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**5th Assembly**

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Official Report

**DAY 79**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

**Hon. David Akeeagok**  
(Quttiktuq)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation*

**Joelie Kaernek**  
(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
(Tununiq)

**Mila Kamingoak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

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

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
Committee of the Whole*

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Community and  
Government Services; Minister of  
Human Resources*

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of  
Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister  
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;  
Minister responsible for the Utility Rates  
Review Council*

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for  
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

**Hon. George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial  
Management Board; Minister of Health;  
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister  
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission*

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Family Services; Minister responsible for  
Homelessness; Minister responsible for  
Immigration; Minister responsible for the  
Status of Women*

**Hon. David Joanasi**  
(South Baffin)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister  
of Education; Minister of Languages*

**Hon. Patterk Netser**  
(Aivilik)

*Minister responsible for Nunavut  
Arctic College; Minister responsible for  
the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Cathy Towtongie**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Wednesday, February 26, 2020****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak,  
 Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie  
 Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon.  
 David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner,  
 Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie  
 Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr.  
 Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms.  
 Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk  
 Netser, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr.  
 Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa,  
 Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe  
 Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik,  
 Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Good afternoon. As Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to inform members that Rule 8(1) requires that when a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Speaker, the House shall elect a Speaker from amongst its members before entering into business.

Is there a motion to select the Speaker? I will recognize the Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Motion 069 – 5(2): Selection of Speaker**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that Paul Quassa, Member for Aggu, do take the Chair of the House as Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

**Clerk:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and I ask the mover and the

seconder to escort the new Speaker to the Chair.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (Hon. Paul Quassa) (interpretation): First of all, thank you. I am proud of every one of you, those of you sitting here and our visitors.

**Speaker's Statement**

Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I am pleased to take this opportunity to make a brief statement.

I would like to begin by first thanking the House for placing its collective confidence in me to serve as your Speaker.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the members who moved and seconded the formal motion of appointment, and I hope I did not cause them too much difficulty in their efforts to move me to this seat.

Colleagues, we are now a little over halfway into our mandate as a Legislative Assembly.

As your Speaker, I am mindful of the paramount importance of serving this House and all of its members with fairness, impartiality, and respect.

I wish to also take this opportunity to express my full confidence in your other Chair occupants: the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chairs of the Committee of the Whole. I look forward to working with them closely in keeping the business of the House proceeding smoothly.

(interpretation ends) Members of the House as well are aware that I have had the privilege of serving this territory and its people in a number of roles over the years.

To all Nunavummiut I say this: I pledge to uphold the traditions of your legislature and I assure you that this institution will remain a welcoming place that reflects and respects all of our territory's people, while celebrating the distinctively Inuit character of Nunavut.

(interpretation) To my constituents in Aggu, I say this: although my role in this place may have changed, my commitment to the well-being of my constituency has not. Please be assured that my office remains open to you and I welcome your ideas and concerns.

Lastly, I thank my family, my wife, Elisapee, and all of my children for always supporting me.

I thank all members for their attention. It's a new day. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Firstly, (interpretation ends) the Hon. Premier, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation) You're going first.

## **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

### **Minister's Statement 379 – 5(2): Pink Day 2020**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, every year on the last Wednesday of February the Government of Nunavut, in collaboration with the Canadian Red Cross, celebrates the national anti-bullying initiative Pink Day. The theme for 2020 is "Lift Each Other Up."

Mr. Speaker, to mark the occasion, participants across the territory are encouraged to wear the colour pink on February 26 to show their support. We all have a role to play in anti-bullying, and today is an important way to stand together.

Mr. Speaker, Pink Day is a great way to highlight Inuuqatigiitsiarniq - respecting others, relationships, and caring for people. To that end, all members have been given Pink Day buttons to wear to show our commitment to a bully-free lifestyle at work, at home, and in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it's our actions, no matter how big or small, that make a difference. Respecting one another, standing up to bullying, and working together show that kindness, encouragement, and positivity will win in the long run.

On behalf of my colleagues and I, let's work together to end bullying in all its forms. Happy Pink Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Netser.

**Minister's Statement 380 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Arctic College 10-Year  
Strategic Plan Consultations**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation  
ends) Congratulations on your new  
assignment.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am  
pleased to rise today to provide members  
with an update on the development of  
the Nunavut Arctic College 10-Year  
Strategic Plan.

(interpretation ends) As members will  
remember, this important document will  
provide direction for long-term planning  
at the college and will help ensure that  
resources are aligned with the key  
priorities of our communities.

To ensure that the objectives developed  
for this plan meet the needs of  
Nunavummiut now and well into the  
future, Nunavut Arctic College  
implemented a robust consultation  
process now underway. The  
consultations were designed to provide  
information about the college to  
community residents and to ask residents  
for their feedback and suggestions for  
activities and programs the college could  
undertake to meet the learning needs of  
communities.

The Nunavut Arctic College Board of  
Governors was instrumental in leading  
the consultations. To date the board held  
public meetings in Igloolik,  
(interpretation) Hall Beach, Cambridge  
Bay, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Arviat,  
Chesterfield Inlet, and Rankin Inlet.  
(interpretation ends) More consultations  
are now being scheduled and  
information will be distributed once

details are confirmed.

Board members are also reaching out to  
community leaders in each hamlet,  
including elders, mayors, hamlet  
councillors, and district education  
authority chairs, to ensure that all voices  
and concerns are being heard.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that all  
Nunavummiut understand they are  
encouraged to participate in this  
consultation process. In addition to  
public consultations, residents can also  
visit the Nunavut Arctic College website  
to complete an online survey in any one  
of Nunavut's official languages.  
Information and feedback forms are also  
available in each of our community  
learning centres throughout the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take  
this opportunity to encourage all  
members to participate in this exciting  
consultation process to help shape the  
future of Nunavut Arctic College for the  
next 10 years. I applaud the board of  
governors and the staff of the college for  
the successful and ambitious undertaking  
of this important consultation initiative.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements.  
Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 381 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Schools Celebrate Pink  
Day 2020**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. We  
congratulate you on your new role.



(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today is Pink Day, and I'm tickled pink with these pink furs that we're wearing today.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Every year on the last Wednesday of February the Department of Education celebrates this national anti-bullying initiative. This year the theme of Pink Day is "Ajunngitunga."

