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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation*

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(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Hon. George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
Management Board; Minister of Health;
Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention;
Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety
and Compensation Commission*

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(South Baffin)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of
Education; Minister of Languages*

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(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
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Government Services; Minister
of Human Resources*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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(Aivilik)
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Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, June 6, 2019

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Before we proceed, I ask Member Towtongie to say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Going back to the orders of the day. We will proceed. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 260 – 5(2):
Naalakkersuisut, Government of
Greenland Donation**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognize the generosity and friendship of our neighbours, the Naalakkersuisut, Government of Greenland.

My colleagues will remember the fire at the NorthMart here in Iqaluit late last fall, leaving the community short of some supplies. You will also remember the incredible level of media attention that fire received and the coverage paid to Nunavut's food insecurity issues.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of that coverage, the Government of Greenland acted quickly to help Iqalumiut. They recently provided a donation of \$100,000 to help combat food insecurity. It is with great pleasure that I announce that these funds have been donated to the City of Iqaluit's [Makkuttukkuvik] Youth Centre cooking club; the Apex District Education Authority's School Food Security and Nutrition program; and the Iqaluit District Education Authority to support cooking clubs and programs at the Inuksuk, Aqsarniit, Joamie and Nakasuk schools.

This incredible contribution will help build food preparation skills for the youth of Iqaluit and create lifelong skills to help build food security. It's a wonderful example of [Pilimmaksarniq] in action.

Uqaqtitsijii, the Government of Nunavut values our continued friendship with [Naalakkersuisut], Government of Greenland and we look forward to fostering our relations in the future. I want to formally and publicly thank them for this incredible gift; it means so much to the community of [Iqaluit]. As we all know, food insecurity remains a reality for far too many Nunavummiut and the impacts of it are far-reaching. I would also like to commend the hard work and dedication of the community volunteers who continue to work to build food security across Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 261 – 5(2):
Nunavut Arctic College – 2019
Graduates**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my constituents of Naujaat and Coral Harbour. (interpretation ends) Three more sleeps.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in the House today to inform my fellow members of the success of our college graduates across this great territory.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College is dedicated to helping students develop the knowledge and skills that are needed in Nunavut. Convocation day is an important milestone in the lives of students at Arctic College. Having received an education at a post-secondary institution, students are prepared to continue their studies or actively participate in the labour market.

Mr. Speaker, this spring the college has awarded more degrees, diplomas, certificates, and certified trades levels than ever before. A total of 304 learners participated in the 2018-19 convocation ceremonies. This is up from 275 in the 2017-18 school year

Mr. Speaker, these graduates should be proud of their hard work and determination. The graduates have the

credentials to compete in Nunavut's job market. They have gained the advanced skills and training they need to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, this government's mandate focuses on providing education and training that prepares children, youth, and adult learners for positive contributions to society and for meaningful employment. A key component of *Turaaqtavut* is the focus on self-reliance and optimism gained through education and training.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College is on track to offer programs in every community of Nunavut, with many of our communities offering advanced academic programs. Please join me in acknowledging our graduates of our 2018-19 school year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

**Minister's Statement 262 – 5(2): Top
Finallist for 2019 Canadian Health
Informatics Awards:
Interoperable Electronic Health
Record & Teleradiology Project**

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am very proud to share that the Government of Nunavut's interoperable Electronic Health Record (iEHR) and Teleradiology Project has been selected as a top finallist for the 2019 Canadian Health Informatics Awards (CHIA), Project Implementation Team of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Tracy MacDonald,

Director of eHealth, and Ms. Charlene Pickles, Director of Healthtech Inc., partnered to implement this initiative and attended the Canadian Health Informatics Awards Gala in Toronto on May 27 where the winning finalist was announced. Mr. Speaker, this award recognizes a client team that has successfully implemented a health-IT solution. Although they were not the winning finalist, the fact that they were recognized of this achievement should be celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's interoperable Electronic Health Record (iEHR) and Teleradiology Project accomplished the goal of achieving territory-wide electronic health records.

The Information Technology Association of Canada had encouraged Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Pickles to nominate their project for the Information Technology Association of Canada Indigenous Awards being held on November 27, 2019. The indigenous awards celebrate the use of technology to improve the performance of organizations and government operations.

Mr. Speaker, this project has enabled more timely, closer-to-home access to clinical care delivered by interdisciplinary teams for all Nunavummiut. The project has lowered the barriers to accessing care and reduced patient transportation costs, an enhancement that works toward the well-being and self-reliance of our people and communities through Inuusivut. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tracy, Charlene, and the interoperable Electronic Health

Record (iEHR) and Teleradiology Project Team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 263 – 5(2):
Iqaluit Airport Art**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, all Nunavummiut and my fellow members.

Mr. Speaker, in April 2019 Culture and Heritage installed new art at the Iqaluit International Airport. Many of the pieces on display at the airport exhibit are from the Government of Nunavut Heritage Collection. The other pieces are on loan from the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, the new prints on display have an aviation theme. They are amazing works of art by Pudlo Pudlat of Cape Dorset. There are carvings from the Government of Nunavut Heritage Collection on display as well.

Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to find innovative ways like this to display the Government of Nunavut Heritage Collection and make sure the collection can be viewed by Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Minister's Statement 264 – 5(2):
Nunavut Receives Green Energy
Funding from Government of
Canada**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) To my colleague, should I say “hello.”

Today I am pleased to inform my colleagues that on May 21, 2019 the Hon. Bernadette Jordan, the federal Minister of Rural Economic Development, announced that the Qulliq Energy Corporation will receive funding from the Government of Canada for green energy projects across the territory. Through the Arctic Energy Fund, the Qulliq Energy Corporation will receive over \$13.5 million toward approved green energy projects, while the Qulliq Energy Corporation is contributing \$7.6 million.

The funding will see the installation of seven energy-efficient generator sets in six communities across the territory: Rankin Inlet, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Whale Cove. These upgrades will significantly improve energy efficiency in our power plants and will increase energy production capacity in our communities.

The funding will also incorporate renewable energy technology for Kugluktuk in the form of a 500-kilowatt solar photovoltaic panel with storage capability, making this the first hybrid diesel and solar energy power plant to be constructed in Nunavut. No wonder I had a hard time saying it. We anticipate that the inclusion of renewable energy technology will reduce the community's

consumption of diesel fuel and create an important template for the Qulliq Energy Corporation in future energy planning initiatives.

Uqaqtitsijii, the Qulliq Energy Corporation supports our government's mandate *Turaaqtavut* and the priority area of [Pivaallirutivut]: developing and managing our renewable and non-renewable resources for the long-term benefit of Nunavummiut.

Federal contributions toward the replacement of aged infrastructure as well as investment in energy-efficient and renewable infrastructure are paramount in furthering the Qulliq Energy Corporation's commitment to the environment and economically sound power generation in our territory. The corporation recognizes the support of the Government of Canada as a step forward in securing a reliable and clean energy future for Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 265 – 5(2):
Update on the New Department of
Human Resources**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):

Good day, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide an update to my colleagues on how the Department of Human Resources is progressing.

On April 1 all staff were united by teleconference and welcomed to their

new department by my deputy minister with a gathering in each regional office and headquarters. Using the *Tunnganarniq* IQ principle of fostering good spirits by being open, welcoming, and inclusive, we wanted to ensure all human resource staff knew that is how we want our department to be known as, *tunngasukittitsuut kituluktaanik*.

In the first week of April the Department of Human Resources hosted “Respect at Work” training for all deputy heads and assistant deputy ministers to recognize and understand harassing and discriminating behaviours and to create a respectful and healthier workplace. The training was well received with positive feedback. The department will be looking at offering more of this training to supervisors in this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Resources has a total of 112 positions within the department and 16 Sivuliqtiksat internship positions to support internships throughout the GN for a total of 128 positions. Capacity is currently 56 percent, or 64 employees, and Inuit employment is currently at 55 percent, or 35 employees.

The senior staff have been actively staffing new and vacant positions to ensure the department is fully operational by the end of the transition period. A total of 19 job competitions for new and vacant positions have closed, with additional positions being posted and advertised. Filling the senior management positions remains a priority. Most of these are now in the job offer and appeals stages.

Mr. Speaker, it takes time and a lot of work to start a new department.

However, my department is committed to providing client service without interruption as we establish our goals and objectives. The Department of Human Resources’ immediate priorities include:

- Building capacity in all divisions and enhancing the number of Inuit employees;
- Developing a Department of Human Resources detailed Inuit employment plan for the short, medium and long term;
- Finalizing a Government of Nunavut-wide master Inuit employment plan and leading its implementation; and
- Representing the Government of Nunavut on the tripartite Nunavut Implementation Panel and the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, my department will work through Piliqatigiinniq in partnership with other departments to build capacity and support the implementation of their Inuit employment plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Minister’s Statement 266 – 5(2):
Honouring Nikki Eegeesiak**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand before you and my colleagues today to

recognize a long-time contributor to the education system in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Nikki Eegeesiak passed away suddenly in May. It is with a heavy heart that I recognize her today for her contributions as executive director of the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities.

Since 2010 Nikki worked tirelessly on promoting the rights of district education authorities across Nunavut. Nikki brought her passion and dedication to education and was a strong advocate for the voice of parents in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this past fall, Nikki travelled with our *Education Act* consultation team around Nunavut, speaking with district education authorities and hearing from community members. Her fierce determination made her a faithful champion in representing the interests of district education authorities and parents across our territory. She fought hard for more resources for district education authorities and for district education authorities to continue to have the authority over local education.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Nikki's efforts and contributions to the development of Bill 25, and it is my hope that she would agree that it reflects the spirit of the comments we heard from Nunavummiut.

On behalf of the Department of Education, I wish to express my sincere condolences to the family of the late Nikki Eegeesiak, especially her daughter Ooleena and her husband, George. Her passion, energy, contagious laugh, and commitment to education in Nunavut

will be truly missed. All her relatives and family are in our thoughts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 397 – 5(2): Appreciation to Pages and Chaperone

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

Mr. Speaker, this being the last day of our sitting, I would like to take a moment to thank our two pages, Sarah Tookalook and Louisa Kavik, who have been here for the entire spring sitting. Today, Mr. Speaker, they're sitting on either side of the Speaker's Chair.

>> *Applause*

These pages are from my community of Sanikiluaq and this was their first time in Iqaluit. They tell me that they have enjoyed the experience of working here in the Assembly as well as being in the city itself. They even asked if they could come back and serve us again.

>> *Applause*

I would also like to thank Mina Mannuk, who is seated behind me here today, for taking the time to be their chaperone and guide here in Iqaluit. I should note that Mina is a substitute teacher at the high

school in Sanikiluaq and they're looking forward to her return.

>> *Applause*

I would like all members to please join me in showing our appreciation for the service these three individuals have provided to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Let's proceed. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 398 – 5(2):
Sylvia Grinnell Park**

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I have a happy story to tell.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my absolute delight at the progress that has been made on the Sylvia Grinnell Park that is just on the outskirts of this community.

Mr. Speaker, the park was full of families, eating and enjoying each other's company and having a great time. In fact last weekend my family and I went out on a picnic, taking advantage of the good weather three days in a row. It was really nice out there.

Mr. Speaker, the atmosphere at the park while we were there brought back a bit of that rare community feeling that has gotten somewhat lost since Iqaluit has become so much bigger and busier.

Mr. Speaker, I was very impressed by

the tent platforms, barbeque pits, and seating areas that are set up around the park. The interpretive signs scattered throughout gives people an insight on the birds and wildlife that also make the park their home.

Mr. Speaker, my only thought for improving the park is to add more picnic and barbeque areas as there are some people who cannot access these areas due to the park's growing popularity.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the government's good work in developing such a beautiful space for all of us to enjoy.

With the summer days stretching out before us, I look forward to enjoying many more days at the Sylvia Grinnell Park. I know that many community residents as well as visitors will also be enjoying the lovely surroundings in beautiful Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: You have yet to come to beautiful Baker Lake.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Member's Statement 399 – 5(2):
Addressing Suicide**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of Arviat and Whale Cove, especially Theresa Aggark, who is Evano Aggark's wife. I thank her

profusely for sewing such a beautiful jacket that I am wearing today. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, many of Nunavut's communities are still enduring the heartbreak of suicides. (interpretation ends) Communities continue to struggle with high rates of suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and tragically deaths by suicide.

Mr. Speaker, in June 2017 the Government of Nunavut was a party to Inuusivut Anninaqtuq, the 2017-2022 Action Plan to implement the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Inuusivut Anninaqtuq assigned a number of tasks to be actioned by the Embrace Life Council and the GN's Quality of Life Secretariat. I am grateful for the work that these organizations do and for the support that they have given my community in recent months, but I am concerned that we not limit our vision of suicide prevention to the kinds of work that the Embrace Life Council and the GN's Quality of Life Secretariat do. The work that they do is very important, but it's not the whole picture, Mr. Speaker.

If members re-read the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy and Inuusivut Anninaqtuq, it is very clear that there is a lot of work to be done by GN departments, and not just the Department of Health but other departments as well.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to achieve our goal of significantly reducing our rates of suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and deaths by suicide, our government must find ways to address

intergenerational transmission of historical trauma, which is the key root factors of so many of our social problems. It is very important that we find ways to heal unresolved trauma and grief. Of course our government must also ensure access to a continuum of mental wellness services for Inuit.

For this reason, this afternoon I will be submitting a written question to the Premier regarding the degree to which GN departments are meeting their commitments under Inuusivut Anninaqtuq. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerik.

Member's Statement 400 – 5(2): 2019 Hall Beach High School Graduates

Mr. Kaernerik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Amittuq.

I would like to express my pride in my fellow residents of Amittuq. The Member for Aggu already mentioned the names for Igloolik. I am very proud of the graduates. I further encourage you to continue with your education.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate that I am proud of my fellow residents of Amittuq in Hall Beach, and I will mention their names. They will have a graduation ceremony next week. They are:

- Courtney Anguratsiaq;
- Zacharias Evalak;
- Spencer Gibbons;

- Ayla Innualuk;
- Marilyn Ikeperiar;
- Maiya Nattuk;
- Joe Satuqsi.

These young people will be graduating. I again encourage you as young people. You still have a bright future, so I encourage you to move forward. I advise you, all the young people, to try and try again. There are many sources of assistance available that you can benefit from.

Further, let me state that I wish I could be young again.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I stood was to express my pride. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): My colleague, you are still young.

>> *Laughter*

Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Member's Statement 401 – 5(2): Child Sexual Abuse in Nunavut

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I would like to raise my concerns over the high rates of child sexual abuse in Nunavut.

I would like to thank our frontline workers, including our social workers, RCMP, health care professionals, and the Arctic Child and Youth Foundation for the difficult job they do to assist

these young victims.

