. Speaker, Whale Cove is a very traditional community and increasing whales permitted to be harvested from 12 whales to 24 whales was good news for all people. The beluga harvesting program that is done through the Nunavut Development Corporation processes and sells the *maktaaq* harvested from Whale Cove is sold to the Kivalliq food plant in Rankin Inlet.

The Legislative Assembly can be a very stressful work environment, but with the support of my cabinet colleagues and all the Members of this House, it is a role and a job that I enjoy doing.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my family and the good people of Arviat and Whale Cove for their ongoing support and advice over the past four years.

I especially want to thank the elders (interpretation) in Arviat and Whale Cove. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for providing your advice, support, and even the odd criticism of the way the government works. They respect me and I respect

them, and we are open with each other. They can reprimand me when I need it. I understand the process. If an elder tells me what to do, I will not give a rebuttal.

(interpretation ends) We have a lot more work to do in both communities of Whale Cove and Arviat, and that is the reason why I will be seeking re-election for Arviat North and Whale Cove in the upcoming general election.

I want to help fix the water problems in Whale Cove. I want to see the new boat launch move forward in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, for these and many other projects and reasons I want to continue to be the MLA for Arviat and Whale Cove. I look forward to seeing my constituents over the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank Premier Taptuna for demonstrating his faith in me with the portfolios of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Department of Culture and Heritage, and the official languages.

I also want to thank all Members of this House and my cabinet colleagues for their support, advice, and ongoing trust and cooperation.

Also I would like to thank my staff in Arviat, my staff in Whale Cove and Iqaluit, and all my departmental staff.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your leadership, fairness, and good work that you have done as our Speaker. *Ma'nalluavik.* Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member, Mr. Keith Peterson.

**Reply to Opening Address 005 – 4(3):
Mr. Keith Peterson**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take a few minutes today to recognize all the Government of Nunavut and territorial corporation and territorial agency employees in Finance, Human Resources, the Nunavut Liquor Commission, the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board, Justice, the Legal Services Board, the Human Rights Tribunal, the Labour Standards Board, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation who have worked with me over the last almost nine years to accomplish many good things to help Nunavummiut. The people have noticed the difference they have made. They tell me this.

Mr. Speaker, I have always believed and have often stated that our success as ministers and leaders is due in large part to the hard work and dedication of our many public servants who go to work each day and make a positive difference.

Every employee from bottom to top, and top being the minister, plays an important role in government. Our employees make us ministers look good and I appreciate it. All my colleagues appreciate that and all the people of Nunavut appreciate that.

I know we get a lot of criticism every day. Every time you turn the radio on or open the newspaper, the government, ministers, and public servants are being

criticized, but that's just by a few. The majority of people in Nunavut speak very highly about the government and where we're going. We have many successes together. People across Nunavut whom I speak to tell me the government is moving in a positive direction and the direction is forward. The future looks bright from where I stand.

As ministers, MLAs, and public servants we always want to make a difference and make the government and our communities a little bit better than we find them, whether that's as the Government of Nunavut or as a hamlet council or a volunteer in community groups. We always try to make our work count. I believe that we are doing that as our government and territory matures.

We're a very young territory. I travel across Canada and talk to people and government counterparts. They are really amazed that the Nunavut territory and government has come this far in such a short period of time. In fact in some instances they were surprised to find that Nunavut is further advanced on certain issues than our provincial and territorial colleagues. I have heard that and it always surprises me. We always think we're playing catch-up, but we're actually ahead of people and they're learning from us as well.

A lot has been accomplished, but there is much more to do. By working together, helping each other, and supporting each other, this can be done and I believe it. I'll tell you it will take all of us as ministers, public servants, and MLAs working together and supporting each other, hearing the concerns and acting on them. As a minister I truly believe we're

moving in the right direction.

In closing, I have to thank my home community of Cambridge Bay for supporting me as MLA and minister for 14 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Hon. Member, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Reply to Opening Address 006 – 4(3):
Mr. Johnny Mike**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, for the first time have been a member of the cabinet within the last four years. I would first like to thank my wife, children, and grandchildren, the rest of my family, and the people of Pangnirtung. My constituents have encouraged me in any way they could, especially with the government system. I would also like to thank the hamlet, municipal council, the HTO, and other entities, as well as the elders of Pangnirtung. I thank them.

First of all, I am not able to stand here just by myself. Wherever and whenever I do stand up, I tend to remember my ancestors and our ancestors as Inuit living in the Arctic. It is a place that seems to be barren. If it weren't for those ancestral Inuit, the real Inuit, many of us would not be here today. If they didn't possess the knowledge needed to survive, which is necessary to be independent and self-sufficient, where would we be?

I remember I spoke about this when I

first became the Minister of Environment. Right after I got appointed to my position with the Department of Environment as the minister, I went to Moscow, Russia when five countries had to go work on polar bear management. I said over there that our ancestors who were real Inuit had knowledge and they had lives, so we are here as their descendants. As long as there is someone alive, we will not die out.

When I was speaking over there as the Minister of Environment, compared to our fellow Inuit from Canada, Greenland, and Alaska, this was our uniqueness because we have our own government. I was in a very different position from the other Inuit when we were in Moscow. When they were talking about the world's polar bear population, I found that I was very happy about this uniqueness of Nunavut. We are Inuit and we have our own government here. Labrador, Nunavik, and Inuvialuit only have Inuit organizations, though Labrador has changed somewhat.

When we were dealing with polar bears at that time, five countries took part in the discussion we had on management through studies. We were able to participate. Our MP from Ottawa at the time was the previous Minister of the Environment, Leona Aglukkaq, who also participated. Our MP and our government pushed very hard to ensure that in the future, whenever there are going to be polar bear studies, especially in Canada, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* be included. It was included for the first time when those five arctic countries came to an agreement to include Inuit knowledge to any scientific studies, and we did that through an MOU. This is for

the whole world. I was extremely pleased with that because it was included.

During the time I was the Minister of Environment, I went to many international conferences on climate change and polar bears were always discussed. They thought that Inuit should not hunt polar bears any longer because of climate change and because they believed polar bears were diminishing in numbers. I believe that was in 2015 or 2016.