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, to raise awareness, schools, and communities are being encouraged to take a stand against bullying and get involved in various ways. Students and school staff will be holding an anti-bullying assembly, making and sharing videos about the negative effects of bullying, and expressing what they are capable of on social media.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, schools will also be encouraging students, elders, and community members to gather and share stories about the harmful effects of bullying. Together they will seek solutions on how to stop and prevent bullying in their community.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Pink Day is a great way to remind all of us of Inuuqatigiitsiarniq, the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* principle of respecting others, building relationships, and caring for people. Inuuqatigiitsiarniq forms the foundation for successful and welcoming schools.

(interpretation ends) I'm still tickled pink, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

It is through our actions, both big and small, that we can make a difference. By wearing pink today, we help raise awareness that it is up to each of us to recognize, prevent, and stop bullying when we witness it. By showing respect and standing up to bullying behaviours, we can all show what we are capable of. (interpretation) We are capable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

#### **Minister's Statement 382 – 5(2): Umingmak Centre**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I have another familial contact to that great Office of the Speaker's Chair.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone takes the messages from Pink Day and practises them every day.

Mr. Speaker, after years of hard work and collaboration, I am pleased to share the news that the Umingmak Child and Youth Support Centre has opened its doors in Iqaluit. The Umingmak Centre is a product of the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation and serves as the first child advocacy centre of its kind in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this centre provides cohesiveness to a previously fragmented process for children and youth who experience abuse or neglect. The intent of the centre is to provide children and

youth with access to trauma-sensitive and culturally appropriate services all under one roof, where efforts are coordinated between various service providers to ensure all necessary evidence is collected with the best supports in place for children and caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, as one of multiple partners supporting the creation of the Umingmak Centre, the Department of Health's contributions to the centre have been multi-tiered. Health has committed staffing support to the Umingmak Centre in the form of health care professionals that administer care at the centre, work alongside existing mental health services, and serve as members of the multidisciplinary teams that develop a coordinated, cohesive and individualized treatment approach for patients of the centre.

Mr. Speaker and members, the department has also funded and installed a fibre cable that connects the centre directly to the GN core business network, providing health care staff with access to medical records, allowing them to better serve the needs of clients. Finally, the Department of Health administers funding to the centre from Health Canada and the Quality of Life Secretariat's grants and contributions program.

Mr. Speaker, the Umingmak Child Advocacy Centre provides comprehensive, wraparound service for each child. The Department of Health is proud to contribute to this project and shares the centre's commitment to providing safe and accessible health care to children and youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 383 – 5(2):  
Certificate of Recognition  
Accreditation**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Congratulations on your appointment.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation successfully passed a recent Northern Safety Association external audit of its workplace health and safety program. By doing so, the corporation continues to maintain its Certificate of Recognition accreditation.

In November 2019 the external auditor visited 13 Qulliq Energy Corporation sites, interviewing managers and employees, observing workplace practices, and reviewing documentation as part of the certification process. The corporation earned an impressive final grade of 86 percent. In the report Qulliq Energy Corporation employees earned high marks on their understanding of health and safety policies. Building this type of awareness inside the corporation creates the foundation of a strong safety culture.

Participation in the Certificate of Recognition helps prevent workplace incidents and ill health both to Qulliq Energy Corporation employees and the public. To maintain a Certificate of Recognition accreditation, an internal

audit is required every year and an external audit is required every three years. The certified auditor examines the details of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's health and safety programs, work practices, training for staff and contractors, and hazard controls and review processes for improvement.

Safety is a top priority at the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The corporation plans to continue to participate in the renowned Certificate of Recognition program and continue to refine best safety practices both on the job and in our communities. By doing so, everyone will benefit from a work environment where health and safety is built into the culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. I believe there are no more ministers' statements. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 597 – 5(2): Pink Day 2020

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my fellow residents of Amittuq and Nunavut.

I rise today to acknowledge Pink Shirt Day and to prepare our youth for the future where bullying, embarrassing, and belittling happens. This type of behaviour shouldn't be allowed in our schools.

What I want to inform students who are abused in this manner is: please don't

give up. Even when you are teased, try not to let it affect you. I would try to stand up as I told myself that even though I am shy, I would rise to voice my thoughts. To the young students, I am standing on your behalf and to urge you to be resilient and don't give in to your shyness. You have much room to improve and as youth and young people you still have a future.

I can even say that we don't know what the future holds. Maybe in the future the people who bullied you will be the people that you end up helping. My mother would advise me that in the future I would have to assist others, and I asked even those who bullied me in school, and she replied in the affirmative.

Treating everyone the same is the best way to live life and it also provides for an easier life. Towards this issue, I want to state that bullying will not lead to advancement. I also want to say this: (interpretation ends) bullying is not cool. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

#### Member's Statement 598 – 5(2): Pink Day 2020

**Mr. Lightstone** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I stand in unison with our Premier, the Minister of Education, my colleague Mr. Kaernek, and all the other members here today that are wearing pink.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of Pink Shirt Day. It's integral that we keep pressing that bullying will not be tolerated in our schools, our workplaces, or online.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my sons will grow up in an environment free from bullying, where their peers celebrate each other's differences and promote kindness to one another. We can only achieve this by continuing to celebrate this day, by spreading kindness, empathy, and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I will do my best to ensure that I raise my children appropriate and instil the importance of integrity and ensuring that they treat everyone with respect.

That being said, I stand with everyone here today and would like to mirror my colleague's comments: bullying is not cool. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 599 – 5(2): Pink Day 2020**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate you. We have been talking about bullying in the school environment. I was personally bullied as a child in the school environment and I have forgiven those individuals who bullied me. Some of them are my best friends now.

Mr. Speaker, parents have to be aware of the situation and speak with their

children. Should children be bullied at school, as the minister also indicated, please, parents, approach the school principal and talk with them or with the teacher of your child. You might possibly have to talk to the teacher more than once. Do not give up and push to ensure that bullying is not tolerated in the schools.

Every child has (interpretation ends) the right to education. (interpretation) There is a means to the end of bullying. I have heard from some parents who have told me that their children do not want to go to school due to bullying. I urge the parents to work hard and to maintain a dialogue with school administrators in order to stop bullying in the school environment in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Qamaniq.