However, the rates are staggering, as far too often innocent children are being victimized. Just last year when I asked the Minister of Justice about the number of registered sexual offenders, the response was there were nearly not 500 individuals at the that time, and just recently when I asked for an update on those figures, it sharply increased to over 600.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that this is a difficult topic to discuss, but I believe there is a crisis in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand why our government has yet to publicly recognize child abuse in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the children of Nunavut need our help to put an end to this.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the Government of Nunavut's failure to raise its concern over the high rates of child sexual abuse is guilty by association of allowing the victimization of children to continue.

Mr. Speaker, during our recent televised hearing, I expressed my disappointment at the Department of Family Services' annual report and the child and youth representative's annual report continually failed to address the issue of child sexual abuse, while both have admitted to coming across the issue regularly.

Mr. Speaker, I previously called on the government to formulate a collaborative approach to address this issue, to protect the vulnerable children. I commit to continue raising this issue until our government makes a commitment and creates a plan to protect our children.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions to the appropriate minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

**Member's Statement 402 – 5(2):
Direct Election of the Premier**

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of my community and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin my statement, please accept my appreciation and that of my constituents in Igloolik for the excellent Order of Nunavut Investiture Ceremony that took place last evening in this Chamber to honour my fellow resident and close friend, Zacharias Kunuk.

>> *Applause*

I'll be switching between English and Inuktitut, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today is the last day of our spring sitting, and I want to take this opportunity to reflect on an idea whose time may have come.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it was almost a quarter of a century ago that John Amagoalik presented the report of the Nunavut Implementation Commission on the issue of the process for selecting the Premier of this territory.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Members of the First

Legislative Assembly gathered in your community of Baker Lake 20 years ago this month to hold their first caucus retreat. At this gathering, the decision was made to retain the present system and leave it to a future Assembly to possibly revisit the issue. The issue, of course, is the election of a Premier.

In this report it was written, "Specifically, considerable public interest was shown in the possibility of some form of direct popular election of the Premier as a means of both reinforcing accountability to the public and of strengthening the hand of a Premier operating in a 'non-party' system."

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

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Quassa, you may now proceed.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are now in the Fifth Assembly, and I believe that it is now time for this question to be put directly to Nunavummiut by way of a vote under the *Plebiscites Act* at our next general election, which will be held in two years' time.

Mr. Speaker, as with all important questions, I have heard many different perspectives from many different people during many different conversations that I have held across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, many people have told me that a clear choice of visions for our territory needs to be put before the people at an election.

Although every single Member of the Legislative Assembly works hard to earn the confidence of their constituents at election time, the fact remains that candidates run primarily on the basis of what they can do for their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that at the provincial and national level, the leaders of political parties run as candidates in their own constituencies. However, the public knows full well that they are not voting simply for a constituency representative but for a potential head of government. It is a clear choice.

Mr. Speaker, I do not see organized political parties contesting our territorial elections any time in the near future. Consequently the direct election of a Premier may be the best way to allow Nunavummiut to choose a leader who brings a clear mandate to the office.

Mr. Speaker, I fully understand and appreciate that there would be many details to consider in implementing such a fundamental change, including, for example, the question of whether a directly elected Premier should also have the authority to choose his or her own cabinet.

However, let us remember that the creation of Nunavut itself was seen by some as an idea that was impossible to achieve. That was an audacious goal (interpretation) for Inuit. (interpretation ends) I firmly believe that we should not be afraid to consider change, and that we

should be open to ideas and inspiration from other places.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that today will not be the end of this conversation. When we reconvene in the House for our fall sitting, I hope to bring forward a motion that will set us on the path to asking our constituents for their thoughts on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by thanking you for giving me this opportunity to leave you and all of our colleagues with some thoughts to consider over the summer months. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 403 – 5(2):
Appreciation of Staff of the
Legislative Assembly**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak, as well as my fellow members.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my appreciation to our assistants in this House, primarily the employees on the top floor, as well as the interpreters and support staff behind the windows, as they provide an essential service to us.

As this is our last day of the spring sitting, I want to convey my thanks in conjunction with my colleagues to the entire supporting cast here who make

this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 404 – 5(2): 2019
Pangnirtung High School
Graduates**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Pangnirtung and to my colleagues.

I rise this afternoon to express my congratulations to the Pangnirtung grade 12 students who will graduate. There are eight graduating students:

- Melissa Akulujuk;
- Angeela Alivaktuk;
- Monica Alivaktuk;
- Nicholas Mike;
- Henry Nakashuk;
- Tyson Nauyuq;
- Denise Nauyuq; and
- Grace Sanguya.

I am very proud of these students and I encourage them to pursue higher education. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 405 – 5(2):
Appreciation of Spring Sitting**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to

express my appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, as this is our last day of our session today and we won't see each other all spring, I want to voice my deep appreciation to all of my colleagues and every minister here.

We all know that when people work together as colleagues for several years, you start to consider them as part of your extended family and sometimes we also miss each other, as that is human nature. When we become close, we are also no longer fearful of each other. After each meeting ends, we know that we will not see each other until the next meeting, so I thank each and every one of you. I am so grateful that these words of appreciation seem miniscule in light of my tremendous gratitude for being welcomed here.

>> *Applause*

As well, our employees here are indispensable sources of support, more particularly for me since I may be the only member who requires documents in Inuktitut from amongst my colleagues.

We must commit ourselves fully to using Inuktitut as MLAs, as the viewing audience scrutinizes our sessions daily, especially by unilingual Inuit. There are some Inuit who are functionally bilingual but who prefer to hear their language spoken. Nonetheless, we must keep in mind our constituents who listen and watch the daily proceedings, and whenever possible, to use Inuktitut primarily for their benefit and understanding when we are in the House, as some people are ardent viewers.

Our people who are unilingual Inuit are amongst the most frequent spectators, and this is apparent and as well, our elders who are no longer mobile and who rarely go out watch our entire proceedings while we are in session. This is to understand what we are doing on their behalf, so they listen to the members, which is why I ask that members keep that thought in mind so that we speak in our language at every opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 406 – 5(2):
Looking Forward to Spring
Fishing**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Rankin Inlet.

Prior to the end of this session, I, too, wish to firstly express my gratitude. I am not going home tomorrow, as I still have several other meetings to attend. I will be going home shortly, which is wonderful. I will be spending time outdoors with my fellow residents, and my colleague and I will be going fishing as well, which is joyful.

Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my thankfulness to the residents of Iqaluit who are very hospitable and every time I see Iqalungmiut, they are always welcoming me to their community, so a very big thanks to the residents of Iqaluit.

As well, in Rankin Inlet there will be a

graduating class that currently stands at 24 students, but I cannot state their names currently as they haven't received their departmental exams yet. It is only after the exams that are scheduled for August and the students that pass who shall be graduating high school and presented with their graduation diploma in Rankin Inlet. I hope to be able to provide that information in the fall as to how many students did pass their departmental exams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I hope Rankin Inlet citizens will have a good spring and summer. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 407 – 5(2):
Looking Forward to Grise Fiord**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also very appreciative of all of my colleagues here as we have dealt with difficult issues, but you remain welcoming. Let us keep working together down the road as collaboration makes it easier, especially when we are at a session. When members leave, our workload is usually increased and directed, so I am thankful for that as it is always good to work together.

Now, tomorrow I will be leaving for Grise Fiord for a grand opening of their power plant, and my ministerial colleague and I, actually both of us in the acting ministers' role are travelling for that purpose. I look forward to seeing that. The power plant is already in use at

this time, but this is the formal opening to acknowledge the completion of this project and this is what makes it a joyous occasion.

I encourage the Government of Nunavut, actually both levels, including the federal government, to continue to build facilities and development opportunities. As an example, residents of the High Arctic are waving the flag of sovereignty, which seems to be the only appreciation we receive. However, there are still many other facilities and development opportunities they could take advantage of, especially when important facilities are constructed, as it allows the smaller communities to benefit.

Let's keep our smaller communities in mind when looking at these kinds of projects, both as a symbol of thanks and to plan for future projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Member Hickes.

**Member's Statement 408 – 5(2): 2019
Iqaluit High School Graduates**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard a number of my colleagues congratulating the graduates from their community. I would like to do the same. I won't go through the whole list of the graduates here in Iqaluit, but I do want to stress to them and I hope, if some of them aren't listening, that they will hear these words later.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great step in the

next part of their lives. Graduating from high school is a great accomplishment. I hope they take the time to thank the people who have pushed them and challenged them to get to this level of success, whether that be their parents, their extended family, staff at the school itself, to go into their next phase of whether it be education or workforce, trades; there are a number of different opportunities.

I always say the youth in our territory have boundless opportunities available to them, and I'm very excited. I go to the schools and I talk to our youth, and I interview some of our high school students on their social projects at the end of the year, depending upon the topic, and I'm always excited to see the energy and exuberance that these young people are bringing forward. I really challenge them to take this next step very seriously, that they take opportunities that are available to them.

I just want to really emphasize that this is the time of year where there are graduations across the territory, and I really want to encourage people to practise safe graduations, make sure that they've got rides available, make sure that they're in a safe place and they look out for one another.

Just in closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to celebrate this transition of seasons. We're getting over the winter season and into our summer, and the ice conditions are changing very rapidly. I want to really emphasize how important it is for people to travel safely and to have a safe boating season and a safe hunting season, and to make sure that you're prepared properly.

I know Community and Government Services has SPOT devices available around the territory and I strongly encourage all people, no matter if they're just going out for the day or for the week or for the month, to take a SPOT device with them to help keep them and their families safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Member Joanasié.

**Member's Statement 409 – 5(2):
Appreciation of Spring Sitting**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise on this final day of our session. As per the usual, we have a long winter in the Arctic. Further, we had a very long winter session as well, and now this spring session is coming to a close.

The weather is starting to warm up with longer daylight hours, denoting the conclusion of the school year, so we congratulate the students who are on the cusp of graduation, whether that is at Arctic College, grade 12, or even kindergarten students who now have a mini-graduation ceremony, so we congratulate all of them.

Mr. Speaker, with the summer season quickly approaching, residents will be fishing, geese hunting, and camping on

the land, so please ensure you do so in a safe manner and to enjoy your time on the land. Nunavut is exceedingly beautiful and enjoyable to be outside. The benefits to one's mind and body when one is outside are immeasurable and it is also an integral part of our culture. I encourage my fellow members and Nunavummiut to have a good summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's go back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasié.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 499 – 5(2):
Inuktitut in the Private Sector**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a return to oral question No. 499 – 5(2) asked by the Member for Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, the response to this oral question is long and I have filed it with the Clerk for distribution to members and for transcribing into our *Hansard*.

Question:

Can the minister provide an update on how many businesses, especially in the capital city of Iqaluit, have received funding for building Inuktitut signage?

Response:

Following the coming into force of

sections 3 to 5 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* on July 9, 2017, the Government of Nunavut established the Inuktuuriaqarniq Namminiqaqtinut: Private Sector Inuktitut Support Program. The program provides small grants to eligible private sector organizations operating in Nunavut that are seeking to improve their compliance with the requirements of the Act. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$5,000 for a single project.

Eligible activities supported under the program include:

- Replacement or purchase of public signs, including emergency and exit signs, to include Inuktitut, together with any other language used, if any; or
- Updating or purchasing of posters or commercial advertising in print, radio, television, or other media that include Inuktitut;
- Activities that will support the applicant's ability to provide, in Inuktitut, reception services, customer or client services available to the general public, such as employee participation in Inuktitut language training courses, implementing telephone directory options or referral systems in Inuktitut;
- Producing, translating, and proofreading printed or online materials that support communications with the general public in Inuktitut, including notices, warnings, or instructions directed to users or consumers of the service in Inuktitut;
- Updating invoicing or billing systems to include Inuktitut;
- The development and publication of an Inuktitut language plan in

collaboration with the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

Since the launch of the grant program, the Department of Culture and Heritage received 27 applications and awarded \$118,048.22 to a total 26 applications. Seven applications were processed in 2017-18, sixteen in 2018-19 where one application was not eligible to receive funding, and four so far in 2019-2020. Most applications (19) were received from private sector organizations located in Iqaluit, three from Rankin Inlet, three from Cambridge Bay, one from Igloolik, and one from Resolute Bay.

First Supplementary Question:

When we look at our signage in Inuktitut, many of them have spelling errors and government is helping to deteriorate the language, as there seems to be no commitment to providing services in the Inuit language. Has the government ever thought or the Department of Culture and Heritage ever considered private businesses that are non-compliant and to fine these businesses? Inuktitut should be first, and private businesses that can't provide services in Inuktitut, can't the government charge them a fine?

Response:

Any organization operating in Nunavut can approach and work with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit (IUT) to ensure that the highest quality of Inuktitut is displayed or posted on signs and other documents intended to the general public. The IUT office does receive requests on a regular basis from government and non-government bodies to review signs, terms, or other

expressions in Inuktitut, and provides recommendations in return, as per its mandate under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

For the enforcement of the Language Acts, the Languages Commissioner was provided broad mediation and investigative powers under the language laws to ensure compliance.

The Languages Commissioner has the legislated mandate to ensure that the rights, status, and privileges that are established by law with respect to Inuktitut are recognized and performed. This includes advising an organization regarding the specific actions or approaches the Languages Commissioner considers appropriate to ensure compliance with the law and associated regulations. This may include mediation, developing an Inuit language plan, or issuing recommendations following an investigation and reporting on its findings.

However, if an organization continues to be in violation of the Nunavut *Official Languages Act* or the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and no agreement has been reached on remedies, an application can be filed to the Nunavut Court of Justice. It would then be up to the courts to seek appropriate remedies, including punitive damages or other court-ordered measures to enforce compliance on the part of the organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Return to Oral Question 509 – 5(2):
Status of New Contract for
Medical and Duty Travel**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question that was asked by the Member for Gjoa Haven, Tony Akoak. It is Question 509 – 5(2) asked on June 3, 2019.

The member asked:

During our recent winter sitting, I asked the minister a number of questions concerning the related issue of the proposed airline merger between First Air and Canadian North.

Mr. Speaker, a merger between the airlines would obviously have an impact on the government's medical and duty travel contracts.

(interpretation ends) ...in response to my questions, the minister committed to tabling copies of the Government of Nunavut's submissions to the federal government on this issue, but he has not yet done so. [Mr. Speaker], can the minister confirm that these submissions will be tabled before the end of our current spring sitting?

Response:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify the answer I provided on June 3, 2019 to Mr. Tony Akoak, Member for Gjoa Haven, who asked if I could confirm that the Government of Nunavut's submission to Transport Canada regarding the merger between First Air and Canadian North be tabled before the end of our current spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, the federal cabinet has not yet made their decision on the proposed airline merger. As I indicated during this past winter sitting, once the federal government has made a decision on the proposed airline merger, I will table my department's submission to Transport Canada. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Return to Oral Question 523 – 5(2):
Municipal Bylaws**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like a yo-yo this afternoon, going up and down.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer to Oral Question No. 523 – 5(2), asked by Ms. Angnakak.

Mr. Speaker, on June 4 Ms. Angnakak asked about the status of the City of Iqaluit's new land administration bylaw. I informed her that I signed and approved that bylaw.