Those who want to stop bear hunting in winter, the American government in particular, gave up pushing when they understood that polar bears are not in danger of being extinct. I was extremely glad to hear that they were able to hear us as MLAs and they understood that the right work was being done in regard to polar bears. I was really glad to hear that.

Polar bears are said to be in danger today because of climate change. Even though they still talk like that, governments around the world are no longer saying to stop hunting polar bears. There are still animal rights activists who continue saying that. Fortunately we don't hear that from governments internationally anymore. This is the result of our work and it cannot be the result of one person's work or one government's work. Only when they all work together, the Inuit way and culture is just as strong as other cultures as long as they come to a consensus.

I would also like to explain, as I'm one of the elected members, about polar bear furs and other furs in general. The government used to take 8 percent of the

profits made out of furs and we stopped that. That money goes back into the pockets of hunters for polar bear skins or other fur, including sealskins. Those are some very positive changes that we have made. In addition, while I was with the Department of Environment, prices were raised for sealskins in Nunavut. That has helped hunters a great deal.

Also, when I was with the Department of Family Services, our Premier usually tasked me to help out another minister who was having some difficulty and I was happy with that. I am very grateful to all the staff of Family Services. My ministerial colleague, Keith Peterson, said that our staff make the ministers look good. It's the same thing with the Department of Family Services. Starting from my deputy minister all the way down, I thank you.

From the Department of Family Services, I also thank every MLA that I have worked with. You have to have discussions and agreements. That's always ongoing at any time. For example, Baker Lake is nowhere near us and when I say "hi" to the Baker Lake MLA by computer, he says "hi." I just try to say "hi" to see how you're doing, but it just gives me work, so that's really convenient. Even though you're not talking on the phone, you can do it instantly by computer. I am just using that as an example. Communications is very important and the Department of Family Services has used that.

The Department of Family Services went through challenging times, same thing as the ministers when the regular MLAs were asking, "What are you going to do now?" We have to reply. There is no other choice. The ways of

counselling these days have been improved through changes that came through your questions. Our electorate said that the ways of dealing with Inuit and counselling Inuit and ways of handling money should be changed, so they have been changed quite a bit.

In the past the Department of Family Services' long-standing practice was that if you're going to get income support, they would deduct the family allowance or child tax credits that you received that month. We changed that and it has been a while now. I believe that has been very useful, \$6.7 million per year where that money could be utilized somewhere else.

We wanted it so that the child tax credit wasn't deducted if you're receiving income support. The money would go in people's pockets instead to allow them to buy things. I think that has really made things better. The old system stayed like that for a very long time and it was finally changed in 2016. That law was in place for a very long time. Whatever little benefit people received was deducted by Family Services. I'm very happy that's not being done anymore.

There are other things such as Old Age Security which was increased. Elders who have their own homes get a fuel subsidy and that was increased as well. There are many different things like that that came out of Family Services. I'm only mentioning some of them.

Counselling really has to do with poverty. We have to do more. I'm talking on behalf of Family Services right now. Around 52 percent of employees at Family Services are Inuit. Some of our employees are in

decentralized communities and 72 percent of them are Inuit. I am very grateful to people who work and support the government. We need to raise that number.

I would like to acknowledge our Premier and the Minister of Education for Makigiaqta, which they created in partnership with NTI. We heard that there was a lot of money coming out of Education for that, money that wasn't available before.

When I got asked today in the House, I had to provide a response. There were only four cities that students could go to attend college or university in order to receive assistance for expenses such as airfare from Iqaluit to Ottawa. If someone wanted to go to Nova Scotia for university, they would have to pay that leg of the journey. Right now it's not like that. We are now able to cover expenses for students from their home community right to the university town. I'm really grateful to the government for doing that.

I know it's obvious that there are improvements that still need to be made for people who want to further their education. They get student financial assistance from the Department of Education and also EIA. It didn't operate like that before. It's easier now to get financial assistance as a student. I'm very happy about these improvements. I have taken part in making those improvements in the government here. I'm very happy about that.

With the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I have only been there a short time as minister, but I have worked for the Qulliq Energy Corporation as an

employee and I am happy about that. The Premier had faith in me and that's why I became the minister. I'm very happy about that because he appointed me.

I thank the Qulliq Energy Corporation and all of their staff in Nunavut, from their president right to the operators in the communities, the people who run the power plants. That is improving slowly. I can say now that things are being updated like generators and powerhouses.

To use one litre as an example, it can provide more power than ever before. Just one litre can provide more power than before and it's less damaging to the environment. To use an example, efficiency keeps increasing, as one litre provides the equivalent amount of energy that is both cleaner and has fewer emissions.

The same as 3.77 litres of energy production is provided by one litre today. We have never had such efficient power generation. We have applied this for all of Nunavut. It is obvious that the efficiency of our power generation units alternate between energy efficient and others less, but in total the average savings specific to energy efficiency are within this area of conservation.

Further, related to the operational side, the managers and board members for the QEC are less of a threat to Inuit and are more customer-oriented now. In the previous era they were out of touch with Inuit in that they weren't very amenable to serving Inuit, but over the last four years the attitude is starting to change, with more emphasis on customer services.

These are part of the reasons I am appreciative of the previous ministers of the Qulliq Energy Corporation who held the portfolio as they made transitional plans for another minister. Those are the issues I faced. I am trying to keep my comments concise, as the QEC continually has daily challenges.

Further, when I was given the portfolio, only six board members remained. It is back up to nine members now and we are searching for the tenth member. We have five Inuit on the board. As per my prior statements, the remaining five members would be from the public and don't require beneficiary status. We are almost at this point as we are just missing the tenth member. Things are progressing slowly.

As Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I believed in the process of selections as the board consisted of only six sitting members, which led to many difficulties in reaching a quorum at meetings. At this time the board of the QEC, management, service and other employees are the subject of my gratitude. Thank you for your hard work as the QEC has started to implement the directional needs required.

I want to touch on this last matter and to conclude, like others I can't make changes unilaterally as a single MLA. Mr. Speaker, I also extend my gratitude to you, our Premier, cabinet colleagues, and my fellow MLAs. Like my other colleagues I will be submitting my name to run for office again.