#### **Member's Statement 600 – 5(2): Pink Day 2020**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to empathize with children who are students as well as children who are not in school.

In our day we went to federal day school which was very hard on us and we didn't have any rights. Since the creation of Nunavut, our students today now have rights. We have celebration days like today, Pink Shirt Day. I urge the people of Nunavut to be compassionate and to cooperate in the best interests of their future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 601 – 5(2):  
Baffin Island Caribou  
Management**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, before I proceed with my statement, my thoughts are with the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River. I feel for you and I send my condolences. I love you.

I rise today to voice my concerns. Yesterday we heard that all of the total allowable harvest for caribou has been used and that is going to create a problem. I'm sure it is going to be a concern for the people in my communities. We heard that the TAH of 250 caribou has been reached in the Baffin region.

It will definitely create a problem in my riding and due to this reason, our community is experiencing changes to their travel routes and the timing of the winter season is changing. The hunters are having harder times travelling on the land, especially in my constituency. This will create big problems if we continue the management system where each community receives a quota for caribou.

I'll be asking questions to the Minister of Environment at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet

North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

**Member's Statement 602 – 5(2):  
Recognition of Simon Kowmuk**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of you.

I remember when my father and mother told me to never retaliate and to never coddle my children or to be afraid of them. I try to live with that advice. However, discussions still need to occur when problems occur.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to acknowledge the loss felt by residents of Rankin Inlet as I took great pride in Simon Kowmuk, who just passed away. He was a unilingual Inuk who couldn't speak or write in English, yet he had his own company offering transportation services using a Bombardier and every year he would do runs starting from Rankin Inlet, passing through Whale Cove and Arviat on his way to Churchill. He was also doing an occasional contract with the mines, trying to garner income through his business. Although he was a very traditional Inuk, he ran his business so I was quite proud of him.

I'm thinking of his wife, Emiline Kowmuk, as well as his children. You are not alone. We are thinking of you.

Mr. Kowmuk was someone I could say we were proud of. He was a real traditional Inuk. Whenever anyone spoke English to him, he would respond in Inuktitut. Whenever someone asked him a question, I know he always responded in his own language, but he

always seemed to understand, which I recalled, and in Rankin Inlet if Emiline Kowmuk is listening, we all love you. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 603 – 5(2): Lead Floats in Water Tanks**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy you have taken the Speaker's Chair.

I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Netsilik and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is due to my concerns over the weekend and since this event tends to affect people, and that is the new moon cycle. This cycle affects one's physical body obviously.

Mr. Speaker, my question will be towards the Minister responsible for the NHC, and obviously it applies to the Minister of Health as well. Mr. Speaker, it relates to health, although he may not have the answer. It is quite obvious that we humans gather toxins from the water and food we consume and it can accumulate in one's body, where it can become either a non-issue or health threatening.

I will have questions to the Minister of CGS at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Continuing on.

Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Member's Statement 604 – 5(2): Pink Day 2020**

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. Good afternoon, colleagues. (interpretation) I say "hello" to the people of Gjoa Haven. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon.

I would like to echo my colleague's words, Mr. Kaernerker: bullying is not cool. It's very good to hear; good words. I say bullying in school is there today and the parents should understand that it is there today.

When I was growing up, I was told that when somebody is bullying you, the person that bullied you, it will get back to him two-fold. It's worse than what you are giving me; you are going to get it worse in the future. Remember those words, especially not even with the kids, especially even at the government department levels. You have workers that are being bullied today that have been quiet, but understand this: like what Mr. Kaernerker said, bullying is not cool. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

**Member's Statement 605 – 5(2): Pink Day 2020**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, fellow members. I could have said something as a minister, but I just want to say that I

always talk about this issue. I will also remember that I was given advice about bullying and anger. The knowledge that was given to me by an elder was very useful and I am thankful for that.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today is Pink Day, a national day of solidarity and bullying. Pink Shirt Day gives us a pause to consider the impacts of bullying in our communities and to recognize that bullying. Healthy relationships among our youth are an important step in reducing violence across the territory. I must say pink is my favourite colour and I love to laugh. I wish we could be tickled pink every day.

>> *Laughter*

The theme of Pink Shirt Day is to lift each other up. The theme calls on each of us to focus on lifting each other up, to look beyond our differences, and to celebrate the things that make us unique.

Across the territory, individuals, organizations, and governments remain guided by *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. These are guiding principles we all share as Nunavummiut. The call is on us to respect each other, care for each other, and work together for a common cause. Guided by these principles, it is critical that we stand up against bullying and balance within our communities. This must happen year-round, not just today.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik:** Together let's send a message that bullying is not tolerated in our schools, in our workplaces, or our families any day of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

**Member's Statement 606 – 5(2):  
Happy 40th Anniversary to Wife,  
Mona**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of my community, as well as those in Naujaat.

Today it's the 40th anniversary of my wife and. I want to say a big "thank you" to my wife. I remember we were married in front of many people and in the presence of God. We were given great advice. We were told never to split up. Today we have 6 children, 19 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we fought together, and I won't mention the other definition of fight today.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I am who I am today if it were not for Mrs. Netser. She is a woman of virtue. She never turns away from those who ask for assistance on anything from sealskin preparation to pattern-making to sewing.

The other day before we left for Iqaluit, she was approached by a young lady who was just going to be getting married on March 6, I believe. She volunteered to make her a pair of kamiik. She did it with joy.

I could go on and on and on about our

life together, but I know after 40 years, we may not reach the next 40 years, but the latter will be greater. (interpretation) Nancy Tupik, if you are listening from Baker Lake, (interpretation ends) she still makes my liver quiver. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): We are proud to hear the news of your anniversary. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 607 – 5(2):  
Recognition of Someone in the  
Gallery**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say how proud we are of you in your new position. I rise today to say I am proud and very happy. There is somebody here in the Legislative Assembly. Sometimes children say "Can I have money? Can I have some cash so I can go to the store?" As you know, there are a lot of kids who say that.

I have a nephew, who as a child, whenever he wanted money, he would get money from his parents or his grandfather and save the cash. Then he would only spend it on a big item. He became an active member of the community and he also became an active member of Inuit organizations. For our children and our grandchildren, there is a large amount of money now that can be used for future generations as a result, and that is why I want to say I am proud of my nephew.

He is active in politics and he is very engaged in the desire of Inuit. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time on the agenda, I wish recognize somebody in the gallery.