Mr. Speaker, the bylaw that I was referring to was the zoning bylaw amendment to rezone a lot to permit a four-storey multi-use development commercial and residential permit. The bylaw reference number is 235 (40-2) 18-008.

The bylaw that Ms. Angnakak was referring to was the City of Iqaluit Land Administration Bylaw No. 853.

I did not approve the specific bylaw that she was enquiring about. As it was stated in a letter written from Minister Netser

to Ms. Angnakak dated May 31, 2019, the Department of Justice recommended that I not approve bylaw No. 853 because there are portions of the bylaw that deal with eligibility requirements that require further legal analysis and consideration. Once the City of Iqaluit has resolved those issues, it can proceed with the process and seek my approval.

As a reminder, the process for bylaw approval includes a first reading, a public hearing, a second reading, ministerial approval, and then a third reading. Depending on if and when the City of Iqaluit submits a revised package, we can typically expect the process to take a couple of months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Return to Oral Question 515 – 5(2):
Status of Aqsarniit Middle School
Siding Project**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to the member's question 515 – 5(2), which was asked by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. There are many components to that response. I have filed it with the Clerk for distribution to all members and for entering into the record.

Question:

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the Aqsarniit Middle School Siding project?

Response:

The Aqsarniit new siding, windows and doors project is funded out of our ongoing lifecycle budget. The project was initiated in 2017-18. The project has gone as far as tender-ready documents. The initial estimate came in at approximately \$2 million. The scope of this project includes windows, doors, and new siding. The Iqaluit District Education Authority was consulted on the project.

Due to the limited funds available to support all 45 schools, the department annually has to prioritize all projects across the territory.

Prioritization factors:

- Health and safety
- Urgency
- Cost
- Condition
- Fair distribution of funding across all regions

The Aqsarniit new siding, windows and doors project does not appear independently in the capital plan. It is a project funded from our ongoing lifecycle budget. The project was not removed from the departmental plans. It has been delayed due to the prioritization factors listed above.

First Supplementary Question:

Can the minister clearly explain how much money has been spent on this project to date and what was the money spent on?

Response:

An initial budget of \$150,000 for planning and design was allotted to the project. In fiscal 2017-18, \$65,000 was spent on planning and design. In 2018-19 the department carried over the remaining \$85,000 and it was used for additional planning and design. The project now has tender-ready documents.

Final Supplementary Question:

Will the minister commit to completing the Aqsarniit Middle School Siding project before the end of the current fiscal year?

Response:

The siding will not be completed before the fiscal year. This is a multi-year project that can only be worked on during summer breaks to ensure no disruption occurs to instructional time. The project has tender-ready documents, but due to the financial constraints the project will be delayed until the 2020-21 fiscal year at the earliest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to Oral Questions. Following the orders of the day, Item 5. Member Mr. Main.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize this person right across me, sitting in the gallery, Elizabeth Copland.

>> *Applause*

Many of my colleagues and

Nunavummiut know her. She was a long-time chair of the Nunavut Impact Review Board, she has been the mayor of Arviat, she has been a coroner, and has volunteered in the community, so I thank her. Also, I regret that they were residing in Whale Cove as she was my constituent, but she has moved to Iqaluit. I am not happy about that.

>> *Laughter*

However, she is now the chief coroner of Nunavut. I know she will do a great job. We will miss you in Whale Cove, Elizabeth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please feel welcomed here to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Member Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to welcome my younger daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I remember that time I was 28 years old, and I am telling the truth, right? I was smoking (interpretation ends) three packs a day, (interpretation) and I remember grabbing my younger daughter and a thought came to mind. Mr. Speaker, I thought, "I want to witness when she becomes an adult, so I had better quit smoking right now." I have never had another cigarette since.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Thirty-two years ago, (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I was only 28. To this day I am very proud of my younger daughter and her adopted

children, although they don't look adopted. Malaya was born on June 10, and her son Ryder was also born on June 10. Her other adopted child is named after our maternal uncle Towtongie, and he was born in February. I am very happy. I am glad as a 60-year-old that I can see her along with her children.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to warmly welcome my younger daughter to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please feel welcomed here. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to mention Elizabeth Copland, as she is one of my dearest friends in Nunavut. She chaired a meeting in Baker Lake on the uranium issue.

She was advised by the people to speak Inuktitut without any English insertions and that was an extremely hard exercise with uranium already being complicated, and to speak without adding any English words entirely in Inuktitut would be hard, but when she heard that request, her response was, "Why don't you repeat that entirely in Inuktitut so that the person next to you can understand?" I have never forgotten that.

I am quite happy that the coroner's office has a very capable chief coroner now, as one time Elizabeth dropped by to eat with us and Elizabeth Kuksuk. We ate some food, and as I was at home, when we sat down, she was so used to

being a chairperson and giving orders and said, “Cathy, go outside and please start your car.” I’m glad the coroner’s office has a good boss. We will hopefully try not to die.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please feel welcomed. I have no more names on my list. Let’s proceed with the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 547 – 5(2): Well-being Budget

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

As today is the last day of our spring sitting, I want to take this opportunity to begin a discussion about a new direction that I think we should be looking at as a government.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance presents the government’s budget on an annual basis. The budget is always accompanied by a comprehensive set of “Fiscal and Economic Indicators.” This year’s edition, and I have it here, consisted of about a dozen pages of information and detailed statistics concerning everything from the nominal Gross Domestic Product to the interest-to-revenue ratio to the price of uranium.

In considering this information as a whole, could the minister tell the House which measure he considers to be the most important for our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like the member mentioned, there are a number of different measurements that we use, but to me and as we grow as a territory, as we look at what our opportunities are, our Gross Domestic Product is a very good indicator of where we’re sitting economically. I would say that would be one of the main ones that I look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very interested to learn recently that the national government of New Zealand has recently made some fundamental and positive changes, in my opinion, to the way it approaches budgeting. It now presents what it calls a “Wellbeing Budget,” which “...broadens our definition of success for our country to one that incorporates not just the health of our finances, but also of our natural resources, people and communities.”

Mr. Speaker, I think that we should move in a similar direction, and I think that a great first step for us would be to retitle our government’s annual “Fiscal and Economic Indicators” budget document to read something like “Fiscal, Economic and Human Indicators.” Does

the minister agree with my suggestion?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't agree or disagree with the member's suggestion. This is all a new concept that's being proposed to me in this House, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to turn the government's fiscal planning over on a dime. I'm sure the colleagues over on the other side of the House have brought a number of different suggestions on how we look at our budgeting process and I always take them all under very serious consideration. It's something I'll spend a bit of time and look into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that I have come to realize as being an MLA is just how hard it is to make any changes happen. We tend to want to go the same road down and it is very difficult. It takes a long time to make even just a little move. For example, the human recourses department, I mean, I started asking about that when I was first elected almost six years now. It's finally happening, which I like, but it's just an indicator that it's so hard to make something change.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister for his position and that of the government on the following question: is it preferable for the government to run a budget surplus while leaving human and community needs unmet? We don't have

enough housing. We have high poverty rates. Or is it preferable to run a budget deficit while investing in human and community needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sitting here as Minister of Finance with a deficit budget that was put forward. I think that answers the member's question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Question 548 – 5(2): Operations of the Office of Patient Relations

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Health. The question I will be posing is about the patient relations office where people can complain or bring their concerns about health services.

I know that this office is kind of new, but I would like to ask: whenever someone complains or the forms that are filled out, how are they reviewed? What happens during the review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a complicated question to answer. The reason I say that is because there are so many different issues that the Office of Patient Relations deals with. Some of it's clinical, some of it's operational, some

of it's financial, so it would depend on the circumstances surrounding.

As an example, if it is a clinical issue that is being like a second opinion or somebody feels that they didn't get adequate care, it would go into the clinical side of the department to do a review of the case to make sure all the procedures were followed. If it's a financial aspect, then they would communicate with whomever the financial component. If it's medical travel, if it's a payment for services, they would go into in-depth to do an investigation on what is owed, who it's owed to, and advocate on behalf of either the client or the business that is bringing forward the issue to help resolve their issue. It's a very wide scope of work that they do.

I can't pigeonhole them into one task because, as the number of issues gets brought to me from my colleagues around here, from out in the public, they know how quickly our office responds to concerns. Depending upon the complexity, it can be immediately dealt with or in very complex cases it can take weeks to solve. Sometimes there are very complex issues, but I can't pigeonhole them into one role. It depends on the circumstances, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for explaining that. I have told my constituents more than once that they should call that office. The minister is very aware of the concerns that he has

heard from Pangnirtung.

He already answered part of my next question, but we all know that people want to be treated well, whether they are an Inuk or qallunaaq. In Nunavut different airlines are used, different hotels, or the Tammaativvik Boarding Home.

The last question I will have is: (interpretation ends) will the minister commit to providing a report on the number and types of complaints and concerns that have been brought forward to the patient relations and how many of those complaints or concerns were resolved? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickers.

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we do track data from the Office of Patient Relations. I can task my staff with correlating that together to see what level of detail and then communicate that to the member before I send out to see if it responds adequately to what type of information she is looking for. I will work with the member to make sure that the information that we collect is sufficient for what she's looking at and if there are additional things that we can look at, I would definitely be interested in hearing that too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for explaining that. I wanted to ask this question because I wanted to know what

kinds of concerns are being brought up by the people of Nunavut from their medical care. He stated that there are many different kinds of concerns, but I would appreciate it if they could put that information together into a report. I know the lack of nurses is a big concern, but then there are other concerns that we would be interested in looking at further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I kind of figured out that's where the member was going and I'll have to look into exactly what categories we have or issues brought forward. As an example, in the last year and a half we've had over 460 cases brought forward to the Office of Patient Relations. I don't have the level of detail on what categories those are and I'm not sure how that's tracked.

I also always have to be wary of how that's reported on a community-by-community basis to make sure that... I'll have to work with our access to information and privacy staff to make sure that that doesn't circumvent the privacy legislation that we fall under. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But I will work with the member.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

Question 549 – 5(2): Rankin Inlet Water Infrastructure

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Chesterfield

Inlet and Rankin Inlet.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is aware, the Department of Health issued a boil water advisory for Rankin Inlet on May 23 as a consequence of high turbidity levels.

Mr. Speaker, Rankin Inlet is on utilidor and there is a need to replace the utilidor system, so I was proud to have voted last week in favour of capital carryover funding related to planning for the utilidor replacement project.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, information published by the federal government indicates that approximately \$5.2 million in federal funding is being provided under the "Green Stream" of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan for the replacement of Rankin Inlet's utilidor. Can the minister provide an update today on when construction is scheduled to commence on this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I thank my colleague for asking that question. When water starts flowing in the springtime, it creates a lot of situations where communities go on boil water advisories. Although we don't want to do that, it's necessary.

In Rankin Inlet the utilidor is quite deep and the pipes are quite old. There was a plan drawn up as to how they will be replaced. I imagine that it will be

updated this coming year once the planning is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the clear response. In Rankin Inlet our water is kind of disgusting to take a bath in or to wash in. It's very brown. The people who live there know that.

Information provided by the Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services indicates that the Rankin Inlet utilidor replacement project is anticipated to be completed in March of 2022, just under three years from now.

Can the minister indicate if any actions can be taken at this time to address the turbidity issues since May 23 to date that are resulting in boil water advisories for the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health has a responsibility of keeping Nunavummiut safe and so the Department of Health decides whether potable water is safe to drink or should be boiled first.

When the Department of Health says that the water needs to be boiled, the community has to follow that advisory. The Department of Community and Government Services asks people to

follow that. This generally happens in the springtime once the ice starts to move around in the lake and some of the shallower areas of the lake, when the ice touches the bottom and it makes the water very silty and brown. It's the Department of Health that puts out the boil water advisories. We would like this boil water season to end early.

I would like to add that the lake in Rankin Inlet called Tasinnaaq is refilled every year because it has been getting very low and we've had to refill it annually. They increased the period of time that they can pump water into that lake. We believe we can keep up by refilling the reservoir, and hopefully this boil water advisory will end soon, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry for forgetting the term for boil water advisory in Inuktitut. Our colleague, Pauloosie, wants us to be speaking Inuktitut and I'm trying to do that.

We do get quite a lot of boil water advisories and when the hamlet hadn't made a road to our water lake at Ijiralik, we had to buy water from the Co-op. The department's 2019-2020 capital estimates indicate that an effluent study was to be undertaken for the community. Will the minister commit to providing a copy of the study's results to both my office and the municipal council? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the studies that are being done in Rankin Inlet and following the completion of each project, we make sure that we provide the information to the hamlet, and I can certainly give my colleague a copy of the study's results.

As I indicated yesterday, we will be doing a tour of the communities and some communities have already been visited. I'm sure this issue will be brought up again when we have a meeting with the hamlet council in Rankin Inlet. I certainly will give a copy of the study to the member. I will also inform the members about when we will be going to their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Question 550 – 5(2): Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction.

We all know that not enough is being done to address this issue. You indicated in your minister's statement that we were given a donation from Greenland, which is good. Can the Department of Family Services also make it a priority to make sure that Nunavummiut have access to nutritious food and that they are not in so much poverty? Can the Department of Family Services start with that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your question. Every year we provide funds for that. Even though the fiscal year has just begun, we have had a lot of requests and have made contributions to quite a few entities. If you would like to get the information, I will be able to provide it, but we have received requests and we have made contributions for this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to get the information. I would also like to see what more we can give the food banks in Nunavut so that they can provide to more needy people. I would like to know which communities have been provided with contributions. I would like to see it being provided to all the communities in Nunavut. With the cost of food continually increasing and most of it being flown in, it would be good to know where the funds are going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year we are providing \$200,000 for that fund that can be requested. At this time the following communities have received funding:

- (interpretation ends) Spence Bay

Hunters and Trappers - Taloyoak Harvester Food Distribution, \$30,000;

- [Ilisaiqsivik] Society - Clyde River Hunter Apprentice Project, \$43,450;
- Coral Harbour HTA for the Young Hunters Program, \$15,000;
- IDEA Inuksuk High School for school ground lunches, \$15,000;
- Hamlet of Gjoa Haven - Country Food Lunch Project, \$14,514.06;
- Nunavut Literacy Council in Rankin Inlet - traditional caribou preparation, \$39,490;
- Eat Fit Project Society (interpretation) in Cape Dorset – (interpretation ends) nutrition and skill development, \$7,785;
- Hamlet of Baker Lake - Food Security Education Project, \$26,500;
- Gjoa Haven - hydroponic gardening, \$2,000;
- City of Iqaluit for elder country food lunch, \$5,000.

(interpretation) Those projects have already reached \$200,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary question, Member Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that clarification. I am very pleased that there are grants being made available to the communities.