I feel that the next issue is the airport, which I want to make a priority, as it seems obvious that Pangnirtung has most of the infrastructure needed to run

smoothly. The airstrip issue has existed from the time I was a child when it was first built and complaints were made to change the location. Many MLAs have come in and out of the seat and they all tried to work on the issue.

Constituents have requested a location change for many years, as obviously the airport isn't meeting our needs today with respect to the cost of shipping goods. It is leading to more expensive shipping costs because of its limitations and the inability to lengthen the runway. Most of you are aware that if you have ever landed in Pangnirtung, you land in the middle of the community. That may feel welcoming, but it is right in the middle. You land in the middle of the community and that shows you are really welcomed.

Several comprehensive studies have been undertaken. It will be up to the next government as well as the next crop of MLAs, and our expectations of furthering this project may surface at that time. It was stated in the House that Pangnirtung is a top priority for the next airstrip relocation development because of the critical needs. That will be my stance.

To add a bit on education, graduates are increasing in numbers from our schools. They want to keep improving the curriculum. That will be part of my duties if I am re-elected. The next minister will be responsible for it.

I thank my constituents and those who are here in this room. I travelled to other communities as a minister. I thank them also for welcoming us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 10. Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. [Reports] of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Hon. Member, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

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

Committee Report 032 – 4(3): Bill 47, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Legal Profession 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 47 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The chairman is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 47 immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole as of today. Are there any nays? There are none and Bill 47 is now before the Committee of the Whole.

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Committee Report 033 – 4(3): Bill 54, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2016-2017

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 54, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2016-2017*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 54 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The chairman is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 54 immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole as of today. Are there any nays? There are none and Bill 54 is now before the Committee of the Whole.

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

Committee Report 034 – 4(3): Bill 55, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 55 immediately moved into Committee of

the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The chairman is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 55 immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole as of today. Are there any nays? There are none and Bill 55 is now before the Committee of the Whole.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Johnny Mike.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 360 – 4(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation’s 2017-2021 Corporate Plan

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s Corporate Plan 2017-[2021]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Member for Qamani’tuaq, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Tabled Document 361 – 4(3): Support for a Future Nunavut University

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter from the Hamlet of Baker Lake supporting the establishment of Nunavut’s University of the Arctic in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that studies commissioned by the Department of Education have shown that it is not viable to establish a university in Nunavut at this time. However, the next

government will no doubt once again be addressing education as a priority.

I would like it to go on the record that if a university were to once again be considered for Nunavut, then Baker Lake, the geographical centre of Canada, would be an ideal location for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Tabled Document 362 – 4(3): Correspondence Concerning Strategic Environmental Assessment of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a collection of recent correspondence concerning the community of Clyde River’s effort to obtain participant funding in relation to the Nunavut Impact Review Board’s Strategic Environmental Assessment of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. I encourage all members to review these items with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 363 – 4(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation’s 16th Annual Report 2016-2017

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also pleased to table the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s 16th annual report for 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 364 – 4(3): Letter of Expectation to the Nunavut Development Corporation 2017**Tabled Document 365 – 4(3): Letter of Expectation to the Qulliq Energy Corporation 2017****Tabled Document 366 – 4(3): Letter of Expectation to Nunavut Arctic College 2017****Tabled Document 367 – 4(3): Letter of Expectation to the Nunavut Housing Corporation 2017****Tabled Document 368 – 4(3): Letter of Expectation to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation 2017**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am tabling today the letters of expectation for the following ministers responsible for territorial corporations: the Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, the Nunavut Development Corporation; Hon. Johnny Mike, the Qulliq Energy Corporation; the Hon. Paul Quassa, Nunavut Arctic College; the Hon. George Kuksuk, the Nunavut Housing Corporation; and the Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 369 – 4(3): Report on the Meeting of the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am tabling today the Report on the Meeting of the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation, May 18, 2017 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 370 – 4(3): Office of the Fire Marshal’s 2016 Annual Report

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the Office of the Fire Marshal’s 2016 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Tabled Document 371 – 4(3): Member’s Statement 637 – 4(3): Inuit Not Consulted on Proposed Federal Government’s Bill C-55

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday I spoke to the documents I wish to table about Inuit not being consulted on a proposed bill by the federal government,

specifically Bill C-55, and my recorded statements are included. I wish to table the documents in the House. 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. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 27, 47, 53, 54, and 55 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with Motion 54 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 17:52 and Committee resumed at 18:02

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your House.

I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 27, 53, 54, 47, and 55. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good evening. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 53, followed by the review of Bills 54, 47, and 55. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Members, are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 53?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2017-2018 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you have officials that you would like to have with you at the witness table? Minister Peterson.

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of the Department of

Finance, and to my left is Lori Kimball, Deputy Minister of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chown and Ms. Kimball, welcome to the House. We left off when we were on page 5 of Bill 53. We will just proceed from page 5. Please indicate if you have any questions even while I'm reading. I have English copies in front of me, so I'll read them in English. On page 5 it reads, (interpretation ends) Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Health Care Service Delivery. \$1,301,000.

(interpretation) Mr. Alex Sammurtok, I believe we left off when you were asking questions on that page. Would you like to proceed? Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was given an explanation, but I have been thinking about the Rankin Inlet children's group home. It seems like it was completely equipped, but I have been thinking for a long time about why it has been ignored while it has been in place in other communities. There used to be a children's group home in Rankin Inlet and it seems easy to operate and it is fully equipped. My question is: why is that not the case anymore? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Sammurtok for the question. I'm not sure what the question is. Is it related to page 5 and Cambridge Bay mental health and the

facility in the Qikiqtani General Hospital? I'm not sure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok, please clarify your question. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am talking about the children's group home which was supposed to be turned into a mental health transition centre, I believe it was called. It's got everything in that building. It's got boilers. It's got air handlers. Why didn't they provide any funding for that to get it renovated instead of... ? Why didn't they consider Rankin Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. I realize that the issue that you have brought up is not even here, but I will leave it at the discretion of Minister Peterson if he would like to respond to that question. I know that we're not dealing with that. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have absolutely no information here at the table about the issue he's concerned about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on (interpretation ends) Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Health Care Service Delivery. \$1,301,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,301,000. (interpretation) Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 6. It reads, (interpretation ends) Environment. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Corporate Management. \$300,000. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The briefing note provided for this \$300,000 for renovations for the Climate Change Secretariat states that this money is to be used for renovations to meet GN office space standards. I wonder if the minister can explain what the standards are for a typical GN office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I'm going to have to defer that question to Minister Savikataaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, can you respond to that question? Mr. Savikataaq, go ahead.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't tell the member exactly what the standards are right now, but it would be written out on what they want. The safety standards would have to be met; the size per person standards would have to be met; fire exits, so the fire standards; health and occupational standards. I'm just saying all the general standards that have to be met for all the government offices. That's about as close as I can get because I don't have the standards in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,