>>Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member's Statements. I have no more names on my list. Carrying on. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. There being none, we will carry on. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the  
Gallery**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that you gave me the first opportunity. As I just mentioned, I want to say Pauloosie Jiusipi Akeeagok is here in the House. Thank you for being here. I also want to recognize our former member, Simeon Mikkungwak, who is here in House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome, Mr. Mikkungwak and thank you for being here in the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut. It's not often that I get to



recognize anybody in the gallery, but I would like to welcome my brother-in-law, P.J. Akeeagok, to the House.

*Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize my dear wife. We have been married for 40 years, but the reason why I had to recognize her was her familiar movement, Mr. Speaker, my dear wife Mrs. Netser and our eldest daughter as well, Sylvia Kugaarjuk. She can backpack quite a heavy load, our dear daughter and even if the load is getting heavy, she doesn't complain.

When I went to school here in 1973-74, Moses Atagoyuk was our supervisor at the old Ukiivik residence. He used to supervise me when I was just a 14-year-old and I was probably the youngest student. I experienced bullying from many students while I was there.

And Sandy Akavak from Kimmirut, I once boated from Coral Harbour to Baffin Island on my way to Iqaluit, and when I arrived in Cape Dorset I was informed that I would have to radio Sandy Akavak when I was getting close to Kimmirut and he would convey radio messages outlining the proper route towards Kimmirut.

When I called him, he stated that once I have to turn left, there will be a small island and you will be passing a small island with a bunch of old barrels on it. I was expecting to see that island and it

was foggy outside and we were going by GPS. A little island popped up and there were old barrels on it and I knew to turn at that point. He showed me how to get to Kimmirut like that, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. I am proud of you. I forgot to express my pride in you when I first spoke.

I say "good afternoon" to the residents of my community who are currently undergoing hardship as I just received a phone text outlining the bad news. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an individual my colleague Patterk Netser just recognized, Moses Atagoyuk. At the Gordon Robertson Education Centre here, I too went to school and stayed at the old Ukiivik residence. He was my supervisor and was like my virtual father at the Ukiivik residence. I am very grateful to him. Every time we were going through hardship, we could talk to him and he would make us feel better.

I would like to recognize our former Speaker, Simeon Mikkungwak. It's great that he has come here to listen to the sitting. Even though he has to travel home today, it's good to see him here. Lastly, I would like to recognize QIA President P.J. Akeeagok. I worked at the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for many years and I'm grateful because I was

supported very well when I was working for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Always feel welcome when you're in the House and this includes all Nunavummiut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know he has been recognized already but it might be a while before I don't recognize the person behind me. He has been a good friend and every time before I come here for sittings, my wife would say "Say a big hello to your friend." We have a seven-year-old granddaughter. The last time my wife said "Big hello to your friend" the seven year old said "I know who your friend is! Mr. Mikkungwak!"

>> *Laughter*

I would like to say have a good future and thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): It's great to see people being recognized, so I invite all the people of Nunavut to come and see our meetings here. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This person was already recognized, but we recognize people for different reasons. Mr. Sandy Akavak, thank you for always teaching people. You reminded me on what terminology that I'm supposed to use. Thank you.

Moses Atagoyuk, even though he moved I'm still going to represent him. That's great and I'm proud of that. The person we are always going to call our "good Speaker" from now on, I want to recognize you, and also P.J. My goodness, it was quite recently that we were at Nunavut Sivuniksavut and you were asking me about leadership and how it is to be a leader, and there you are. It makes me very happy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please feel welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the constituents that I represent is an elder from Kimmirut. Everybody knows him and he's been on different boards and committees. He was a former RCMP officer, so let's welcome him. Sandy Akavak is a very friendly person and that is the way he is. We are grateful to him and feel welcome all the time. I humble myself in front of him. He can tell me any story that he went through and they are always very touching stories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have a good day.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please feel welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have never recognized anyone from Baker Lake

here in the House and I would like to recognize someone for the first time, our former Speaker, Mr. Mikkungwak. I also have a grandchild in Rankin Inlet and when he had to fly on his own, the Speaker sat on the plane with him. When I got to the airport, he ran to me and he said, (interpretation ends) “Dad,” (interpretation) and I said, “What?” (interpretation ends) “I was sitting with your big boss.”

>>Laughter

“Mitch, why do you call him my big boss?” “Because he sits in the big chair.”

>>Laughter

(interpretation) Have a good day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names. Let us proceed. Before we actually proceed I would like to comment and recognize my wife, Elisapee Quassa. I would like her to stand. Welcome.

>>Applause

We have been married for 41 years. Well, it’s not our anniversary, but our 41st anniversary is coming up.

>>Applause

I would also like to recognize this other person as relatives want their relations welcomed, and Moses Atagoyuk, who is my father-in-law, and Sandy Akavak, who has helped many people in Nunavut. When we were going to

Igloolik by boat from here, I found out how to get to Kimmirut by boat. Thank you very much.

I am very proud of Qikiqtani Inuit Association President P.J. He is one of the real leaders and I’m proud of him. Please feel welcome.

>>Applause

Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions.

(interpretation) I also wanted to recognize the former MLA and Speaker that I just took over from. I am proud of Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak. Please have a safe trip home.

>>Applause

Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. (interpretation) The first one is the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have some questions today, but I prefer to save them for Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Question 811 – 5(2): Income Support Reforms

**Ms. Towntongie** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I have a similar question to the one that was asked by the Member for

Arviat North-Whale Cove to the Minister of Family Services.

There was a report written in 2013 by the Caledon group on options to change the income support system in Nunavut and we definitely need to update the income support program, as currently if you are on income support and purchase a skidoo or car, you become ineligible for the income support. If you win monies through bingo or otherwise, it would be deducted.

That is called income support in English, but there is a document called No. 22, 23, all the money can be used and presented and it should be followed as to how much money that person should get in support. This can improve the way things work here for income support.

Right now income support services make you unable to do anything. If you win bingo, then it has to be known by the Department of Family Services. If you get an airline ticket, they want to know about that too. Some people on income support go through great difficulty just to get income support.