I wonder if you can provide more information for those who are viewing the proceedings. Of course they have to make a request from the Department of Family Services if they would like to get to get grants and so on. You mentioned the different projects and I know that the

funds need to be applied for. Once you are aware of food banks in the communities, is it possible to give them a grant without the need to have them make a request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question because this is an initiative that's geared towards proposal based. Each organization, food banks, for sure Iqaluit has two, I know that, they do their own forms. They reach out to federal funding as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

Question 551 – 5(2): Fur Exchange Program

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked this question on more than one occasion in the House. Again, there are quite a few communities that send fur products to the auction houses. I did bring this question up last year. Some of the communities, including my constituents, have been waiting for a long time because their products have not been sold at the auction house.

Can the minister indicate to the House whether or not there was an auction held? Can the minister give us that

information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fur products that are sent down south to auction; wolves, fox, wolverine, seal pelts, and so on are sold. At this time there is not much of a market for polar bear hides. When they had an auction in March, none of the polar bear hides sold. As of March, they haven't been sold, but looking at the number of polar bear hides that haven't been sold, it's because there's not much of a market for them worldwide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate how many Nunavut communities have sent fur products to the auction house? I'm not asking about the different types of fur products, such as the number of polar bear hides from the communities, but how many communities have sent out fur products to the auction house. Can the minister provide that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before responding to Mr. Keyootak, I would like to say that I quoted the wrong number. In March there were nine polar bear hides that were sold and in May there were seven that were sold. I

apologize for my mistake.

There are way too many communities that send out fur products, so at this time I can't give you the information as to how many communities sent out fur products and how many fox, wolf and polar bear hides were sent. If he would like to get that information, I can provide it, but I don't have it here with me. I can provide the information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't trying to find out how many fur products were sold. This is what I'm trying to ask: how many communities sent their fur products to the auction house? I'm not asking about fur products. I wonder if he can provide information on how many communities have sent products to the auction house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All communities send products down to the auction house; polar bear, fox, wolverine, seal, and so on. I can say that all communities in Nunavut send their products down to the auction house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

**Question 552 – 5(2): Integrated
Community Sustainability Plan
Tours**

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

During yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister announced that his department is currently undertaking its annual "integrated community sustainability plan tour," the purpose of which is to "assist communities in determining their infrastructure needs." This is a good initiative.

Can the minister confirm the dates on which the communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk will be visited?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, my colleague, for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, our officials are travelling to Taloyoak and Kugaaruk between September 22 and 27. I'll advise the member when the date is coming close. Once the date is close, we will know exactly which days we're going to be in the communities and I'll inform the hamlets of these communities and my fellow members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear the news from my colleague. This being our last day, we will be going home.

(interpretation ends) I am well aware that one of the infrastructure priorities that the Municipality of Taloyoak has identified is the need for a more adequate facility in which to store mobile heavy equipment. Can the minister confirm that projects such as this are eligible for consideration in the government's capital planning process?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Mr. Speaker, last winter this was a question raised by every community and it was the most often asked question related to limited garage spaces or lack thereof, especially as the number of vehicles was increasing. It's preferable not to have frozen vehicles in the wintertime. The need for garage space is the most discussed issue amongst the communities.

I can state that my Department of Community and Government Services is currently looking at how to finance the acquisitions and to try to provide more garage space for our communities, as they either are overcrowded or no space is available. We are now looking at how they can be better served and when any information comes my way, I will inform my colleagues about this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question,

Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him. The minister partially answered my last question, but I'll ask it for further clarity.

(interpretation ends) The government's 2020-21 capital estimates will be considered by the Legislative Assembly later this year during our fall sitting. I am certain that all Members of the Legislative Assembly would appreciate receiving updated versions of their communities' integrated community sustainability plans, which would help us all in making good decisions about where to allocate our resources.

Will the minister commit to providing all Members of the Legislative Assembly with updated versions of their communities' integrated community sustainability plans following the completion of this year's community tour? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regional centres are responsible for their community allocations based on what they think is needed using the community mobile plans which lay out the types of equipment needed, and these are called (interpretation ends) community sustainability plans (interpretation) that are specific to each community. The hamlet uses this document to prepare their priorities, and we are also provided the information. What I can say here to my colleagues is that these are the property of the hamlets. If you ask them for a copy of

their plan, in most cases they would be happy to provide you a copy. We can't redistribute the plans as they aren't ours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Question 553 – 5(2): Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask my question to the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) Jurisdictions that collect data on suicide attempts have a much more detailed understanding of suicidal behaviour among their populations than do jurisdictions which only collect data on deaths by suicide.

In the first *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan* released in 2011, the GN committed to begin "collecting and releasing data on suicide attempts in September" of that year. In *Inuusivut Anninaqtuq*, released in 2017, the GN committed to "Develop a plan for a suicide surveillance system for Nunavut to ensure consistency and reliability in data collection and analysis..."

Mr. Speaker, I have yet to see suicide attempt data for Nunavut as a whole, for my community or for any other community. Could the Minister of Health please inform this Assembly when the GN will begin releasing data on suicide attempts? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This strategy and plan help direct us as a government and our partners to combatting suicide. Mr. Speaker, I will say the short answer to the member's question is no, we're not tracking it as of yet, so I can't say exactly when that data will come in.

Just to stretch my answer out a little bit, Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, we did have some challenges hiring a mental health epidemiologist which works with health indicators and creates data systems. We did have an advertisement last year that was unsuccessful. We do currently have a contracted mental health epidemiologist under a short-term contract to start the process. We are hoping by this fall to have a full-time mental health epidemiologist to complete the set-up to make sure that it's reliable, safe, and secure, the information that is being collected, and to make sure that we're adhering to our privacy legislation as well too.

It's not where we want to be, Mr. Speaker. I'll fully admit and stress that. There have been some challenges with establishing this, but I can say that it is something that we're very ardently working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. In terms of this suicide surveillance system which is mentioned on page 27 of the Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan, what is the anticipated timeline to have that surveillance system online or functioning within Nunavut?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to elaborate a little bit on what a mental health epidemiologist... I will build up to respond to the member's question. Mr. Speaker, that role shapes the policy decisions using evidence-based practices, taking into consideration risk factors, preventative health care targets, studies and analyzes the distribution and determinants of health in defined populations, which is exactly what we need. Mr. Speaker, to get to the root of these indicators and be able to provide information and progressive solutions using that information, it's a very critical role.

Like I stated, we do have somebody on a short-term contract that just started in March. They're developing the basis of how we're going to be moving forward. I do apologize sincerely. I don't have a definite date for the member. I hope that this fall I will have a more firm response that I can provide to the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately this has been delayed and it's a very critical issue in Nunavut. I encourage the government to deal with this issue.

(interpretation ends) I did mention earlier in my member's statement that I will be submitting a written question on the progress of this action plan in terms of an update. I hope that my written question is not placing a burden on the

individuals involved in this work, but I am comfortable submitting it given that bi-annual assessments, annual reflective sessions, and annual progress reports are included as actions under this plan.

My last question for the minister is: right now, when can we expect to see the first bi-annual assessment of progress towards the outcomes in this action plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I can't provide a complete, definitive date, but I have been assured by my officials with the Department of Health that it is currently being worked on. We need that type of information for the members as well as for me to help steer direction and make sure that priorities are being adhered to.

We have a great team with our Quality of Life Division right now. We have been working on staffing that up over the last year and a half or two years and we have made some very great progress. I'm very excited about where we are right now. A lot of these things have been kind of lagging or delayed, as the member used that term, and I will agree with him, but at the same time that hasn't stopped the work that's being done.

There are so many different initiatives that are going on I could use up the rest of the time on the clock just with initiatives that are being actioned. I can assure the member that although the data collection and the reporting are being delayed, there's still a lot of great work that's going on across the territory. I'll

leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Question 554 – 5(2): Child Sexual Abuse Rates in Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions I have raised my concerns of the high rates of child sexual abuse in Nunavut because the fraction that is reported has led Nunavut to the highest rates per capita in Canada, if not the world.

Mr. Speaker, healing starts with naming it, calling it out, and saying it loud and clear that it is wrong, and that must start here in our Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask why our government has not publicly recognized and addressed the rampant and widespread rates of child sexual abuse in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the member has brought this out. I believe that the government is doing as much as it can to bring this out. The departments of Justice and Family Services have worked with the RCMP.

There should be no child sexual abuse, but unfortunately there is and the

member is correct saying it's the highest here in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what the solution is. We know it's there and we're doing our best to deal with it. I don't have an answer for the member in terms of exactly what to do to stop it.

Like I said, the Department of Justice and the Department of Family Services work with the RCMP and they have family interventions and other programs there. I know the family services department works very hard and our Minister of Family Services said too that it is unacceptable that Nunavut has the highest child sexual problems. That's about all I can say to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that this is a very difficult and sensitive topic to discuss, especially in an open and public setting. I also know that this is a widespread issue and I cannot ask any specific minister how this is going to be addressed because this is a deep-rooted social issue that is intertwined with all of the others, which is why I'm directing these questions at the Premier.

Now, our government knows which communities have the highest rates of child sexual abuse, and I have been working diligently to provide this information to shed light on the issue and raise public awareness. I would like to ask what the Premier has done to address the issue of child sexual abuse in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have departments that do their work on this and I told the member that the Department of Justice and the Department of Family Services are working hard to try to prevent child sexual abuse, working with the RCMP. As a Premier I'm not personally involved in that. The departments are there to do their job and we support them.

As a government, I can tell the member that there should be no child sexual abuse in Nunavut. There shouldn't be. It's unacceptable, but sadly it's a fact that there is. I know that the departments are working hard and doing their best to get the message out that this is unacceptable. No child in Nunavut or anywhere should have to be sexually abused. It's unacceptable. It is wrong and I don't know how any more I could say it that it's wrong and unacceptable, and I'm sorry it happens here and we're working hard to bring this to the forefront.

The member is correct in saying that yes, it's a tough subject to talk about. It's an uneasy subject. It hurts. No child should have to go through that ever because it will affect that child for many years to come, maybe for their whole life. We're doing what we can to deal with the problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his response. I understand that no one individual can put an end to child abuse, but it is a collaborative effort. It's going to take every organization, every department, every individual, and every community to band together to say enough is enough. Like I said, I believe that has to start here. I would like to ask if the Premier considers the high rates of child sexual abuse to be a crisis in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The word "crisis" could be interpreted many different ways, but just by the bare facts that we have the highest sexual abuse in Canada, as the member stated, it is a serious problem. There are many different levels of crisis, but it's a problem that as a government we have to work on and when I mean as a government, that's all of us, including everyone who sits over there on the other side. We all have to try to do our best to stop this unacceptable situation or problem that we have here in Nunavut with child sexual abuse. I think I can speak for everyone in this room that we all condemn it. It should never happen.

>> *Applause*

I don't know how else I can say this. It is absolutely unacceptable. Children shouldn't have to go through that. All I can say is that we're working on it and, like I said, the departments of Justice and Family Services, which are the departments that deal with that, work with the RCMP. We all have to work together to try to stop it.

Sometimes when you hear or read in the media that such-and-such a guy got a sentence of this and you look at it at times and say, "Well, was that sentence fitting or not?" That's beyond our capability here, but as a government, and I'm sure I can speak on behalf of all of us as MLAs here, that child sexual abuse is absolutely unacceptable and should not be acceptable to anyone anywhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Question 555 – 5(2): Shared
Directional Statement for Policing**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Acting Minister of Justice.

On Thursday of last week the minister announced that he had signed a renewed shared directional statement for policing services in Nunavut with the chief superintendent of the RCMP's "V" division. I want to congratulate the minister on this accomplishment, and I would like to ask a few questions on the subject.

Can the minister confirm when the renewed shared directional statement for policing services in Nunavut will be shared with Members of the Legislative Assembly and made public through tabling in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we used a public announcement, or rather a (interpretation ends) news release (interpretation) was sent out so that the general public can review the document. In terms of when it could be tabled, since I am only in the acting minister capacity, I cannot set a timeline. However, I want to state here that the agreement we signed is now publicly available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A long-standing concern in many communities has been the need to enhance Inuit language services, especially when unilingual elders need to call the police for help in an emergency. Can the minister indicate how the renewed shared directional statement addresses this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if my first message went across. I did mention that this was released through a news release, the memorandum of understanding that we signed off on.

In one of the priorities, when it comes to identifying Inuit languages, there is a priority of ensuring the use and promotion of Inuktitut within the force. The government and RCMP acknowledge the importance of the police being able to communicate in the Inuit languages for both the public and the officers' safety, and in addition, the

RCMP to work to provide signage, services, and correspondence to Nunavummiut in the Inuit languages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the information. I strongly encourage our youth to consider pursuing a career with the police. Serving the communities is a positive career choice, and we need more young Inuit to serve as role models. Can the minister indicate how the renewed shared directional policy addresses this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In one of the pillars, which is communities at risk, there is a youth section and in that youth section it talks about the youth in need. There also is, in a part of it, where there is commitment that both the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP will continue to support youth training and recruitment programs, such as school programs, RCMP youth mentorship, and the RCMP summer student program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Question 556 – 5(2): Dust Control

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, upon the conclusion of our sitting, we won't return until our scheduled fall sitting dates, and summer

is fast approaching now.

Practically every community has access roads and it is for this reason that I will direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services about these access roads.

Pretty well every year, members continue to enquire or speak about their local dust concerns and mitigation. Summer is coming when our roads will spew dust all over our community, and elsewhere throughout Nunavut where dust control issues are the bane of the residents, including the hazardous health effects to people with breathing issues as well as our elders who have to contend with this dust.

The question I want to ask the minister is this: what remedy or dust mitigation can our communities expect this summer to combat the dust that emanates from our community roads? What can the communities expect this summer to try to minimize the dust from CGS? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is pretty much annually where we have to put in a lot of effort to deal with this challenge in all of our communities within Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, every community is granted funding towards purchasing dust control substances and every community takes advantage of this funding to purchase dust control substances in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear every year that there are dust control substances. The government itself never seems to be prepared to proactively resolve this challenge. This summer, again, dust clouds will hit our communities, even in your home community, where large clouds of dust will surface, whether it is in Pangnirtung, Sanikiluaq, or any other community. Dust will fly in our community once again.

I recall that the government conducted a pilot project, I believe, several years ago, yet we have never been informed of any results of the pilot project and whether the communities have access to that today. I would like to know where this pilot project is at now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No such report came from the pilot project as the researchers only identified that the application of the dust suppression was only temporary and had a definite drying period. The pilot project the member referred to and the substances were not as effective as the suppression methods today. They were all different dust suppressants that were tried out, and some of the substances made a difference, but it eventually all evaporates.

What I can say here is the dust suppression methods result in different lengths of time, with varying degrees of

success and problems. The first reason is the proper application of the dust suppression method, as I have seen local crews in some of our hamlets using a tank at the back of the loader; I have seen calcium chloride being used and various other substances to stick to the road. Each suppression method has a peculiar way to apply it to the road surface.

Every hamlet has received the information by the Department of Community and Government Services outlining the different application methods to be used for the different substances, and this included the discretion to have their crews trained in the proper methods should they need the training. If they require the training, the community has to inform the department and a trainer will be scheduled to arrive into the community on the proper application for each dust suppression method.