Minister Savikataaq. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the department brought forward this request for more than a quarter of a million dollars in renovations, did anyone in Finance or Community and Government Services look at the drawings of what the department was currently using and compared it to what the department was requesting to determine if it was really necessary to spend this large amount of funding for office renovations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. As I understand it, they're taking staff from two separate locations in Iqaluit and then they're putting them into one location. Looking at their former locations in two separate areas, you just couldn't bring them together. You had to get a new location and that's what they looked at, space available in a new location. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On many occasions over the years I have publicly expressed my frustrations on the lack of adequate office space for GN employees in Sanikiluaq. Several ministers and a number of GN staff have seen with their own eyes what I'm talking about. We have staff working out of storage rooms, staff working in overcrowded and cramped conditions.

Now we have the Department of Environment here in Iqaluit asking for over a quarter of a million dollars to improve office conditions, yet very little is being done to improve working conditions in Sanikiluaq.

Can the minister explain how a department here in Iqaluit can obtain funding almost overnight when new bureaucracy is created, yet for years in Sanikiluaq employees have been left in the closet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Literally in the closet? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I have been to Sanikiluaq a couple of times, as I said in response to a question in question period. The problem has been a problem in Sanikiluaq for at least five or six years. I flew down there one time as a health minister. Community and Government Services people went down as well.

One of the big issues I see is the difference between Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit is that in Iqaluit there seems to be a lot of space available when you need it. If you put out an RFP, there are responses to it whereas in Sanikiluaq there aren't as many responses, so it becomes difficult. Otherwise you would have to construct a building from the ground up to accommodate people.

I'm not going to get into any details myself. I'll ask Ms. Kimball if she can respond to that and give you the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Minister Peterson mentioned, we have gone out for an RFP looking for leased properties in Sanikiluaq and have been unsuccessful.

We have been working with Health, Family Services, and a number of departments to find short-term and long-term solutions. We were able to utilize the old community learning centre for Family Services staff that were displaced with the changes with Health. We do have plans, as you know, to build a new health centre in Sanikiluaq, which will open up some space in the old health centre. We do have some strategies to address the concerns in Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kimball just mentioned the RFP that was sent out a while ago and there was no response. I have been telling the department for years that there are just no buildings available in my community. The RFP went out and it closed in January. It wanted space within 30 days. If there are no buildings, how can you get anybody to reply to an RFP?

Again, on July 6 of 2015 I received a reply letter from the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding an office space study that was completed in early 2015. In the letter the minister stated that the department is working on the implementation plan, which should be completed by the fall of 2015. Mr. Chairman, that was over two years ago.

Can the minister or one of his officials

give us an update on the implementation plan for office space in Nunavut, and what it would cost to complete the office space needs in Sanikiluaq? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to defer to one of the witnesses. Ms. Kimball will have to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had done the office space needs study. It did give us an outline of what's needed in all the communities. In terms of the strategy going forward, the subsequent report did not have the depth that we were looking for. We are still working on that to get a more detailed next steps plan for the communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again going back to 2015 where the GN completed the major study across Nunavut on office space requirements, the study identified serious office space shortages in Sanikiluaq. As I stated earlier, I raised this issue on numerous occasions over the years with no success, yet here we are being asked to approve money for here in Iqaluit so that the GN employees can have such luxuries as larger meeting rooms and kitchenettes.

Mr. Chairman, this will be just a comment, but for the record, I do not

support this \$300,000 renovation. Until this government or the next one for that matter, if I'm around.... I will not support any future office renovations here in Iqaluit until the GN shows real willingness to improve working conditions in Sanikiluaq. It would not be fair of me to support such luxury projects while the GN employees in my community continue to work in cramped conditions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you and on the record. Minister Peterson, did you want to respond?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Rumbolt's concerns are duly noted. I'm sure our officials are recognizing the issue.

I think it would be unfair of us as a government to punish the employees of the Government of Nunavut in Iqaluit for the failure of the Government of Nunavut to provide space in Sanikiluaq. We have identified the issues in Sanikiluaq. He stated that there are no office buildings there.

Ms. Kimball has stated that we're building a new health centre there and there would be the old health centre. It's not going to happen overnight. Eventually there is going to be some office space freed up. At least the Government of Nunavut can work with that, short of constructing an entirely new office building in Sanikiluaq.

In the meantime we have to be concerned about the employees in Iqaluit. We voted as the Legislative Assembly to create the Climate Change Secretariat office. We have to take employees from two departments and

put them in a central location where they can work together. There was an RFP put out and there was a response. The decision was to go with that facility and that would allow us as a government to fulfill our obligations under the Climate Change Secretariat office.

I apologize that Sanikiluaq doesn't have the office space, but we should not be punishing government employees in Iqaluit. I don't know what the quality of the office space that he's talking about luxury office spots. When I go in my rounds in Nunavut, I don't see very many luxury offices. I'm just trying to think of where I have seen some, but I haven't seen very many. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a note on the luxuries, what I call luxuries is in the briefing note itself it says it's for larger meeting rooms and kitchenettes, something that a lot of government offices probably don't have. To me that's luxuries.

To rebuttal a little bit on what he said about Ms. Kimball saying that in the future they're looking at plans of the old health centre, well, the new health centre isn't even under construction yet and it's a three- or four-year project. By the time that's done and the old health centre becomes available to be used as office space, it would probably take another year or two for that for renovations.