My question is regarding something that has been worked on for a long time. I would like to ask the minister: has the minister worked on this new way of working on income support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking the question. In regard to that issue, I answered questions about it yesterday. If

we want to come to an agreement about this prospective review, we are quite open to it and I'd like to remind everyone that we cannot just switch to a different system. We have to remember all the things that are applied in Family Services. It's not just about money payments. There are many other things that are involved. You had mentioned bingo winnings, and I have heard about that too. It is something that can be reviewed under regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first (interpretation ends) supplementary, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Unlike welfare, a basic income could be delivered at low cost and with administrative ease throughout the income tax system. This is the key delivery for income security programs in Canada. In the report, it mentions that the basic income concept would reduce and prevent poverty in Nunavut. We have a lot of poverty in Nunavut. Instead of just talking about it, we need to start some progress in this year so poverty could be reduced across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, my question is: is the department taking the next step on developing basic income for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you for that question. As I stated earlier, I can look at it. (interpretation ends) We have been at an income assistance reform; 9 out of 15

are completed. If I may add, the Nunavut income assistance system currently includes subsidies such as covering your rent and utilities. That is not normally covered under guaranteed income. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report and the work that was done were in 2005. It has been 15 years and yet it was going to be started in that year. With the Nunavut income support benefit, how can they benefit? We are that aware that the cost of living has been increasing since then in Nunavut. It's getting harder for people. They don't want to be on income support, but they have no other avenue. We have to expose a better basic income system. I would like to know when? It is different for each of the communities. For example, even though Iqaluit is a city, prices are high, and in the high arctic the cost of living is high. Don't just look at those. You have to use the cost of living. Can the minister look closely at it and introduce it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik:**

Unfortunately I'm going to sound like a scratched record. I said yesterday and I continue to say today that I'm open to having those discussions gladly. I may remind this House that because of the reform, the income assistance increased

not just overall but for singles. I know of individuals that cry because the income did go up.

The other thing about the current system is that we actually are trying to do an approach where there's the G.R.E.A.T program. We're trying to encourage them to get an education to further onto employment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

### **Question 812 – 5(2): Supports for Medical Clients**

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that medical clients from the Baffin region who travel to Ottawa are supported through the Ottawa Baffin Nunavut Health Services office.

Can the minister clarify whether any consideration has been given to working with outside medical institutions to establish a Kitikmeot health services office to support medical clients travelling outside of the region and territory for health care and treatment? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. For one, as we have been going through this medical travel review, one of the issues, as I have highlighted

in Committee of the Whole, is the case management side of things to make sure that appointment needs are met and the care being met. At this time I'm not aware of any discussions for a contracted service in the Kitikmeot region, but it's definitely something I would be open to looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, a number of medical clients from the Kitikmeot have indicated that they feel a lack of support while they are travelling for medical care, especially if they don't have an escort.

Can the minister clearly describe who provides and coordinates support for Kitikmeot medical travel clients if they have problems with their medical travel arrangements? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each region has its own medical travel contact information, which I have sent to all members and I have also shared in the public and it's available at all the health centres, including the majority of airports. It's supposed to be at all airports, but I have travelled in the territory and not seen signage and I have asked my department to follow up previously on that.

There is always somebody 24 hours a day that is available to provide assistance. I encourage anyone out in the

public, if they have concerns ongoing with their medical travel, to contact the individuals that can assist them directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. The lack of coordinated support is especially difficult for individuals who are suffering with cancer. I understand that there is additional support available for cancer patients from the Baffin region, including when they are in the hospital.

Will the minister commit to providing additional supports for Kitikmeot medical clients who must travel alone outside of the territory for health care and especially those who are travelling for cancer treatment? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not a matter of one region accessing additional services; it's partnerships that we have been able to engage in across the country like Canadian Partnerships for Cancer. It's one group that we work with that's a nationwide organization, Mr. Speaker.

Although we have had some very great relationships with the Ottawa hospital and their cancer team, we also work with Alberta's health system, Manitoba's health system, and the NWT's health system. We work very diligently with our partners to provide the level of care

that's being provided.

As always, if anyone has any ideas or suggestions on how to improve service, I can assure anybody out there that my office is always open to identifying efficiencies for care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 813 – 5(2): Municipal Funding**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, adequate funding for Nunavut's municipalities is an important issue. I'll use for example the community of Whale Cove. It was recently forced to cut hours for municipal water and sewage truck drivers. That's an example of something where the hamlet is in deficit recovery mode and it's affecting the employment and income of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to give credit to this government. I note that a current budget is proposing a \$1.7 million increase to the Municipal Funding Program, and I would like to pay tribute to the government for recognizing the gap that exists, but when you divide that increase among 24 communities equally, it works to about \$72,000 each.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that there is a big need to look at this problem, our municipalities or hamlets in Nunavut

being funded adequately. I note that the department did issue a request for proposals on Nunavut municipal funding and that's what my questions will be about.

My first question is: what were the results to date in terms of this request for proposals regarding analysis and planning for Nunavut municipal funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with my colleague on this matter. The hamlets require funding and this funding has to be adequate for operations annually. For funding outside of the funding formula, they have to apply for funding to provide benefits to their communities. We're consolidating right now. I don't have information in front of me of what the results are. Perhaps I will be able to elaborate on that before the end of the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, member... I'm sorry. I'm learning my role, although I probably don't need to. Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect. I know that you just took on that role. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, this other matter is also identified within the application which reads... (interpretation ends) Inside the terms of reference for the municipal funding analysis and planning, it

mentions “CGS has identified a need to create a municipal funding advisory body to guide these analyses.”

My next question for the minister is: does the municipal funding advisory body currently exist and, if so, who sits on it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to create a body to help the Department of Community and Government Services. There are many municipalities in Nunavut and they are quite different. His concerns are Arviat and Whale Cove. Arviat is one of the most populated communities, and Whale Cove is one of the least populated. They have different needs and they operate differently.

With that being the case, we created a committee with government representatives, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and SAOs from larger communities and some from smaller communities. The community committee is operating now and those other people who sit... . We try to put in there so that they can understand each other and their goal is to provide adequate funding to the municipalities and divide it up equally whether it be big or small communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your final supplementary, (interpretation) Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my next question is regarding next steps from here. This \$1.7 million increase is encouraging, but municipalities, I believe, don't have any indication or assurance that this trend will continue. I look to our sister territory in *Nunatsiaq*, NWT; Mr. Speaker, they have reduced the municipal funding gap as one of their priorities under their newly established mandate and they state right in their mandate they will reduce the funding gap by \$5 million.