These are different approaches we are trying and we are working with our hamlets on this issue. I don't think there is anything that completely grounds dust, but we will continue to search for alternatives with our hamlets on managing their dusty conditions. We do need a proper method to control the dust as it is very problematic for people who suffer dizzy spells. People who you know go through dizziness and all of that, especially even some houses when they open their window, all that dust goes into their homes. I am not happy with that because I get dizzy too. It is hard sometimes to get this fixed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question,

Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for clearly understanding how much of a problem dust is. Well, all of us understand how much of a problem dust is.

With respect to what the minister just stated, I seem to understand that it will always be like that. For example, he said that we can't do anything about it. I don't think governments should be saying that nothing can be done about it. Governments are created to look for solutions to problems. He did state that they are looking for solutions, but from his response, I think he's saying that there will always be dusty conditions. That's what I think he's saying.

Outside of the territory, if I recall correctly, in Yukon, I was recently reading a news article about an innovative method to pave the roads that was less expensive than the traditional method that they had proven to work. This project was done through their territorial college where they researched this less expensive option. I wonder if the minister can look into cheaper ways of doing pavement. We know pavement is very expensive, but there is an inexpensive method. I wonder if the minister can check this out and report some possible options in this area. I'm sure the communities will look forward to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. I think you misunderstood me. I didn't say that it was impossible or that we won't search

for solutions, allowing dusty conditions all the way to the future. I didn't say that we would just accept dusty conditions. I said what I said, not the paraphrasing my colleague stated, Mr. Speaker.

Let me first clearly be understood. We continue to search for options and we will continue to do so to combat the dust in an efficient way, and this won't stop. Even though the pilot project was completed, we are still looking for better methods to suppress the dust. We have also been advised by elders to do certain things, such as not driving everywhere or if we are going to drive, to drive slower. We have heard advice each person can try to undertake to help out the community.

With respect to that project my colleague mentioned about the less expensive paving method, I think we will look into that and other things out there that may improve the situation in Nunavut. We certainly won't give up and we will lose sleep over it. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Motion 042 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Hudson Bay, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Question period is extended by 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Question 557 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to get my last question in for this sitting. I'm going to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my statement a few days ago, the impacts of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder are far-reaching. Caregivers and service providers are often at a loss of how best to support individuals living with FASD.

Can the minister indicate what resources are made available by her department to assist foster parents who may be asked to provide care for children with FASD? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) Obviously this is an issue that's cross-departmental, because you didn't ask the Minister of Health. As for our department, I can say that if a client's care needs exceed what the family and community can offer, the department, in collaboration with necessary stakeholders, will explore alternative placements, such as

residential care or group homes.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of my question was answered but perhaps not all. The minister's response comes right into the second question I'm going to ask. It fits very nicely.

Mr. Speaker, the annual reports of the director of child and family services indicate that children and youth are often sent out of territory to receive specialized care. Can the minister indicate how many of these children and youth who have been sent out of territory for care have been diagnosed with FASD? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I honestly can't answer. I toured the facilities, residential and those that are in foster care and through those visits even, it wasn't indicated which ones have FASD. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it kind of hard to believe that you don't track how many of the children being sent down have FASD. I think it's something that perhaps the department should look at doing.

Mr. Speaker, community social workers are often required to assess family situations, the level of care being provided to children, and determine whether their needs are being met. Can the minister clarify whether community social services workers receive any specific training which allows them to identify children and youth with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm just reminded there should be a point of order just for the fact that the member had said she cannot believe... I'm sure there is information on that that departments have, but it's not in my materials. Obviously those people in care need help. That's why they're out of territory.

I may also remind the member that recently a not-for-profit organization opened in Iqaluit to help with education, resource, and programming for children, youth, and adults with FASD.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Question 558 – 5(2): New School Opening in Kugaaruk

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for recognizing me a second time. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, those of us in the smaller

communities are well aware of the fact that we don't get visitations at the same scale by our government departments, especially the senior management levels, nor many visits by our ministers.

Mr. Speaker, it is fast approaching two years since the new school in Kugaaruk expected completion date will reach us, as they anticipate the completion sometime in August of this coming summer.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister elaborate or identify to the residents of Kugaaruk the expected date of completion and when the official opening arrives, if the minister will commit to travelling to Kugaaruk to attend it? I would like to understand if that will occur, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasic.

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Netsilik for his question. Yes, at this time, based on the information we have, we understand that the construction of the school in Kugaaruk and the budget are on target, and the completion date is set for August 2019. At this time we want to start preparations towards the opening of the school. If my calendar is open during that period, I would want to go attend the grand opening, as I was also invited to attend the grade 12 graduation ceremonies. I will look at that as well as the opening ceremony for the school in Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his adequate response. We will anticipate that then.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned as well in my first question, I also stated that senior management officials rarely visit the smaller communities, as they rarely seem to visit our community.

Mr. Speaker, has the minister ever considered, while contemplating his attendance for the visitation, whether he can be accompanied by another minister when the date for the opening ceremony arrives? I wonder if he has considered that, which I would like to understand, hence my question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Joanasic.

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): I thank the Member for Netsilik for his question. If any of my ministerial colleagues have a free schedule, I will try to invite several of them. Last fall we were able to go to Taloyoak, although we were invited for different events, by having a side trip.

Whenever the scheduling works out, we are able to attend these important events, and usually we have more than one minister as we prefer to visit communities for more than one reason. We also have to try to follow our budgets, which we try to allow for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Minister of Education for the good responses. Now, the regular members discuss these issues that pertain to smaller communities as we rarely get important visitors. Now, it seems only when an opportunity arises that our ministers finally visit, including the two levels of DM and ADM under each ministry. I think this will be a good opportunity to visit and I am happy to hear that, so I will draft a letter tomorrow inviting him to our community. I am also grateful for the minister's responses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't really hear a question, but based on what he mentioned that I ensured I listened to, as I said earlier, last fall when we were returning from our Taloyoak visit, we were able to stop off at Kugaaruk, albeit for a short visit. We were provided a quick tour of the school under construction in Kugaaruk. We anticipate that after it has been completed, I want to attend that opening, as the date hasn't been identified, but after it is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I'll recognize for the second time the Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Question 559 – 5(2): Construction of New Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me

again. My question is for the Acting Minister of Justice.

As we all know, during the legislative sitting of March 5, 2019, the contract to construct the new Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre has been awarded to Pilitak Enterprise. I would like to ask the minister to provide an update today on the status of the construction of the new facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you. I'm not sure which minister will be able to respond to this. We were wondering which minister it would be asked of.

It is currently under construction and if you drive by it, you can see that it is being constructed by the constructors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a motion this fall that sort of confused a lot of people. I was concerned about the number of Inuit being hired for that capital project. Can the minister indicate how many Inuit have been hired to work on this project? I believe the requirement was set at 20 percent. What is the status of that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very

good question. As ministers we divide our responsibilities. As to the actual construction contract and details of the contract, it is under my colleague Minister Kusugak's responsibility as to how many Inuit are working there.

As acting minister, I have been kept informed about major projects that are happening. We make decisions and we get quarterly updates. The construction just began in April. They worked on it in May and the actual construction will take place during the summer of 2019. I don't think we have an update report on it at this moment. I don't know about my ministerial colleague or if my response is sufficient, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will ask this question again at the next sitting, but I would like to ask you this question now. As the minister you are aware of Inuit being hired, and I'll use the Mary River project as an example. I believe that similar effort should be made with respect to major government capital projects. I believe they can do that.

Can the minister clarify to me how the government...? For example, my constituents in Amittuq have rights. They are qualified to work, as well as other residents of Nunavut. While construction is happening for the Qikiqtani Correctional Centre, will these people be given the opportunity to work there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, all Nunavummiut have an opportunity, but when we award the contract, it is at the discretion of the contractors as to who they want to hire. The requirement to hire Inuit workers was mentioned in the House. My ministerial colleague also spoke about it. While the training plans are being put together, we are working with the contractor to try to see how Inuit can get on-the-job training during the construction.

The company is based in the Amittuq area. I expect that they will hire workers in the Amittuq area, but I cannot direct the contractor to hire from Amittuq. When we give out the contract, we tell the contractor that they have to hire Inuit workers. The company has agreed to hire 20 percent or 15 percent Inuit. That is how I can respond to the question from the member. Thank you for asking that question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, recognizing you for the second time, Member Main.

Question 560 – 5(2): Boil Water Advisory in Whale Cove

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, it's no surprise that the residents of Whale Cove are very tired of the boil water advisory. I think this will mark the fourth or fifth summer, assuming that the boil water advisory will still be in place this summer.

Can the minister please provide an update in terms of the work that is being done on a new water treatment plant in Whale Cove? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. It is an unfortunate situation in Whale Cove. It is a beautiful community, but the water issue just doesn't seem to be solved. I know the people of Whale Cove are very tired of it and it is a serious matter.

The study you mentioned will be completed in July. There is a study being done on the lake to determine whether it will be adequate and what kind of water it is. After the study has been completed, we will find out how much it will cost to put water cleaning equipment into the reservoir and the cost of a (interpretation ends) water treatment plant.

(interpretation) We will look into that to see what it will cost. If we were to put lining on it, we will see how much that will cost. We will request money from the FMB to get work done on it. We would like the work to be completed in the summer of 2021, if we follow what I am saying. I hope that was clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for explaining that. The Community and Government Services staff office is very old. I have even presented photographs

of the building to the House here. The office is part of the water treatment plant. I have been into that building and it looks like it is not built for the Nunavut government; it looks like it was built in another country and it looks like a shed. It is very old. When the Department of Community and Government Services is no longer using it, it may become like a museum piece.

What is being done with the office? Is it a part of the study? Is it going to be renovated or are there any plans to renovate it or replace it with a new building? That's what I would like to know, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The building that the member is talking about is so old that you can't even use it as a heritage facility.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague asked about this during the winter session and we saw the photographs. We tried to send our directors over there, but the weather was bad and we couldn't get there because of the bad weather. There were other things that followed after and we decided that we will go there in the coming days and inspect that properly. My deputy minister and the associate deputy minister will be going there to work with the hamlet and come up with a plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. That is very good news. That was going to be

my question, when the minister or the deputy minister is coming to Whale Cove. I would say “thank you” to the minister if he could confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s great when people thank you. Between June 23 and 24 they will be going to Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and Sanikiluaq. Like I stated to my colleagues earlier, once we have a definitive date for the times we will be at Whale Cove or Arviat, I will let all of my colleagues know as to when our staff will be able to go to their constituencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I will recognize for the second time the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Question 561 – 5(2): Reduced Mark-up Rate for Brewery

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor Commission.

Mr. Speaker, across Canada all jurisdictions and their own liquor commission equivalents have a mark-up structure that allows for reduced rates for microbreweries and craft beer producers to spur economic development and increase competition or allow them to compete with the big breweries. Those mark-up structures provide discounts as much as 45 to 90 percent. I would like to enquire whether our own liquor commission has a similar mark-up

structure and what that might be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Liquor Commission, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we recognize and it’s a new endeavour for Nunavut with our Nu Brew brewing company that we have in our territory. Hopefully I’m not making any privacy things. It’s the only one, so it wouldn’t be hard to figure out who it is.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we do reduce mark-ups and I know there have been questions in the past of how our mark-up structure is. We work in our shipping costs and some of our overhead expenses, but at the same time, as I have used many times in this House when we talk on education campaigns and harm reduction programs, funding from those mark-ups go to those programs and help educate people on alcohol and cannabis awareness, of which we have up to \$750,000 to be allocated out of the revolving fund.

I don’t have the exact number here, but if I’m going from my memory and I will stand to be corrected, and like my colleague from Community and Government Services, I will stand to be corrected if I misspeak. I believe we charge approximately 45 percent of our typical mark-up to a small brewery up to a certain limit of hectolitres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question would be how that reduced mark-up rate was determined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no real science or formula to it. We take our expenses and we want to make sure that at the end of the day our liquor commission provides a small profit. Unlike most jurisdictions where they have quite exorbitant profits out of our liquor commission, I believe, last year it was around \$2 million.

With the beer and wine store here in Iqaluit, we are anticipating a little bit higher of a profit margin projected for this year. Like I said, those profit margins are built in, so we don't have a set formula and that has been one of the questions is "What is our formula?" We don't have one. We take a look at what our expenses would be associated with the liquor commission, put in what we feel is an appropriate mark-up for a profit margin and go from there.

When we looked at reducing the mark-up for small breweries, one of the things that we factored in is we still wanted to make sure that there was some level of compensation to the administration, the people at the warehouse that need to get paid. One of the things we did was remove the warehousing fee because the delivery comes right to our warehouse from in territory, so we don't have to fly it up and store it for extended periods of time. We have made a number of accommodations to the small breweries in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 562 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I stand to conclude my questions. I feel that I didn't get the answers for my third one, and I felt that the point of order, I didn't agree with that because it was an opinion. Maybe I should have worded it differently, but I think I'm allowed to have an opinion. That's just how I'm thinking.

Mr. Speaker, the annual reports of the director of child and family services indicate that children and youth are often sent out of the territory to receive specialized care. Can the minister indicate how many of these children and youth who have been sent out of the territory for care have been diagnosed with FASD? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question again. I do believe I answered it. I don't have those numbers in front of me. I don't. It may exist within the department, but it is certainly not part of my briefing.

If I may, *Uqaqtitsijii*, I appreciate that yes, you have an opinion, but I think we have to be mindful of how we ask also. In this House we talk about bullying. We have opinions, sure, but it's how you question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't think having an opinion was a bullying thing. It's just my own thought.

Mr. Speaker, community social workers are often required to assess family situations, the level of care of being provided to children, and determine whether or not their needs are being met.

Can the minister clarify whether community social service workers receive any specific training which allows them to identify children and youth with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's not just our department that deals with it. There's also the Department of Health. When it comes to children in care in our communities, it's not just one department normally, especially those that are of high risk of challenge. We certainly meet with health officials when making these decisions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is requesting to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernek, please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues for not saying nay.

I wanted to return to this item to recognize my older brother, Jason Kaernek. If I were to say this in the traditional Inuit manner, I still cannot handle his older brother abilities, whether that is hunting or his vitality. I haven't been able to surpass him yet and hence my wish to acknowledge him.

Further, his son Joe Satuqsi, and as I stated earlier, he is graduating. I am proud of your accomplishments. Welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. When you are watching and listening to the proceedings, you will learn and understand how the elected members work. Always feel welcome.