You're talking five years or maybe longer where employees are going to be in the current conditions that they're in. To me that's just not acceptable. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Although I didn't hear a question, Minister Peterson, if you want to comment on that, I give you the floor. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the comment. I could comment. We could go back and forth all night with comments. His comment is duly noted. We know it's a serious issue. We do try very hard to accommodate all the Government of Nunavut employees in all our communities and we appreciate the work they're doing for us, as I have said. I'm sure Minister Savikataaq and his officials will continue to work hard to find solutions.

I know the timeline of four or five years is way out there, but then over the years we have also accommodated.... I know an example. In Cape Dorset we put in portables. In Kugaaruk we put in portables. Maybe that's a temporary solution because those portables will become available at some point when the schools are reconstructed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. In the meantime I have decided to move on.

>>Laughter

(interpretation) We're on page 6. It reads, (interpretation ends) Environment. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Corporate Management. \$300,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$300,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 7. In English it reads, (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Community Services. \$83,000. Total Informatics Planning Services. \$348,000. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question regarding the Blue Coat cyber security, if we can just get some more information about that. Is this a typical application that most governments use and how secure is it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for that question. We anticipated that she would ask follow-up questions from the other night. I've had Ms. Kimball work very hard to study up on it for the questions, so she will answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We actually consulted with a firm called Gartner Group, which are industry experts on all things information technology. Blue Coat was one of the highest ranked tools for this purpose, which is why we picked it. We wanted something that was at the high end of cyber security given that we are a government and that we have due diligence to make sure that our data is secure. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister or perhaps Ms. Kimball tell us: what do we have currently in place? Are we not at the highest now? Is it something that we should be concerned about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson indicated that he would like to have Ms. Kimball respond. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a layering of tools, a set of tools, and this is one of the tools that we're replacing. We have something called iPrism and we're replacing it with Blue Coat. It is definitely a significant upgrade to specifically address those concerns. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can Ms. Kimball tell us: how many security breaches has the GN had to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had 5.7 million attempted intrusions on the GN network last year. We applied more than 1.5 million patches, which is upgrading different tools on the network. We receive between 12 and 15 ransomware threats a month. We have quite a bit of activity. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kimball has sparked my interest. What do they want? What's the usual breach? What are they trying to get at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Part of the toolset that we're putting in is to be able to be better monitor and identify what is, but because we're blocking them before we get there, I can't speculate what they're trying to do. Some of it could be innocent and some of it could be targeted. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can Ms. Kimball tell us... ? Those breaches, she said that it was like 1.5 million patches or something. Does that cost the government money? Do these breaches equal more funding that the government has to pay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The goal is actually to make sure that they don't have breaches, so there is money being spent to prevent the breaches. It's definitely a lot cheaper to prevent a breach than to deal with one once it has happened and replace systems. At this point it's more of a labour cost and cost of these types of tools. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can Ms. Kimball tell us if any of these breaches actually resulted in the government being at a real risk and its people in any way, either through really sensitive information being breached or any kind of real concern because of the impact of a breach? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: I am not aware of anything significant. It's my understanding that we have been doing a good job at actually catching it before it gets to that point. We have a couple of PCs; individual. Generally it's caught at the time it comes in usually through one computer and then when it tries to get further, it's stopped. We have been very successful at doing that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said that it was kind of hard to tell what they were accessing or what the breaches were trying to do. Do you know of any case of where a breach may have originated from within Nunavut, trying to get into the government's Internet or computer systems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different types of breaches. What you're talking about is

more someone specifically trying to hack into the system. I'm not aware of that specifically. I don't have that with me. Most of what we deal with are viruses and things like that that go in and try to encrypt files and keep you from accessing them or doing damage on the network. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that, like you say, it's more of the computer viruses, but it's not actual people trying to get information from our computer system. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the data with me and the breakdown of the mix. It's my understanding that the vast majority is more of a virus-general world thing as opposed to something specifically being targeted in Nunavut, but I don't have the data with me. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing that has come to mind, and perhaps Ms. Kimball can enlighten us, we had televised hearings, as you know, about the Qikiqtani General Hospital with the Auditor General and we talked about the issue of privacy issues. I don't know if this falls under this or not because more and more information is digital. We have very private information that is now digitized.

It's on the system. Can this protect personal information? I guess my second question: has there ever been a breach of personal information that was accessed outside of the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of whether there has ever been a breach, I'm aware of one instance that I believe was in the report where someone had improper security. They were a GN employee. They had an improper security profile, but we have now fixed that process to protect. Otherwise, other external intrusions, that's what this tool is meant to do. We've got, as I mentioned, a suite of tools. There are about five or six different layers to this and this is one layer that is specifically there to protect the GN's data as a whole, which also protects the private individuals. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When we're talking about information technology, it's my understanding that right now in Nunavut we don't really have any informatics legislation. With that being the case, there is legislation outside of Canada related to information technology. How did you choose the (interpretation ends) Blue Coat cyber security? (interpretation) Does the federal government approve of this system or which province is using it that you trust that system would be good? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. It's a good point. I just learned something from Mr. Mikkungwak that Ms. Kimball confirmed, and I'll have her respond to that question with that answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second point about the Blue Coat software, we consulted with Gartner Group, who is an industry expert that many other provinces and territories will reference to vet what they're doing. In Gartner Group this is the top-ranked software, so this is why we chose that particular product to make sure that we're being due diligent about it.

In regard to legislation, we have identified that some other jurisdictions have progressed with more robust legislation, especially as you're getting into cyber security and electronic data. We are actually working on some new legislation that we hope to bring forward in the next Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the direct answer. I would like ask another question. I know it's obvious that since we got Nunavut, the different government departments have written material in English, French, Inuinnaqtun, and Inuktitut. If the new system is going to be used, for example,

will the Inuktitut writing be protected as well since we do have Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have to ask Ms. Kimball to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From a cyber security tool standpoint, any language is all data to it. Regardless of what language is going to be held through the firewall, it's going to be protected. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. That's very clear. All the Inuktitut that is being entered into the system in Nunavut will be protected as well. That's very good to hear.