My final question for the minister is: has the department established any similar targets in terms of dollars and cents to increase funding for Nunavut's municipalities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look over there and we see the old speaker on the other side.

>>*Laughter*

It's something of importance and I'm very pleased that you brought up that question. With the committee that I mentioned, they are reviewing how they can increase the funding provided to the hamlet councils so they can better operate. I can't say that we have a target to close the gap, but we would like to see the hamlet councils or the municipalities operating with proper funds. We will have to reprofile some funds if we're going to increase the amount that is given to the municipalities. We would



have to take some money from a certain pot and put it over here. That's why we're looking at increasing the amount so that the municipalities operate with better funding. This committee is putting out some great ideas and once I have that information I'll make sure to provide it to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions . Member for Tununiq. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Question 814 – 5(2): Airport Infrastructure**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be asking my questions in English starting now. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to revisit a number of issues concerning airport infrastructure. As the minister will recall, his department's 20-year infrastructure needs assessment for Nunavut airports was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2016. This report recommended that "A feasibility study be undertaken to determine the costs and benefits of constructing a new High Arctic hub airport at Pond Inlet."

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised the issue with the minister during our fall sitting, he was unclear if this recommendation has been acted upon. Will the minister commit today to acting on the recommendation and undertaking this important study, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it would be premature to do this while we're still working on a 20-year infrastructure needs assessment update. We do have a draft document at this point, but we're hoping to complete it by this calendar year. It would be premature to see if we can do the other assessments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary, MLA Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, the department's 20-year infrastructure needs assessment for Nunavut Airports was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2016. The report identified a number of improvements that needed to be made at Pond Inlet's current airport. Will the minister commit to providing the Municipality of Pond Inlet and my office with a detailed update on what actions have been taken over the past four years to address the recommendations in the report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'll commit to do is go and look at the document and see what responses our department or myself have done to date and, if there is any update, I'll definitely update my fellow MLA and the municipality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Your second and final supplementary, Member Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for committing to look into this.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, the spring 2017 report of the Auditor General of Canada to Parliament included a chapter titled Civil Aviation Infrastructure in the North. One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the federal Department of Transport should "...lead the development of a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure." The federal government's response to the Auditor General's report indicated that it would work with the three territories on this issue. Can the minister update the House today on what progress has been made in implementing this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud my fellow MLA for stating this and over the last two years since I've had this portfolio I raised it at every meeting I had with Minister Garneau in terms of having a northern airports capital assistance program. It is needed and it's recognized by the Auditor General and they have their own audit that states that the north is a special place that needs certain investments. I will continue to raise this with my federal colleague and I thank the member for raising this and I encourage everybody to raise this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

### **Question 815 – 5(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I will be asking my questions in Inuktitut so that I may be properly understood.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in my member's statement, we were told that there was an available quota of 250 for caribou. Just recently we were told that the quota of 250 has been filled; 250 caribou have been harvested. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the communities in the Baffin region are allotted a quota through the Baffin wildlife organization, and this is then communicated to the communities.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River were informed in July about the quota allotted to those particular communities. Mr. Speaker, these established quotas are simply not going to work out in our communities. Hunters today are facing many different problems; the routes are eroding, especially in my community of Qikiqtarjuaq. We can only start going caribou hunting in the spring. If a community does not fulfill their quota, the remaining number is given to another community that has depleted theirs.

Since the ice has been forming later and later during the year, this year we were only able to start caribou hunting last month and now the quota has been depleted. Can the minister indicate who

set up this system and who made the decision to provide additional quota to a particular community that has used all of theirs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will respond in Inuktitut so I will be properly understood.

There are 250 caribou tags that are set aside for the entire Baffin region. That number was determined by the NWMB and the government. They are the ones who make the decision. This quota of 250 was set up by the QWB, and once that number is identified then it is distributed to the communities. It is then the responsibility of the local HTOs to decide how that quota is going to be used. Some pull lottery numbers; some are given a number of days to harvest their caribou, and so on. There are different systems that are used. Once that quota of 250 caribou is reached, then we stop the hunt. Some do not reach their quota. This is the first time we're using the system. It's the communities that decide how they're going to distribute their tags. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Uqqummiut, your first supplementary. Member Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. If the system is going to remain setup in this manner, it will be very problematic for our hunters.

Can the minister work with the QWB along with the local HTO on this issue? Our community of Qikiqtarjuaq is on an island. With delays in the freezing cycles, our travel routes to our caribou hunting grounds are still unusable beginning in the winter. During the summer, we don't have that challenge.

The tags are allocated for winter and summer harvests by the local HTO board. The tags allotted for the winter season, if they will still be setup this way means our community will never fill their tags as other communities will harvest the remaining tags before we even get the travel route frozen.

The other factor is that we live in a mountainous region and we are really dependent on marine mammals and when the travel route finally became useable, the tags will be used up with the 250 tags and our community won't be able to harvest any caribou. Can the minister work to increase the number of tags made available in the region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board made the decision to divide the tags amongst the communities. During this past winter, the one we are in currently, that was the first time some communities over-harvested their tags.

I know for a fact that for the allocation provided on July 1, with the tags set at 250, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board will be having a meeting to improve the hunt

and the tag allocation for the Baffin communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Member Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that system remains, I can only reiterate that problems will crop up.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister work more closely with the local HTOs or when the community tags are allocated, will that not be problematic to have some communities overharvest their allocations?

This should not impact other communities' allocations if other communities are overharvesting caribou so is the minister saying that it is okay to surpass your tags? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be reinforced to the communities. And, I am not insinuating that a community can overharvest with impunity. However, the caribou management system was setup by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board as that was their decision, and every community has a representative on the wildlife boards so the community representative can convey their concerns.

The tag system currently applies to the entire island. If separate tags were segregated into the two regions, north

and south Baffin perhaps maybe it would have been a better system. However, the decision was made to have the tags apply to the entire island without regard for the sub-regions.

However, yes, we will work with our wildlife management partners to improve the system and the setup. Nonetheless, the final statement I will make is this. When the tags are allocated to each HTO, they each make their decision on how to allocate the tags over the year. Perhaps they can hold draws but they should also setup their policies and a unified policy may be that might help too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Member Qirngnuq.