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 036 – 5(2): Driver’s Licences

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the subject of driver’s licences.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

- 1) Broken down by community and class of licence, how many driver’s licences were issued by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation during each of the following fiscal years:
 - a) 2016-17;
 - b) 2017-18; and
 - c) 2018-19?
- 2) Broken down by community and class of licence, what was the average length of time to process and issue an application for a driver’s licence during each of the following fiscal years:
 - a) 2016-17;
 - b) 2017-18; and
 - c) 2018-19?
- 3) As of June 1, 2019, broken down by community and class of licence, how many applications for driver’s licences were being processed?
 - a) How many of these applications had been received within the previous 30 days?
 - b) How many of these applications had been received between 31

- and 60 days previous?
- c) How many of these applications had been received more than 90 days previous?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking that his written question be entered into the record as read. Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Written Question 037 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Family Services and they relate to the issue of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, the number of children and youth with this condition and the services provided to them and their caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Broken down by fiscal year, how many children who were taken into care by the Department of Family Services have fetal alcohol spectrum disorder?
 - a. 2018-19
 - b. 2017-18
 - c. 2016-17

- d. 2015-16 staff of the Department of Family Services?
2. Broken down by fiscal year, how many children who were sent by the Department of Family Services to receive care out of the territory have fetal alcohol spectrum disorder?
- a. 2018-19
b. 2017-18
c. 2016-17
d. 2015-16
3. What percentage of the children and youth currently receiving services from the Child and Family Services Branch of the Department of Family Services are presumed to suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorder?
4. Broken down by fiscal year, what specific counselling or training sessions were provided to families and caregivers of children and young adults with FASD?
- a. 2018-19
b. 2017-18
c. 2016-17
d. 2015-16
5. Broken down by fiscal year, what specific counselling or training sessions were provided to foster parents of children and young adults with FASD?
- a. 2018-19
b. 2017-18
c. 2016-17
d. 2015-16
6. Broken down by fiscal year, how many courses, workshops, or training programs addressing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder were delivered to
- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
- Speaker** (interpretation): Members, do you agree?
- Some Members:** Agreed.
- Speaker** (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.
- Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.
- Written Question 038 – 5(2):
Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Suicide
Prevention Strategy**
- Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for our Premier regarding the suicide prevention action plan, Inuusivut Anninaqtuq.
- Mr. Speaker, my written questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.
1. With respect to Outcome 5-3 of the *Inuusivut Anninaqtut Action Plan* 2017-2022, how many annual progress reports on the implementation of the action plan have been produced to date?
2. Broken down by outcome, what specific progress has been achieved on Outcomes 1-1 through to 8-4?

3. Broken down by actions, as listed under Outcomes 1-1 through to 8-4, what work remains to be completed?
4. Broken down by action for which the Government of Nunavut is the lead agency, what barriers and challenges, if any, have been identified with regard to fulfilling the Government of Nunavut's responsibilities?
5. Are existing human and financial resources sufficient to ensure that the Government of Nunavut will be able to fulfill its responsibilities for those actions for which the Government of Nunavut is the lead agency?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): All members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Written Question 039 – 5(2):
Administration of the QEC's Staff
Housing Policy – Follow-up**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and it's a follow-up to my previous staff housing information request.

My question is detailed and I request that it be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, one-bedroom unit, two-bedroom unit, three-bedroom unit, and four-plus-bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were maintained by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
2. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, one-bedroom unit, two-bedroom unit, three-bedroom unit, and four-plus-bedroom unit), how many staff housing units maintained by the Qulliq Energy Corporation were vacant?
3. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, one-bedroom unit, two-bedroom unit, three-bedroom unit, and four-plus-bedroom unit), how many staff housing units maintained by the Qulliq Energy Corporation were not vacant?
4. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and category of position (executive, senior management, middle management, professional, paraprofessional, administrative support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were Nunavut Inuit?
5. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and category of position (executive, senior management, middle management, professional, paraprofessional, administrative support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were not Nunavut Inuit?

6. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, one-bedroom unit, two-bedroom unit, three-bedroom unit, and four-plus-bedroom unit), how many of the staff housing units referred to in question No. 1 were owned by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
7. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, one-bedroom unit, two-bedroom unit, three-bedroom unit, and four-plus-bedroom unit), how many of the staff housing units referred to in question No. 1 were leased by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Written Question 040 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Health and they relate to the issue of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, the number of Nunavummiut living with this condition, and how our government is addressing their needs.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are

detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. For the following fiscal years, how many children in Nunavut were diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder:
 - a. 2018-19
 - b. 2017-18
 - c. 2016-17
 - d. 2015-16
2. For the following fiscal years, how many adults in Nunavut were diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder:
 - a. 2018-19
 - b. 2017-18
 - c. 2016-17
 - d. 2015-16
3. How many Nunavut residents are presumed to suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorder without a formal diagnosis?
4. For the following fiscal years, how many Nunavut children were sent out of the territory for services related to fetal alcohol spectrum disorder:
 - a. 2018-19
 - b. 2017-18
 - c. 2016-17
 - d. 2015-16
5. For the following fiscal years, how many Nunavut adults were sent out of the territory for services related to fetal alcohol spectrum disorder:
 - a. 2018-19
 - b. 2017-18

- c. 2016-17
- d. 2015-16

6. What specific training to identify children or young adults with FASD is provided to health care workers in:
 - a. Community health centres
 - b. Public health centres
 - c. Regional health centres
 - d. Qikiqtani General Hospital
7. What specific counselling is provided to families and caregivers of individuals with FASD?
8. What proposals has the Department of Health submitted to the federal government for specific funding to address fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in Nunavut?
9. For the following fiscal years, how much funding has been specifically allocated to address fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in Nunavut:
 - a. 2018-19
 - b. 2017-18
 - c. 2016-17
 - d. 2015-16

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Written Question 041 – 5(2): Status of Community Learning Centres

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister responsible for Arctic College regarding the community learning centres. My written questions are detailed and I request that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Broken down by community, for each Nunavut Arctic College community learning centre:
 - a. In what year was it built;
 - b. In what year was it last renovated; and
 - c. What were the results of most recent assessment of the facility's condition?
2. In order of priority, which Nunavut Arctic College community learning centres will next be renovated or replaced?
3. What specific criteria are used to determine the priority of replacement or renovation of Nunavut Arctic College community learning centres?
4. What is the process by which a community can request upgrades or repairs to its Nunavut Arctic College community learning centre?
5. When planning for renovation or replacement of Nunavut Arctic College community learning centres, what consideration is given to the space and structural requirements required to deliver courses and programs requested by the community?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Written Question 042 – 5(2):
Administration of GN’s Staff
Housing Policy**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is for the Minister of Finance and it is a follow-up to my previous question on the administration of the GN’s Staff Housing Policy.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I ask that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

Purpose: Last year I submitted a written question on the administration of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy. I had submitted that written question to identify the Inuit participation in the program, of which I would like to seek updated information.

1. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community, employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency, and territorial corporation) and category of position (executive, senior management, middle management, professional, paraprofessional, administrative support), how many

staff housing units were rented to employees who were Nunavut Inuit?

2. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community, employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency, and territorial corporation) and category of position (executive, senior management, middle management, professional, paraprofessional, administrative support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were not Nunavut Inuit?
3. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community, employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency, and territorial corporation), within the meaning of the “Sponsoring” provision that is provided for in Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy, how many contract employees of the Government of Nunavut were residing in staff housing units?
 - a. How much is each employing entity paying for housing non-GN employees?
 - b. Does the employing entity cover the full cost of the lease or is it deducted from the contract employees?

(Given that the NHC deflected some questions to the Department of Finance, this question will be posed to both the NHC and Finance, who can determine who is best able to respond)

4. As of March 31, 2019, how many employees under the jurisdiction of the Government of Nunavut’s Senior

Personnel Secretariat (within the meaning of the “Definitions” section of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy) were renting staff housing units?

- a. How many of the employees referred to in question No. 3 were Nunavut Inuit?
- b. How many of the employees referred to in question No. 3 were not Nunavut Inuit?

5. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by size of unit (within the meaning of Schedule E of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy), what was the average monthly lease?

(Given that the NHC deflected some questions to the Department of Finance, this question will be posed to both the NHC and Finance, who can determine who is best able to respond)

6. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by size of unit (within the meaning of Schedule E of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy), what was the average monthly rent deducted from employees renting staff housing units?

(Given that the NHC deflected some questions to the Department of Finance, this question will be posed to both the NHC and Finance, who can determine who is best able to respond)

7. As of March 31, 2019, what was the average monthly value of the staff housing subsidy provided to employees renting staff housing units?

(Given that the NHC deflected some

questions to the Department of Finance, this question will be posed to both the NHC and Finance, who can determine who is best able to respond)

8. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community, how many individuals were on the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s staff housing waiting list (within the meaning of subsection 4(c) of Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy)?

- a. How many individuals referred to in question No. 7 were Nunavut Inuit?
- b. How many individuals referred to in question No. 7 were not Nunavut Inuit?

9. As of March 31, 2019, what was the average length of time for an individual to remain on the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s staff housing waiting list (within the meaning of subsection 4(c) of Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy)?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Written Question 043 – 5(2): Training Plans for Major Construction Projects

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak in English. (interpretation ends) My written questions today are for the Minister of Family Services and they concern training plans for major construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

Question 1:

For the fiscal years 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19, which specific major construction projects with a labour component value in excess of \$1 million had a training plan developed and completed with assistance from the Department of Family Services, as required through the GN procurement process?

Question 2:

For major construction projects referenced in the answer to Question 1, who was the contractor?

Question 3:

For each of the training plans referenced in the answer to Question 1, what were the specific training targets established within each, including those related to tradespersons and other positions?

Question 4:

For each of the training plans referenced in answer to Question 1, were the training targets met by the respective contractors?

Question 5:

For training plans developed in cooperation with Family Services, how often are contractors providing activity reports and/or updates to the department?

Question 6:

What type of monitoring regime is in place regarding the above mentioned training plans in terms of who monitors, when, where, and how?

Question 7:

What consequences and/or penalties are imposed on contractors who fail to prepare a training plan or fail to meet targets outlined under a training plan?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Written Question 044 – 5(2): Administration of GN's Staff Housing

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and it a follow-up to my previous question on the administration of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy.

My questions are detailed and I ask that

they entered into the *Hansard* as read.

Purpose: Last year I submitted a written question on the administration of the Government of Nunavut's staff housing, of which I would like to seek additional information.

1. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, one-bedroom unit, two-bedroom unit, three-bedroom unit, and four-plus-bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were maintained by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?
2. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, one-bedroom unit, two-bedroom unit, three-bedroom unit, and four-plus-bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were vacant?
3. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, one-bedroom unit, two-bedroom unit, three-bedroom unit, and four-plus-bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were occupied?
4. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (within the meaning of Schedule E of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy), how many of the staff housing units referred to in question No. 1 were owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?
5. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (within the meaning of Schedule E of the Government of Nunavut's Staff

Housing Policy), how many of the staff housing units referred to in question No. 1 were leased by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

6. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and size of unit (within the meaning of Schedule E of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy), from which entities were the units referred to in question No. 3 were leased? For each entity identified, please provide the total value of lease payments for the 2018-19 fiscal year.
7. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by size of unit (within the meaning of Schedule E of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy), what was the average monthly lease?

(Given that the NHC deflected some questions to the Department of Finance, this question will be posed to both the NHC and Finance, who can determine who is best able to respond)

8. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by size of unit (within the meaning of Schedule E of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy), what was the average monthly rent deducted from employees renting staff housing units?

(Given that the NHC deflected some questions to the Department of Finance, this question will be posed to both the NHC and Finance, who can determine who is best able to respond)

9. As of March 31, 2019, what was the average monthly value of the staff housing subsidy provided to employees renting staff housing

units?

10. As of March 31, 2019, broken down by community and employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency, and territorial corporation), within the meaning of the “Sponsoring” provision that is provided for in Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy, how many contract employees of the Government of Nunavut were residing in staff housing units?
- How much is each employing entity paying for housing non-GN employees?
 - Does the employing entity cover the full cost of the lease or is it deducted from the contract employees?

(Given that the NHC deflected some questions to the Department of Finance, this question will be posed to both the NHC and Finance, who can determine who is best able to respond)

11. The purpose of the NHC’s Contracting and Procurement Activity Report is to support the integrity and transparency in government contracting practices through annual reporting activities. It enhances the transparency of government contracting practices while presenting meaningful and useful information in a timely manner. Why have the reports not been tabled for the 2016-17 and the 2017-18 fiscal years?
12. The NHC’s Contracting and Procurement Activity Report identifies the entity that was awarded

the lease, including what appears to be names of individuals. Does the NHC have procedures in place to identify the actual owner of each property that is leased?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Written Question 045 – 5(2): Health Staffing Status in Arviat and Whale Cove

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions are directed to the Minister of Health and they concern filling positions in Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

Question 1:

Expressing the information in a comparable format to what was provided in Return to Written Question 6 – 5(2), what was the status of the Department of Health’s staffing in communities of Arviat and Whale Cove as of June 1, 2019?

Example of format:

By position in the Department of Health, which positions are currently filled by:

- a) Indeterminate employees;
- b) Term employees;
- c) Casual employees;
- d) Individuals on contract; and
- e) Internal transfers from other positions and/or departments?

Question 2:

As of June 1, 2019, which departmental positions in Arviat and Whale Cove were vacant?

Question 3:

Over the period from June 1, 2017 to June 1, 2019, to what extent has staffing issues (staff turnover and vacancies) had an effect on the provision of health care services in Arviat and Whale Cove?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Written Question 046 – 5(2): NHC Capital Carry Forward 2019

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is also for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and is a follow-up to my previous question on the corporation's capital carryovers.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I ask that they be entered into *Hansard* as read.

Purpose:

The response to my initial question confirmed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is in fact sitting on a substantial amount of capital funds which increased from \$74 million in 2016 to \$126 million in 2018.

I do not understand how the Nunavut Housing Corporation continues to carry over millions of dollars in unspent capital funds while Nunavut faces a severe housing shortage. For this reason, I would like to request additional information on the current funding in each capital project.

1. Provide the capital budget appropriated April 1, 2018 for each of the following projects for the 2018-19 fiscal year:
 - a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 - Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices

2. Provide the capital expenditures

incurred during April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 for each of the following projects:

- a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 - Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
3. Provide the amount carry forward from March 31, 2019 to April 1, 2019 for each of the following projects:
- a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing

- g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
- h. NHC 12 - Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
- i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
- j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Written Question 047 – 5(2): Nunavut Airports

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are directed to Minister of Economic Development and Transportation concerning Nunavut airports.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are quite detailed...

>>*Laughter*

...so I would like them entered into the record as read.

- 1) How many quality assurance audits of Nunavut airport facilities and operations were conducted between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2019?
- 2) What were the results of each quality

assurance audit?

- 3) What was the process undertaken for each quality assurance audit?
- 4) What expenditures were undertaken in relation to each quality assurance audit?
- 5) What quality assurance audits of Nunavut airport facilities and operations are planned to be conducted between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2021?
- 6) What specific training and qualifications are required by Transport Canada for an individual to be deemed qualified to conduct an airport quality assurance audit?
- 7) As of April 1, 2019, how many employees of the Government of Nunavut have been deemed qualified to conduct an airport quality assurance audit?
- 8) Between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2019, what work was conducted on behalf of the Government of Nunavut by the Winnipeg Airport Services Corporation?
- 9) Between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2019, what expenditures were incurred by the Government of Nunavut in relation to work conducted by the Winnipeg Airport Services Corporation?
- 10) As of April 1, 2019, what safety management systems are in place at each airport in Nunavut and how are they delivered?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Written Question 048 – 5(2):
Ministerial Travel**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final written question is for the Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and it's on the subject of ministerial travel.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I ask that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

Purpose:

The members of the executive are responsible for overseeing portfolios and representing their department in the Legislative Assembly. I understand this is no simple feat and it takes time and dedication to keep up with briefings.