My last question is, once this new system is adopted, we have many communities with different computers. Computer networks are very slow in some communities while others are instant. Will this affect everything being secure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson is indicating that Ms. Kimball will answer the question. Go ahead.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The speed of the system

won't matter. If you think of Blue Coat, if you compare it to a water filtration system, the VMWare we spoke to would be the piping in the process control system of the flow. The Blue Coat is like the carbon filter. Either way, everything is going to go through that carbon filter. I hope that helps. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on this page, I have never seen this \$83,000 before. It states that it's for bulk fuel storage capacity. The way I understand it here is there had apparently been a problem with the contractors. Something wrong came up. Can you please explain what happened there? What was the problem that we have to get more money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mapsalak for the question. This goes back to a settlement between the Government of Nunavut and a company, Inukshuk Construction Ltd. There was a problem in the technical specifications. They bid on the work and were awarded the work, and then they had to do more work to bring it up to code compliance. There were some issues identified. It cost them more. When they went to the government to get additional money, they were rebuffed. They got the lawyers involved.

They looked at the paperwork, all the specifications and design work. It was determined that the government's case wasn't all that solid. Rather than go to

the court process, the plaintiff and the defendant, the defendant being the government and the plaintiff being Inukshuk Construction, reached an out-of-court settlement. We paid \$795,000 in 2016-17, and this \$83,000 would be for 2017-18. We're just allocating the payments to the years when the work was being completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that a problem came up. I don't really understand what the problem was. Something came up that resulted in more work that needed to be done. There had been something that had been missed or something. Can he please explain that further? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mapsalak for the question. As we understand it, when the RFP went out, and I don't know how many companies bid on it, the successful vendor bid on the work and was awarded the work. When they got going on the work, they alleged that the Government of Nunavut did not provide accurate and specific direction regarding the appropriate payment system for the contractor. They used the job and specifications of the contract.

As they proceeded, they had to do more work to meet the code compliance. When they were putting their claims in, they were identifying that. As I understand it, the government was

refusing to pay for the extra work and they filed a statement of claim. As the parties got into it, they negotiated an out-of-court settlement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 7. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Community Services. \$83,000. Total Informatics Planning Services. \$348,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$431,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 8. In English it reads, (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Transportation. \$2,366,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,366,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 2. The Schedule in English reads, (interpretation ends) Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$11,385,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time please refer to Bill 53 in your legislation binder as we will be reviewing it clause by clause.

I believe you all have it in front of you now. I have the English copy, so I'll read

in English. Even though we're doing the clause-by-clause review, please indicate if you have any questions. It reads, (interpretation ends) Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2017-2018.* (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): While we're here, please refer to page 2. It reads, (interpretation ends) Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018. Total Capital Appropriation. \$11,385,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to page 1. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 53 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), is the committee agreed that Bill 53 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are done with Bill 53. Minister Peterson, if you have any closing remarks, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to again thank yourself and the committee for your scrutiny of Bill 53.

I would like to thank all of our staff in Nunavut offices and all our departments across Nunavut for working very hard on these capital projects and other projects and making sure our projects are completed on time and on budget given the nature of our territory.

I would like to thank Ms. Kimball for being here today to answer all those tech questions. It's not an area of expertise for me by any stretch of imagination. By the way, Mr. Mikkungwak and Ms. Angnakak, there's an exam tomorrow...

>>*Laughter*

...on everything you learned. I thank Ms. Kimball for that and I thank Mr. Chown as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will proceed to the next item. Let us deal with Bill 54. Minister Peterson, we will be dealing with Bill 54. Do you have any opening comments? Minister Peterson.

Bill 54 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2016-2017 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before you today to present Bill 54, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2016-2017*.

Through this bill, the government is seeking to write off government assets valued at \$8,913,000. In rounded terms, write-offs include:

- \$6,023,000 for the Kugaaruk school, which burned down in March 2017;
- \$1.26 million related to design work towards the Arviat middle school;
- \$954,000 to recognize the loss of 13 Nunavut Housing Corporation units;
- \$236,000 to write off the balances owing to the Nunavut Housing Corporation by certain deceased tenants;
- \$169,600 by the Petroleum Products Division within the Department of Community and Government Services to write down fuel inventory; and

- About \$265,000 by the Qulliq Energy Corporation for a generator and prime mover in Clyde River.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 54, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2016-2017*.

The standing committee recognizes that Bill 54 has been introduced to fulfill certain statutory and accounting requirements. The standing committee acknowledges the government's efforts in this regard.

With respect to the write-off of petroleum products inventory, the standing committee continues to encourage the Minister of Community and Government Services to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the operations of the Petroleum Products Division of the department. The standing committee continues to recommend that this report include detailed information concerning rates of fuel evaporation, shrinkage, spillage and theft in Nunavut communities, as well as detailed information concerning inventory management practices and innovations.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing

committee recommends the passage of Bill 54 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Are there any general comments on Bill 54? If there are no general comments, are there any questions on Bill 54? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As we begin the review of the bill, I have one question to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The funding that has been identified is confidential because the names can't be published, but the people left behind will not inherit the debts or arrears by deceased persons. I think the Public Trustee is dealing with that right now through the Department of Justice in Nunavut. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson is asking to bring in a new witness. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort one of the minister's officials out and escort another witness in.

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

the new witness. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is Mr. Terry Audla, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I'm sorry. We are experiencing technical difficulties, so we will take a five-minute break to deal with it. We will take a (interpretation ends) five-minute break, (interpretation) not longer than that. We will be very quick. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:53 and resumed at 18:57

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We had to take a short break. Minister Peterson, please introduce the official at the witness table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is Mr. Terry Audla. He is the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Audla, welcome to the House. The person who asked the question is not here. He hasn't entered yet. If it's okay with you, we will get back to Mr. Mikkungwak's question. I'll proceed and I'll get back to Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Qirngnuq, please proceed.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question. I would first like to welcome the minister and his staff.

I have a question regarding the

Kugaaruk school fire. This is a large amount of money. I know it has a purpose. My question is regarding the school that burnt down. Perhaps it didn't have a sprinkler system and maybe that's why it burnt to the ground. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Qirngnuq for the question. I believe that fire is still under investigation. I don't know if there is a report from the fire marshal's office, but I believe there was a sprinkler system in the school. I see it on the list I have here as being amortized as part of the assets of the school. There was a sprinkler system in the school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it's a community facility, we don't want to see an incident like this. My next question is: with the school that is being planned, are you going to have security measures for the new school? That's my next question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new school, I'm sure, will have some security. It's still in the planning stages.