#### **Question 816 – 5(2): Safe Infrastructure**

**Mr. Qirngnuq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. As the minister will recall, I have asked a number of questions about the situation that recently occurred in Taloyoak involving lead content in water tank floats.

(interpretation) In our communities lead is called "*aqiliruq*." (interpretation ends) This incident highlights the importance of ensuring the safety and good condition of our public infrastructure in Nunavut.

Can the minister describe how his department is currently working with municipalities and the Department of Health to ensure that such public infrastructure as water pipes and water

trucks are free from dangerous substances? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The water pipes need to be in good condition and also, if there are concerns at the community level, we work closely with the Department of Health as well as the hamlets, and we work closely with each department to ensure that they are safe. So I could say that to you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicates that one of its priorities for the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year is to “Collaborate with Statistics Canada and the Department of Community and Government Services to undertake the Canada Core Public Infrastructure Survey to identify available assets and infrastructural facilities, their existing worth, and state of use for disrepair in the territory.”

Can the minister describe how this work will address the issue of ensuring that public infrastructure is not contaminated with dangerous substances?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be conscientious of the infrastructure to ensure that there is no contamination or dangerous substance is something that is ongoing. Every year, as a government, we commit to work with the hamlets and to review the infrastructure, their condition, and whether there are assets that need to be replaced. We inspect them to ensure that they are safe and good condition. The work is ongoing. There are regular safety checks to ensure that there are no problems caused by dangerous substances. Our staff ensure that that work is being done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. My apologies, members. Your final supplementary, Member for Netsilik.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to working with the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to ensure that the findings of the upcoming infrastructure survey are tabled in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak with the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 817 – 5(2): Airline Merger**

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Amittuq. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

On November 1, 2019 there was a merger between the First Air and Canadian North. Not one of my constituents is happy or satisfied with this, particularly those who go south for medical or to the regional hubs. When they Hall Beach for Iqaluit, they have to go through Igloolik and then Arctic Bay, and then from Arctic Bay they go to Resolute Bay, and then Resolute Bay to Iqaluit.

I think I asked this to the Department of Transportation. I understand it has to do with economics. However, are you able to have meetings with the airline to get an update since the merger? Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could talk about this in two ways. We have been a part of a committee that was federally put together and we are working closely with them, and it allows us to report to them. The president is Johnny Atami, and when he also goes to these meetings, we talk to him face to face as well as whenever I have a chance to see him.

I have spoken to him personally, and I believe that what you are bringing up has been something that has been difficult for many travellers. The airline is the one that runs their business. We are not able to do anything about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that clarification to the flying public.

My other question is if they can provide a directive for cases where the flight cannot land in the destination, and can you request changes to the current policies as the transportation department, where flights cannot land due to inclement weather, to allow passengers rooms upon their return? Has this issue also been reviewed with the airline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For weather-related cancellations for all airlines, they let the people know right away that they have to find their own accommodations, wherever they can find it, and they tell you right off the bat before they leave if the weather gets bad. If it's the airline's fault, then they provide the accommodations, but if it's weather-related, they don't think it's their fault and they can't control the weather either. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Your final supplementary, Member Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know nobody can run the weather. As my final question, the Minister of Health stated once that missed flights are the most expensive part of health expenditures. Our elders would take that long route way up to the High Arctic and then finally to Iqaluit. Are you able to work closely with the Department of Health on behalf of the medical patients for the Saturday portion of the scheduled flights? There are a lot of complaints about that from Hall Beach and Igloolik. Can you work with the Department of Health on the matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker-elect.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're always in talks with the Department of Health and the Department of Community and Government Services. The three departments are always looking and monitoring the situation. We were looking for a PY and we hired someone that will do nothing but keep an eye on that for the government.

For the medical travel patients from Hall Beach or Igloolik, the nurses know if they have the patients fly on a Saturday, they're going to take that long route, but they have to consider the wishes of the doctor as well. I don't think we can just stop that. When someone needs to go to the hospital, they will have to use that plane to get to the hospital. We're trying to look at it from different perspectives, especially for our elders who have to fly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 818 – 5(2): Departmental Grants and Contributions**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you. Let me celebrate with you now that you're in the Speaker's chair.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

It seems that a lot of my questions this week focus on issues that I have previously raised which remain unresolved.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation hands out millions of dollars every year in grants and contributions.

As the minister will recall, I asked him questions in May of last year about the \$550,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association that the department included in its 2019-2020 main estimates. At that time the minister indicated that the organization was actually in a deficit position. Can the minister update the House today on the status of his department's work to assist the association in recovering from its deficit, and can he confirm whether or not the association is in good standing with the Registrar of Societies, and in full compliance with the terms and conditions of its contribution agreement with the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that particular organization, the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, our department is working very closely with them and working trying to get them out of deficit. I don't know the exact details in terms of whether or not they're in compliance with the registrar, but our department is working very closely, and the members are reaching out to our department too. Both of them are working to try and get them back into good standing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact that the association has been in financial difficulty was not made very clear to the Members of the Legislative Assembly at the time that the department was requesting approval to provide it with over half a million dollars in public money.

We will be considering the department's proposed 2020-21 main estimates in detail very shortly. Will the minister commit to proactively informing the members of the Legislative Assembly about the financial status of entities that receive core funding from the department before we decide whether or not to approve the department's budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this and I look forward to sitting in front of the Committee of the Whole to review the department's budget.

As you may recall, and I don't want to get my speaking points for the Committee of the Whole ahead, but we are changing our way on how we deal with our grants and contributions. A lot of it is going to towards communities. The other part is where we have partners such as Nunavut Arts and Crafts. Where we partner and fund a lot of these organizations, we are focused on it, and it is something that we will definitely work very closely with our partner organizations because each of those partners, I think, are quite critical for this territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I questioned the minister about this issue last year, he was unable to provide detailed information about kind of board governance training was being provided to assist the association's board members in fulfilling their oversight responsibility. Can the minister update us today on this issue and can he confirm who are the current board members and executive director for the association? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I hope our members can have a



longer preamble so I can find the briefing note where it lists this.