During the winter sitting, I asked the Premier if he was satisfied whether each minister has put in an equal amount of effort in maintaining his or her portfolios. I understand that ministers have a very high demand for duty travel, but I am also worried that some ministers spend far less time in the capital running their departments than others. Therefore I would like to enquire how much time each minister has spent travelling to determine the amount of time actually spent in Iqaluit providing

oversight to their departments.

1. How many trips and what was the total number of days that each minister respectively spent on duty travel in the 2018-19 fiscal year?
2. How many trips and what was the total number of days that each minister respectively spent on home travel in the 2018-19 fiscal year?
3. What is the protocol when a minister is out of office?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Item 8.

Before we proceed further with the orders of the day, members, we will take a 10-minute break and we will return before we go on to Item 8. We will take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:25 and resumed at 16:40*

Speaker (interpretation): We're now back. Going to the orders of the day. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. There are none. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10.

(interpretation ends) Petitions. 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

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

Committee Report 014 – 5(2): Report on the Review of the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to present the *Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the Review of the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on these reports on April 11, 2019.

(interpretation) The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

(interpretation ends) Witnesses appearing before the standing committee were the Information and Privacy

Commissioner of Nunavut and senior officials of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Department of Health. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains five sets of formal recommendations which cover over a dozen thematic areas, including:

- The Government of Nunavut's Annual Report on the Administration of the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*;
- Expired Government of Nunavut policies;
- Privacy impact assessments;
- Information-sharing agreements;
- The Information and Privacy Commissioner's privacy audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital;
- Health-specific privacy legislation;
- Community health centre privacy initiatives;
- Public sector salary disclosure;
- The application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to municipalities and district education authorities;
- The government's process for responding to recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner;

- The role of the ethics officer;
- The Information and Privacy Commissioner's comprehensive review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- Public access to sex offender registries; and
- Information-sharing in support of court-ordered restrictions on alcohol.

Uqaqtitsijii, I wish to note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Committee Report 015 – 5(2): Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you,

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 14 – 5(2).

Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 24, I'll say it in English, (interpretation ends) *Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019*, (interpretation) 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 24 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 24 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 24 will be immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Committee Report 016 – 5(2): Bill 27,
An Act to Amend the Senior
Citizens Benefits Act**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits 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 27 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 27 immediately

moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 27 will be immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 187 – 5(2):
Photograph of Igloolik Solid
Waste Site**

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a photograph I took in Igloolik of batteries on the ground, which is a safety issue. I would like to table the photograph in the House so that it can be viewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

**Tabled Document 188 – 5(2): Minutes
of Settlement between Thomas
Rohner and the Director of
Corrections of Nunavut**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you will recall, I tabled a package of correspondence during our recent winter sitting concerning the very public dispute between the Department of Justice and the local journalist concerning his access to correctional facilities. I am pleased to table today the minutes of settlement that have been publicly filed in the Nunavut Court of Justice, which brings this matter to a close. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Tabled Document 189 – 5(2): Annual Report – Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service 2018-2019

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the 2018-19 Annual Report of the Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Tabled Document 190 – 5(2): Correspondence from Constituent

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is the first time I have tabled a document like this, but I would like to table it. Sometimes our elders write us letters to remind us of Inuit traditions and how they used to operate. Louis Alianakuluk Uttak wrote a letter and I wish to table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 191 – 5(2): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

As Speaker, I wish to table a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements.

Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat North-

Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 043 – 5(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations – Notice

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, June 10, 2019, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that Allan Rumbolt, Member for Hudson Bay, be appointed Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly;

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Motion 044 – 5(2): Appointment of the Representative for Children and Youth – Notice

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 10, 2019, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Marilyn Jane Bates be appointed as Representative for Children and Youth, effective July 22, 2019.

At the appropriate time I will seek

unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Continuing on with our orders of the day. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Continuing on. Item 16 in the *Orders of the Day*. Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Member Main.

Motion 043 – 5(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS the Member for Baker Lake has taken the Chair of this House as Speaker;

AND WHEREAS section 42 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the appointment of a Deputy Speaker;

AND WHEREAS section 43 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the appointment of Deputy Chairpersons of the Committee of the Whole;

AND WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS section 38 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the appointment of members of the Management and Services Board;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that Allan Rumbolt, Member for Hudson Bay, be appointed Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly;

>> *Applause*

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Pat Angnakak, Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, be appointed a Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole;

>> *Applause*

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Paul Quassa, Member for Aggu, be appointed a member of the Management and Services Board;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Allan Rumbolt, Member for Hudson Bay, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointments of the Hon. Simeon

Mikkungwak as a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, and a member of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges be revoked.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent... I'm sorry. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members (interpretation): Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour. The motion is in order and is carried.

>> *Applause*

Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Lightstone, please proceed.

Motion 044 – 5(2): Appointment of the Representative for Children and Youth

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 2 of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* provides that the Representative for Children and Youth is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office for a term of five years;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board has undertaken a merit-based selection process for this position;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Marilyn Jane Bates be appointed as Representative for Children and Youth, effective July 22, 2019.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker (interpretation): Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion that is before the House today, I am pleased to take this opportunity to make some comments in support of it.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in the year 2013.

The legislation provides for the appointment of a Representative for Children and Youth, who serves as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Sherry McNeil-Mulak for her service as Nunavut's first Representative for Children and Youth.

The Management and Services Board issued an invitation for applications for this position in January of this year.

As a member of the Management and Services Board, I took part in our recent selection and interview process for this position.

Mr. Speaker, the board was very pleased to unanimously recommend that Ms. Marilyn Jane Bates be appointed to serve in this role.

Ms. Bates received her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Ryerson University in 1994, and began her professional career as a family services social worker for the Peel Children's Aid Society.

In 2001 Ms. Bates moved to the Yukon, where she served in progressively more senior positions in the field of youth and family support services until her return to Ontario in 2018.

Ms. Bates has specialized training and experience in the areas of child protection, family services, youth

justice, crisis intervention, restorative community conferencing, and critical incident investigation.

Mr. Speaker, her professional qualifications and quarter-of-a-century of experience make her a very well-qualified candidate for this position.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to close by asking all members to support the motion before the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

>> *Applause*

Motions. There are no more. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. There are none. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 24 and 27 with Member Rumbolt in the Chair.

Members, please remain at your seats as you will proceed directly into Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 24 and 27. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to commence the clause-by-clause review of Bill 24, followed by Bill 27. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 24?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 24 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Hickes: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: With the Chairman's indulgence, yes, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then continue on into your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. Both my witnesses are no strangers to this House. To your left I have Deputy Minister of Finance Jeff Chown, and to your right,

Chief Executive Officer of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Peter Ma. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will go directly into my comments. Thank you. I am here to present Bill 24 *Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019*. Through this bill, we are seeking authority to write off \$929,229.05 in debts to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The bill in front of you contains specific details. In general the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is seeking to write off the following amounts they regard as uncollectable:

- \$30,481 from Ferguson Lake Lodge;
- \$478,490 from Nunavut Services Ltd.;
- \$285,720 from Qimatusaqviq;
- \$25,622 from TSR - Cade; and
- \$108,913 from Unaalik Aviation.

Mr. Chairman and members, this concludes my opening comments. I am pleased to take any questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Main, please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some very brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 24.

(interpretation ends) The standing committee is in support of the purpose of the bill, which the minister described in

his opening comments.

I also wish to take this opportunity to note that the 2019-2020 Ministerial Letter of Expectation to the Chairperson of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's Board of Directors reaffirmed the importance of the corporation providing greater transparency in its annual reports with respect to identifying recipients of loans and other financial assistance. The standing committee strongly supports this direction and notes improvements in the corporation's most recent annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 7, 2018.

(interpretation) The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 24 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Do any members have general comments? If not, we will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of Bill 24 in your legislative binders below your desk.

This is one of the shortest bills we will ever have to deal with by the way.

>> *Laughter*

Bill 24, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Debt write-offs. Total. \$929,229.05. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members

agree to Bill 24 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 24 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickee, do you have any closing comments? Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Just very quickly, Mr. Chairman, and I thank members for their support on this bill. Basically it's an accounting measure.

At the same time I do want to assure the public that this bill was scrutinized with very good detail at the committee level. There were a lot of fantastic questions that were asked and a lot of due diligence by the committee. I just want to thank them for their support in moving this bill forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. On behalf of the committee, we thank you and your staff for your work on this bill as well.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out, and I will ask Minister Sheutiapik to go to the witness table, please.

Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Sheutiapik: do you have witnesses that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister.

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Sheutiapik, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then continue on into your opening comments, please. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To my right is Owen Burns from the Department of Justice and to my left is Yvonne Niego. She's my deputy minister for Family Services.

(interpretation) Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services supports low-income seniors in Nunavut through the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit. The benefit is administered under the *Senior Citizens Benefits Act* and assists low-income seniors with the costs of living. For year 2018-19, this benefit supported 542 seniors across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the *Senior Citizens Benefits Act* was inherited from the Northwest Territories in 1999 with the

establishment of Nunavut. The department is proposing minor changes to the Act to reflect changes that have occurred since the Act was passed, such as new terminology, and the inclusion of Nunavut's privacy legislation, the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some very brief opening comments (interpretation ends) as we begin our consideration of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act*.

The standing committee is in support of the purpose of the bill, which the minister described in her opening comments.

The standing committee recognizes that the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit is provided to over 500 seniors across Nunavut. The amendments to the legislation will update terminology and ensure that privacy requirements are met.

The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 27 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Do any committee members have any general comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) This is for the benefit of our elders so they will clearly understand that this bill is to support our elders that we will approve the appropriation, although we can change that amount right now as regular members. However, in the new fiscal year we will be pushing for the change to the pension amount that currently is sent to our elders to have it increased, as the number of our elders stands at 542 throughout Nunavut. I hope you hear this as we can't increase the amount now, but we will commit to changing that in the next winter session when we deal with this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have asked questions about this matter that also isn't part of the motion here, but I want it understood much like the member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, as she was truthful about our elders requiring support. The bill which we are going to review will include the issue I raised previously that the Department of Family Services has to seriously consider if the new budget for next fiscal year will include the increase in the base rate, and I continue to push for that. Even though it was a short comment, I thank you for the opportunity.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to simply voice the importance of this issue. I imagine there will be clear criteria to the Inuit whom we call our elders, even

though many of us here are also aging. It is regarding what criteria determines your status as an elder, but I want to know exactly what criteria is used to denote elders. I imagine it is defined, but some definitions are not consistent here in Nunavut as to what age or knowledge is required to attain the status of elders. Different bodies have set different ages to denote the age of our elders, and this is what I wanted clarified so that our elders know exactly when they have reached the age of an elder resident here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I concur with my colleagues. I do support the amounts in the bill consisting of \$200 per month and although it isn't contained in this bill, we are aware this amount will be revisited to increase the amount, and I expect to see that sometime.

Further, regarding the study of the amount, it should include the local cost of living indexes, to use food as an example, the cost of a food basket in that community, as we all have slightly different costs in our communities. At this time it is set at an amount that doesn't take into account the different cost of living expenses our elders face. It should be included in this review, as I believe a lot of benefit would accrue to our elders here in Nunavut.

I am just commenting on that, although I know that this isn't included in this bill. We have brought it up to the minister while reviewing the bill as a committee, so I am just restating it here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I have no more names for general comments. We will now move on to the clause-by-clause review of Bill 27. Again, it's in your legislative binder below your desk.

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act*. Clause 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? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have a question on this clause. We know that this is a bill regarding privacy and information of our seniors. I would just like to hear briefly the degree to which the Information and Privacy Commissioner was consulted on the drafting of this bill. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately I can't give you a definite answer as to the consultation of with whom on this particular question. He would like, if you don't mind, Mr. Burns to do a follow-up.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Burns.

Mr. Burns: I would just state, although obviously the legislative department is not responsible for consultations, the wording within this bill is taken with only very minor variations from the *Income Assistance Act*, which was changed relatively recently to comply with the ATIPP Act. The language in this is not new to Nunavut legislation. It is largely a reproduction to bring this Act in line with what is already in the *Income Assistance Act*.

Chairman: Thank you. Again, clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 27 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 27 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik, any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that. We have certainly taken into account the questions asked of the supplementary, which you need to be 60 years of age for the supplementary income. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here today.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move to report progress at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. There's a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. Thank you. The motion passed. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 24 and 27 and would like to report that Bills 24 and 27 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Member Qirngnuq. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 24 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 24, *Write-off of Debts, 2018-2019*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 24 (interpretation ends) is ready for assent.

(interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

An Hon. Member: No? You're done?

Hon. George Hickes: Yes, I'm done. Sorry.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act – Third Reading

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Pangnirtung, (interpretation ends) hon. member, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act*, be read for the third reading. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 27 (interpretation ends) is ready for assent.

(interpretation) Mr. Clerk, will you please determine if the Commissioner of Nunavut is ready to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Nellie Kusugak

(interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 1, *Corrections Act*;
- Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 24, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019*; and

- Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act*.

Nunavut is the most beautiful and nicest place. During this season of warmth and light, we embrace the beauty of our land.

I wish all members a safe trip home to your constituencies and families, and I look forward to seeing all of you again during the fall sitting.

I thank you. I am very grateful that you are working hard for the people of Nunavut. You work using all of your abilities, so I thank you for that.

I also thank the interpreters because I can speak Inuktitut when I come here. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 22. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 17:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members, before we adjourn the spring session, as I was saying a few days ago, I was going to be making a ruling. Therefore I wish to provide the House with a ruling.

Speaker's Ruling

During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of June 4, 2019, the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak attempted to table a document at Item 13 on the *Orders of the Day*.

(interpretation ends) The member described the document as being "...a complaint that a member received and forwarded to the appropriate ministers where a constituent had raised their concerns over a request for proposals."

In reviewing the document, I determine that it appeared to be a printout of an email. A number of words in the printout had been redacted, including any identification of the sender and original recipient.

This type of situation is not without precedent in our Assembly, and I have been guided by a ruling by one of my predecessors who determined that it is out of order for members to table anonymous correspondence or documents whose source cannot be authenticated.

I do, however, wish to note that nothing precludes the member from making such a document public in a number of other ways.

Consequently I have instructed the Clerk to remove the document in question from the working papers of this Assembly.

(interpretation) Before we adjourn, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues for their support to me in my new role.

>> *Applause*

I also wish to echo the comments of our Commissioner in wishing each and every one of my colleagues a very safe journey home to your families.