I have to say, from the details that I have for the fire, this was a motivated young person who was an arsonist and was

highly motivated to burn the school down. No matter what security you have, you could have had cameras and you could have had security guards.... . This individual was piling debris up against the side of the building and lit the fire and then kept piling the material up there until the wall caught fire. We know the end result.

As I said the other day, you can have a lot of security in a school and maybe all of our buildings, but that's not necessarily going to prevent any building in Nunavut from catching fire if a person is highly motivated to burn it down. We have many attempts across Nunavut on an annual basis, it seems. I hear about them in my other capacity as the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is with respect to the school not being surrounded by a fence, which was one of the reasons. Young people who are not happy about something can go directly up to the building. To slow access down, will a fence be put around it? That is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Qirngnuq for this question. I'm not sure if there will be a fence built around it. That might be taken into consideration, but I have to say that I was a kid once and I could climb over fences. It didn't matter if it was 10 feet high or 15 feet high. I could

climb over a fence. I could cut through a fence. There are all kinds of ways around fences. Whether a fence would deter an arsonist, I would be hard pressed to say yes to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a question but more of a general comment. The floodlight and the camera are there. The power plant is fenced in and that helps. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. He didn't ask a question, so I'll proceed. Mr. Mikkungwak, we have a witness now that can answer your earlier question. Mr. Mikkungwak, please repeat your question so that you can get a clear response. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. What I wanted to ask is to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. In your opening comments there is \$236,000 to write off balances owing and the names of the individuals are confidential. My question is: for the tenants who are deceased whose information is confidential, what about the relatives that were left behind? Once this is written off after it has been dealt with by the Department of Justice and the housing board, will the relatives who were left behind not inherit that debt? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. I'll ask Mr. Audla to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The question has three things related to it when we determine a write-off for tenants.

When a tenant is known to have died and the Office of the Public Trustee administered the estate and has issued a letter stating that there were not enough funds in the estate to pay creditors, it was the first criteria.

The second is, and this is the most common one, a tenant is known to have died, but the estate was not administered by the Office of the Public Trustee. The LHOs request and receive a letter from the Office of the Public Trustee stating that they did not administer the estate. As well the LHOs request and receive a registration of death certificate from the GN's Department of Health stating the date of death and so on.

The third and final one was that the deceased tenant was the only registered primary tenant. There was no registered co-tenant on file. As such the surviving family members would have vacated the unit upon the death of the primary tenant. Where a registered co-tenant existed, the co-tenant assumed the arrears and remained in the unit.

Once they have been written off, no family members are inheriting any write-offs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Audla. Moving on, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister may want to change witnesses for my question, but maybe he can answer this because it's a question I have asked before and it's regarding the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. I think we have talked about the issue.

We have documentation in front of us that was provided to us by the department and it lists under the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund communities and the variance changes in regard to petroleum. For Iqaluit there are no numbers, and I know that Iqaluit does have a different kind of set-up than the other communities. I believe I see Cambridge Bay. Perhaps it's the same way because there are no numbers for Cambridge Bay either. If the minister can, I guess, explain that to us and to the listening public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I hope I can explain it. For the two communities in question, because this is the 2016-17 fiscal year, up until August of last year it was a private contractor. That would have been their fuel, but now it's the government's. Since August or September of last year it has been the government's fuel. In Iqaluit it's a private contractor, so it's their fuel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you

very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at the Iqaluit situation because it is different than other communities. I think there was going to be an assessment made and perhaps an RFP come out. Could I get more information on what came as a result of that assessment and also what's going on with the RFP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I'm going to defer that question to Minister Savikataaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Mr. Savikataaq, are you prepared to answer the question? (interpretation) Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to the different kind of fuels and why Iqaluit is not listed, when the fuel comes into Iqaluit, the contractor buys all the fuel. The government doesn't own it anymore. If there's any shrinkage, it's not the government's fuel, so there is no shrinkage according to the government because the fuel is owned by the contractor.

As I stated earlier this week in the House here, it's being evaluated whether the system that's currently being used in Iqaluit is a good system or whether it should go like everyone else in Nunavut. The jury is not out yet, but before it goes

out to an RFP, PPD, CGS, and the government will decide on what kind of system should be used here in Iqaluit because there are pros and cons and we just have to weigh them both and see which way to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. You say that the jury is still out. I think it was about a year ago I asked this very same question and you were saying that this investigation was taking place. It has been a little over a year now. Do you have any idea of when this is going to be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson indicated that Mr. Savikataaq will answer the question. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The evaluation on the system here should be completed this fall. That would be looked at and taken into account before the next RFP comes out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak, you are done. (interpretation ends) I have no more list of names on Bill 54 for questions. Please go to Bill 54 in your legislation binders.

(interpretation) I believe you have it in front of you now. (interpretation ends) Bill 54, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2016-2017*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: See Part 1 on page 2. Part 1.
\$6,023,747,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2.
Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: See Part 2 on page 2. Part 2.
Total. \$1,264,422. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3.
Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: See Part 3 on page 2. Part 3.
Total. \$168,600.70. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4.
Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: See Part 4 on page 2. Part 4.
Total. \$954,238. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: See Part 5 on page 3. Part 5.
Total. \$236,396.34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 6.
Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: See Part 6 on page 3. Part 6.
Total. \$155,481.02. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: See Part 7 on page 3. Part 7.
Total. \$109,798.58. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 54
as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant
to Rule 62(2), that Bill 54 can
immediately be placed on the orders of
the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you have closing
comments, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr.
Chairman. I would just like to again
thank you and your committee for your
excellent scrutiny of not only this Bill 54
but also 51, 52, and 53.

I would like to comment that I have been
here over nine years and I was a former
MLA. As a former MLA back in the
early going, we didn't get a whole lot of
information at times when we were
scrutinizing bills. A comment and maybe

give myself and my officials a pat on the back.

We have made significant improvements over the years in providing details on supp bills. That's a credit not only to my department and all departments that work very hard at this but also to the work yourself and the MLAs do to hold our feet to the coals to get those details. Sometimes I joke with you and your colleagues that you have more information than I do sometimes. That's a credit and I hope that will continue in the years ahead.