Additionally, I want to say here that

obviously being an Inuk living in Nunavut and having been selected as the Speaker, nonetheless, I felt and I am sure every other MLA felt the same feelings which I saw on your faces that our late Speaker, after his passing, made this spring sitting an emotional time, all the while allowing us to heal, but we must move forward as we are elected to represent our ridings, so we have much responsibility in looking after Nunavummiut.

>>*Applause*

Further, to my constituents comprised of Baker Lake residents who voted for me to represent them, along with my family who are home, and to every resident of Baker Lake whom I represent as the Member for Baker Lake, in my new role as the Speaker for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, to my relatives, I love you and further, if the weather allows, I shall be arriving home.

Before we end, as I travel home tomorrow, my eldest child will celebrate her birthday. I love you, my daughter, Doreen Niego. Have a very good birthday.

>>*Applause*

I would also like to thank the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk, Stephen Innuksuk, to all the interpreters and staff of the Legislative Assembly as your hard work results in our successful completion.

>>*Applause*

The spring session is concluding and with colleagues preparing to head home, I wish you safe travels to reach your beloved relatives, and I wish you a

successful time, as I know many of you will be hunting and camping at home. Stay safe and enjoy the beauty with your family along with your constituents as you return home to your communities. Have a wonderful spring and summer.

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 17, 2019.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:37*

Appendix – June 6, 2019



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

Report on the Review of the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

**2nd Session of the 5th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Spring 2019 Sitting**

Chairperson
John Main

Co-Chairperson
Cathy Towntongie

Members
Tony Akoak
Joelie Kaernerik
Mila Kamingoak
Pauloosie Keyootak
Adam Arreak Lightstone
Simeon Mikkungwak
Margaret Nakashuk
Patterk Netser
Emiliano Qirngnuq
Paul Quassa
Allan Rumbolt

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Introduction

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut on April 11, 2019.

The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee were the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut and senior officials of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Department of Health. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.



Observations and Recommendations

Issue: **Annual Report on the Administration of the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, Expired Government of Nunavut Policies, Privacy Impact Assessments and Information-Sharing Agreements**

The Government of Nunavut's *2015-2016 Annual Report on the Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 7, 2017. The 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 annual reports have not yet been tabled. The annual report is not presently required by statute to be tabled.

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs administers the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy*, which expired on August 3, 2017, and the *Privacy Breach and Incident Policy*, which expired on May 1, 2018.

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed a number of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, including the addition of new provisions concerning privacy impact assessments.

The statute defines a "privacy impact assessment" to mean "an assessment that is conducted by a public body as defined in section 2, but not including a municipality, to determine if a current or proposed program or service meets or will meet the requirements of Part 2 of this Act."

Section 42.1 of the statute provides that:

Privacy impact assessment

- 42.1. (1) A minister shall, during the development of a program or service by a public body or the redesign of an existing program or service by a public body, submit to the Minister responsible for this Act
- (a) a privacy impact assessment for the Minister's review and comment; or
 - (b) the results of a preliminary assessment showing that a privacy impact assessment of the program or service is not required.

Preliminary assessment

- (2) A minister shall conduct a preliminary assessment and, where required, a privacy impact assessment in accordance with the directions of the Minister responsible for this Act.

Municipality not included

- (3) A municipality is not a public body for the purposes of subsection (1).

A significant number of territorial statutes allow for the government to enter into information-sharing agreements with other entities. For example, the recently-passed *Cannabis Act* provides that:

Information-sharing agreements

63. (1) The Minister may enter into agreements for the collection, use, disclosure and exchange of information, including personal information, with the following:

- (a) the Government of Canada or any of its departments, Ministers or agencies;
- (b) the government of a province or territory or any of its departments, Ministers or agencies;
- (c) a public agency as defined in the *Financial Administration Act*;
- (d) a law enforcement agency;
- (e) an Agent;
- (f) a licensee;
- (g) a prescribed body.

However, the extent to which the government is undertaking privacy impact assessments in the development of information-sharing agreements and other initiatives is unclear, as is illustrated by the following exchange that took place during the standing committee's televised hearing:

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This new *Cannabis Act* was introduced in June 2018 by the Legislative Assembly, and section 63 of the statute allows the government to enter into information-sharing agreements with other entities for the collection, use, disclosure, and exchange of information, including personal information. Did the Government of Nunavut consult you as the privacy commissioner before they were introduced in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Commissioner.

Ms. Keenan Bengts: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the answer is no. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a little bit surprised. The next question I have is to the government. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy. This policy contains provisions regarding privacy impact assessments. Was a privacy impact assessment conducted on the provision of the *Cannabis Act* that concerns the sharing of personal information and, if an assessment was conducted, will the results be made public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik: Good afternoon. I will have to get back to the Member after I check with the departments to see if they did an assessment or not. I know that the Department of Justice and the Department of Finance were the departments that were working on that. I will have to check with them and get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the same lines, for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, how many Government of Nunavut employees currently have access to the cannabis purchase records of Nunavummiut? Perhaps I'll speak English for clarity, although she obviously understands what I'm saying as she is an Inuk. How many employees of the Government of Nunavut currently have access to the cannabis purchase records of Nunavummiut and what safeguards are in place to prevent the misuse of this information? That's a question to Deputy Minister Okpik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will also have to look into that as well because it is held by the Department of Finance. From what I know, the people of Nunavut order cannabis online. I don't know who collects that information on who orders, but I will look into that and get back to you. If they're keeping the statistics, they would keep track of how much money is being spent on it, but as to who is doing the ordering, I will have to get back to you on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct my question to the commissioner. Using my own language, when the *Cannabis Act* was worked on, was your office contacted by the government and were there any recommendations that came out of your office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Commissioner.

Ms. Keenan Bengts: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not consulted during the drafting of the cannabis legislation itself. I have since received a letter from the Department of Finance advising me that they intend to do a privacy impact assessment and that they were working on that document, but that's all it was. They invited me to participate, essentially advising me that they were doing this and asking if I would like to comment on it when it was done. I haven't heard anything further from them.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to provide for a statutory requirement for the Minister responsible for the Act to table, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the legislation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the reasons for the delay in tabling the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 annual reports on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the revision and/or renewal of its *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy* and the *Privacy Breach and Incident Policy*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include detailed descriptions of the findings of each privacy impact assessment and preliminary assessment undertaken to date under section 42.1 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and that these descriptions detail the extent to which the Information and Privacy Commissioner was consulted in their preparation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include detailed descriptions of each information-sharing agreement entered into by the Government of Nunavut under the authority of a territorial statute since January 1, 2014, and that these descriptions detail the extent to which the Information and Privacy Commissioner was consulted in their preparation.

Issue: Privacy Audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital, Health-Specific Privacy Legislation and Community Health Centre Privacy Initiatives

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's *Report on the Privacy Audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 8, 2016. The 4th Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities held a televised hearing on the report from May 10-11, 2017. The standing committee presented its *Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Report on the Privacy Audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital* at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of June 6, 2017. However, the Government of Nunavut did not table a response to the report of the standing committee.

Significant attention was paid to health-related privacy issues during the standing committee's televised hearing of April 11, 2019. Although the government has demonstrated clear progress in addressing such issues at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, the extent to which similar progress has been achieved at the community level is not as clear. The standing committee also notes a lack of clarity as to what specific progress has been made to date in developing health-specific privacy legislation for the territory, being mindful that Nunavut is the only Canadian jurisdiction without such legislation in place.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of its position and actions taken to date in relation to the formal recommendations contained in the June 6, 2017, report of the standing committee on the review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report on the privacy audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the development of health-specific privacy legislation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the Department of Health's planned initiatives for the 2019-2020 fiscal year in relation to privacy protection at community health centres outside of Iqaluit.

Issue: Public Sector Salary Disclosure and Application of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act to Municipalities and District Education Authorities

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed a number of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, including the addition of new provisions to allow, through regulation, for the designation of municipalities as public bodies and the disclosure of remuneration of prescribed classes of public employees. However, new regulations to give effect to these changes have not yet been passed.

In April of 2015, the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Regulations* were amended to designate housing authorities and housing associations as public bodies. However, District Education Authorities (DEAs) are not yet covered by the legislation.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the development of regulations under section 73(a) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect to the designation of municipalities as public bodies.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the development of regulations under section 73(a) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect to the designation of District Education Authorities as public bodies.

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the development of regulations under sections 73(1.1) and (1.2) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect to the disclosure of remuneration of prescribed classes of public employees.

Issue: Process for Responding to Recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Role of the Ethics Officer

Sections 35 and 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provide that:

Information and Privacy Commissioner to report

35. On completing a review, the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall
- (a) prepare a written report setting out the recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner with respect to the matter and the reasons for the recommendations; and
 - (b) send a copy of the report to the person who asked for the review, the head of the public body concerned and any other person given a copy of the request for a review under section 30.

Decision of head

36. Within 30 days after receiving the report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the head of the public body concerned shall
- (a) make a decision to follow the recommendation of the Information and Privacy Commissioner or make any other decision the head considers appropriate; and
 - (b) give written notice of the decision to the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the person who asked for the review and any other person given a copy of the request for a review under section 30.

Copies of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's formal *Review Reports* are publicly accessible on her office's website, as are the government's responses to them:

<https://atipp-nu.ca/documents/atipp-reviews/>

Although the issues raised in these reviews are often complex and focus on matters of statutory interpretation, the extent to which the government's responses to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recommendations have been developed with the benefit of input from legal counsel is often unclear.

In some cases, the government's formal responses to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recommendations provide a clear and detailed rationale for why they are or are not being accepted. In other cases, they do not. It is the standing committee's position that it is incumbent on the government to formally provide clear and detailed reasons, in writing, for its decisions.

The 2016-2017 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“... employees and former employees of the Government of Nunavut are among the most frequent requesters [under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*] ... looking for information to find out more about a workplace harassment matter or why they were unsuccessful in a job application or why they were overlooked for promotion.”

The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2017 comprehensive review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* noted that:

“... a large number of access requests for personal information about the applicant arise out of some kind of workplace dispute. Individuals who have made complaints against a co-worker or who are the subject of a workplace complaint often request access to all of the information related to the complaint.”

In 2013, a new *Public Service Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly. The legislation provides for the appointment of an Ethics Officer, who has the mandate to investigate allegations of wrongdoing in the public service.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, the extent to which the decisions of heads of public bodies made under section 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in response to formal recommendations submitted by the Information and Privacy Commissioner are subject to review by legal counsel.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut introduce an amendment to section 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that would provide for a requirement on the part of the head of a public body to provide written reasons for decisions made in respect to recommendations submitted by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the *Public Service Act* formally request the Office of the Ethics Officer to initiate contact with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to discuss areas of potential collaboration between the two entities.

Issue: Information and Privacy Commissioner’s Comprehensive Review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, Public Access to Sex Offender Registries and Information-Sharing in Support of Court-Ordered Restrictions on Alcohol

In 2017, the Information and Privacy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, which is publicly accessible on her office’s website:

<https://atipp-nu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ATIPP-ComprehensiveReview.pdf>

During the standing committee’s televised hearing of April 11, 2019, a number of questions were raised concerning the extent to which the public should have access to government registries containing personal information about registered sex offenders who have been released from incarceration and who are living in Nunavut communities.

In 2015, the Parliament of Canada passed Bill C-26, which enacted the *High Risk Child Sex Offender Database Act*, the official purpose of which is to provide for “... the establishment of a publicly accessible database containing information with respect to persons who are found guilty of sexual offences against children and who pose a high risk of committing crimes of a sexual nature.” This federal legislation has not yet been brought into force.

The standing committee recognizes that this is a complex issue and that there are diverse perspectives concerning the efficacy of such measures. During Parliament’s consideration of the bill, the federal Minister of Public Safety of the day stated that:

“I would like to talk about a third thing, which Canadians feel very passionate about, and that is the right of victims, children and families to know whether there is a high-risk sex offender living in their neighbourhood. That is perfectly legitimate. We can inform them in a safe way in co-operation with local authorities, and that is what we are proposing to do. Canadians have the right to know the character of the individuals who are near their children. If a dangerous pedophile is within arm's reach of their child, they have the right to take proper actions and precautions. That is why the bill would enact the high risk child sex offender database act, which would allow our government to create a national public database.”

By contrast, the federal Privacy Commissioner’s testimony before a Parliamentary committee considering the bill stated that:

“The **High Risk Child Sex Offender Database Act** will establish a publicly accessible database that contains information about persons who have been convicted of sexual offences against children and who pose a high risk of committing crimes of a sexual nature. Although this information will be limited to information that a police service or other public authority has made public,

making it available on a national database will greatly expand the number of people who have access to the information. Based on the research we have read, we at the OPC are concerned that the publicly accessible High Risk Offender Database proposal may not be a proportionate nor an effective response to the very problem it is trying to address. This is in part because law enforcement agencies already have access to information about registered sex offenders, through the National Sex Offender Registry and other databases such as CPIC. So, how will the publicly available database increase the likelihood of arrest or reduce the risk of recidivism? We have not seen any evidence of such outcomes. There is, however, research that supports the view that laws that reduce the privacy of sex offenders makes rehabilitation and reintegration more difficult. Ultimately, this could increase the rate of recidivism. A publicly accessible database also creates a risk of vigilantism, as recognized on provincial dangerous offender websites such as the one in place in Alberta, and increases the risk that fears of being attacked or harassed will drive offenders underground.”

The standing committee also recognizes that although the territorial government has limited jurisdiction in this sphere, it does have the ability to take a formal position on the advisability of bringing the federal legislation into force.

On November 8, 2016, the Government of Nunavut’s strategy document titled *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. One of the elements of the strategy provides that:

“Sometimes the courts, justices of the peace, RCMP or other mechanism of Nunavut’s justice system limit, restrict or prohibit an individual from accessing alcohol. These restrictions are often put in place after the individual, under the influence of alcohol, has caused themselves or others significant harm. It is the individual’s responsibility to abide by any restrictions the court imposes. However, to better reinforce these restrictions and limit future alcohol-related harm to the individual or others, the Government could potentially support such court-ordered restrictions by *not* issuing an alcohol import permit to the individual. For this to work, the permitting system would need to be aware of the alcohol-related restrictions in place. The government will explore how to support court-ordered restrictions on alcohol by considering whether the permitting system could help reduce alcohol-related harm by supporting court-ordered restrictions on alcohol; and exploring ways to increase communication between the courts and the permit system with respect to alcohol-related limitations, restrictions, and prohibitions for individuals in the territory, while respecting these individual’s rights.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, its position respecting each of the specific recommendations contained in the Information and Privacy Commissioner's *Comprehensive Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, its position respecting the advisability of bringing into force the *High Risk Child Sex Offender Database Act*, which was passed by the Parliament of Canada in 2015.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, what specific actions have been taken to date in relation to the "Supporting Court-Ordered Restrictions on Alcohol" section of its *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* strategy, including a detailed description of what information is currently shared with the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission in respect to court-ordered restrictions on alcohol.