I would like to thank my ministerial colleagues for being here to answer your questions because that wasn't always the case years ago either, where the minister would be here and you couldn't deflect a question to the minister in charge of the department. It's a credit for the ministers that they're here and take this very seriously, and all the officials who show up here to be available to come in as witnesses and answer the details of the questions that you may have.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you and I thank my officials.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We will now proceed to the review of Bill 47. Minister Peterson, are you prepared to deliver your opening comments? Minister Peterson, please proceed.

Bill 47 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act – Consideration in Committee

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

witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree for the officials to enter into the Chamber?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Peterson, please introduce your officials before proceeding with your opening comments. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Bill MacKay, Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance, and to my left is Stephen Shaddock, Interim Director of Policy at the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a slight correction, Mr. Shaddock is full-time Director of Policy, not interim. I apologize, Mr. Shaddock.

Good day, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to speak to Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act*.

This bill will 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. The purpose of these proposed changes is to ensure the law society's rules comply with the *Legal Profession Act* and to eliminate the technical requirement that the rules be registered as a regulation under the Act.

The *Legal Profession Act* establishes the Law Society of Nunavut, which regulates the legal profession in our territory. Members of the law society elect the executive, who has the authority to make the rules which guide the practice of law as well as the conduct of lawyers who are practising law in Nunavut.

Currently the law society must submit any proposed changes to the rules to the Government of Nunavut's Registrar of Regulations for review and registration as regulations under the Act. This technical step is unnecessary and inappropriate in that it takes away from the independence of the law society in governing the legal profession in Nunavut. As a result this has not been done as a matter of practice since 1999.

However, to ensure new rules are appropriately vetted going forward, the bill also creates a rules committee, which must review and assess the new rules for compliance with the rules applicable to Nunavut. Further, the rules must be made available to the public. This provides accountability of the legal profession in making its own rules.

The bill also makes changes to the Act to approve a few current rules which are not technically authorized by the Act due to the Act being out of date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will now take questions.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. For clarification purposes, when you introduced your officials, you introduced Mr. MacKay as your Deputy Minister of Finance. Is that correct? Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I hadn't quite made the switch from Finance to Justice. Mr. MacKay is the Deputy Minister of Justice. I apologize for that mishap. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act*.

As the minister noted in his opening comments, Bill 47 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.

The standing committee does not object to the principle of the bill. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, a total of five motions were made to amend the bill. These motions were of a technical nature.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 47, as amended and reprinted, to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) The floor is now open for general comments.

Are there any general comments? I have no names for questions. We will now do a clause-by-clause review of Bill 47. Go to Bill 47 in your legislative binders.

(interpretation) I believe you have the bill in front of you now. Bill 47, (interpretation ends) Reprint, *An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 1.1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6.1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10.1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Agreed?

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on the last page. Schedule. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 47 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 47 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do you have closing comments, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank yourself and the committee for your support of this bill amending the *Legal Profession Act*. I'm sure it will be greatly appreciated by the members of the legal profession in Nunavut.

I would like to thank, of course, Mr. Stephen Shaddock, who is beside me, and Thomas Ahlfors, who is over in the gallery. He's our legislative drafter. Also a shout-out to Mr. Stephen Mansell, who is over at the law school program now. He worked on this bill as well. I would like to thank him and of course Mr. MacKay as well for preparing all this information for us and bringing it to this point today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

(interpretation ends) We will take a five-minute break to prepare for the final bill.

>>*Committee recessed at 19:28 and resumed at 19:37*

Bill 55 – An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We will proceed. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Ell-Kanayuk, if she has officials that she would like to appear before the committee. Minister Ell-

Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Sherri Rowe, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and to my right is Jordan Aariak, who is currently an acting director for transportation and planning. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome to the House, Ms. Rowe and Mr. Aariak. You can now proceed with your opening comments, Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am before you today to review Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*.

As my colleagues will recall, as part of our correspondence on Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, in June I committed to introducing a short bill at the current sitting to add requirements to

table an annual report on the administration of the Act and conduct a review every five years.

The amendments in Bill 55 will increase accountability and transparency with respect to our delivery of services, the enforcement of traffic laws, and traffic safety in general.

This will conclude my remarks, but I would be pleased to take questions from my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. 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 am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*.

As members will recall, Bill 29 received assent during our recent spring sitting. That bill provided for major amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act*.

During its consideration of Bill 29, the standing committee requested and received a formal commitment from the minister that she would introduce a short, stand-alone bill during the final sitting of the current Legislative Assembly to provide for new statutory reporting requirements under the legislation.

As the minister noted in her opening comments, Bill 55 amends the *Motor Vehicles Act* to require an annual report

on the administration of the Act and traffic safety, as well as a review of the Act every five years. These items will be required to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 55 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The floor is now open for general comments. General comments? I have no names on my list for questions. We will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of Bill 55. Please go to Bill 55 in your legislative binders.

(interpretation) I am sure that you all have the copy of the bill. Bill 55, (interpretation ends) *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 55 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 55 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you have closing

comments, Minister Ell-Kanayuk?

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): I wish to thank my colleagues for the passage of the bill, along with my officials who developed the work for presentation, as well as our legislative drafters. They worked well together to complete the preparations in time. I also thank them. Thank you.

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

(interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had a good day. We have completed everything that we wanted to complete in Committee of the Whole today. Therefore I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

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

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 47, 53, 54, and 55 and would like to report progress and that Bills 47, 53,

54, and 55 are now ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 47 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act – Third 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 third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour.

(interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2017-2018 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon.

Member for Arviat South, that Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2017-2018*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 54 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2016-2017 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 54, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2016-2017*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Bill 55 – An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act – Third Reading

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

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

Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for events for tomorrow: at nine o'clock in the morning there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation in the Nanuq Boardroom; and a reminder that at 11:45 here in the Chamber will be the group photo.

Orders of the Day for September 19:

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. Petitions
10. Responses to Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motions

14. Notices of Motions for First

Reading of Bills

15. Motions

16. First Reading of Bills

17. Second Reading of Bills

18. Consideration in Committee of

the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters

- Bill 27

19. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, September 19, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:51*