>> *Laughter*

What I'm going to do is commit to providing those names, and I also look forward to sitting in the Committee of the Whole as, if allowed by the House, my staff will be there who are intricately involved in this part of assisting the organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 819 – 5(2): Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan**

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

As the minister is aware, the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act* was passed by the previous Legislative Assembly in 2015. A parallel statute was passed by the Northwest Territories legislature at around the same time. This important legislation governs the operation of the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, an annual report on the operation of the pension plan has not been tabled in our legislative Assembly since September 2017, nearly two years ago. This report was for the 2015-16 fiscal year, which ended nearly four years ago. Can the minister indicate when the more recent annual reports will be ready for tabling?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's understandable in your position and your seat looks easy, but once you get on that seat, it's not so easy. You will get the hang of it real soon.

Mr. Speaker, as to the request by my colleague, I will table it here as soon as it is translated into Inuktitut. It is in the hands of the translators right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information published by Northern Employee Benefits Services indicates that one of its current priorities is to expand into Yukon, which would require that territory to also introduce and consider legislation to govern the operation of the pension plan. Can the minister confirm what discussions he has had with his Northwest Territories and Yukon counterparts on the possibility of this expansion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I personally have not had discussions with my counterparts on this, but I could assure my colleague that the staff that are working within the NEBS have reached out to Yukon to see if they would like to participate in our pension plan. It is currently going through

approvals through their jurisdiction at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 22.1 of the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act* requires that all hamlets, housing authorities, and housing associations apply for membership in the pension plan, which provides an important measure of income security for their employees. Can the minister confirm if there are any municipalities or local housing organizations in Nunavut that have not yet applied for membership to the pension plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. Mr. Speaker, to my understanding, all municipalities and housing associations are members of the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I would again like to remind members that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed to Item 7. (interpretation ends) Written Questions. (interpretation) There are none. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation) There are none. Item 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) There are none. Item 10. (interpretation ends) Replies to Budget Address. (interpretation) There are none. Item 11. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation) Continuing on.

(interpretation ends) No. 12. Responses to Petitions. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Item 14. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister Sheutiapik.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 257 – 5(2): FPT Ministers Responsible for Social Services Meeting, April 23 to 24, 2019**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik:** I am pleased today to table the Forum of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Social Services Meeting, April 23 to 24, 2019. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Item 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. No. 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. No. 17. Motions. No. 18. First Reading of Bills. 19. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) There are none. 20. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 39 and 40 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take 20 minutes.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:33 and Committee resumed at 15:59*

**Item 20: Consideration in Committee  
of the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues, members. Welcome. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Yesterday we were finishing J-4. Sorry. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 39 and 40. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 39 and the 2020-21 Main Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 39?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister and

his officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Kusugak please introduce your officials. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is my Deputy Minister, Constance Hourie, and on my left is Assistant Deputy Minister Mr. Kyle Seeley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Yesterday we were just finishing off a page, page J-4. Community and Government Services. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$12,427,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Go to page J-5. Local Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, good evening, minister and your officials. Welcome to day 2.

I would like to first start off by returning to a topic of discussion last year. It was the technical professional studies scholarship. Last year the minister indicated that a number of student applicants had been denied due to a lack of funding available. At that time I recommended that the minister consider increasing the budget in the 2020-21

fiscal year. Looking at the budget, I do notice that the scholarship remains stagnant at \$80,000. I would like to ask why the minister did not see prudent enough to increase that scholarship amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did not increase that scholarship. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am really glad that the Department of CGS has created this scholarship. I think it is definitely essential in ensuring the future generations will be prepared for reaching the targets set under Article 23, but last year the minister had indicated that students had been turned away, denied scholarship funding due to lack of funding. My first question is: has that continued? Has the minister, the Department of CGS had to deny applicants in the current fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Before I go to the minister, if you have questions on this page, let me know and I will write your name down. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We put two calls out. After the first call, we had expended all of the funds and then we put out a second call. Mr. Chairman, you know, it would be nice to be able to increase budgets and funding for things such as this project, but if it comes down to a matter of where do we get the extra funding

allocation for this from, our department is very large and we don't have a lot of funding to use as much as we would like to. In the ideal world that we would like to live in, yes, it would be good to increase these funds, but it comes down to where we get it from. We need to cut somewhere in order to increase this. I think at this time this is not adequate. Until we could find extra funding for it, this is the way we're going. I hope someday to be able to report that we are making it larger, but this is where we are, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year as well as the year before I had indicated that the branch of local government services had seen a surplus and had lapsed a substantial amount of money in the budget. I'm sure that there are funds available within the current budget to reallocate funds to ensure that no student will ever be denied this scholarship funding. I would like to ask the minister to commit to the Assembly that going forward, no student will ever be denied this scholarship funding due to lack of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, Thank you. I can't make that commitment, Mr. Chairman. I think that would be irresponsible to say nobody will ever be declined funding. I think that wouldn't be a responsible use of funds. Again, we will take a look at the final funding we have for this and see if and where it could be increased, but as of right now I can't make that commitment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The last name on this page: Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, the department's proposed 2020-21 main estimates indicate that the budget for its Municipal Funding Program is increasing by 3.8 percent, from \$45.45 million to \$47.18 million, I'm curious: how was the amount of this increase determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, Thank you. We determined it by increasing the budget by 6.6 percent in accordance with the utility rate increases over the last two years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan, page 2-2, grants in lieu of taxes, I'm assuming that we have only one tax-based community and that's Iqaluit, if I'm correct. This program ensures fair compensation for tax-based municipal governments for municipal services provided to the Government of Nunavut. The department's 2019-2020, which is this year, estimates indicate that the proposed budget for the program remains unchanged at \$5.56 million, and I'm curious as to how this came about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The grand thing with taxes is it's equivalent to the GN paying property taxes to the City of Iqaluit. The increases

will happen when the GN buildings in Iqaluit are developed and those numbers change, Mr. Chairman. It rides on that fact, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response because I don't think that we have a lot of tax-based paying municipalities, but the department's Grants in Lieu of Property Taxes Program expired on March 31, 2018. What is the status of amending or renewing this policy? Where is it staying? That is my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of policies that do expire. When they expire, until we get an order to make new changes, they continue on. Just because it expired on that day it does not mean that there is no more policy. That policy continues until a new one is put in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on my list: Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I want to start with this. It will probably be easier if I say it in English. Please stop me if it was asked already. (interpretation ends) CGS NAMIX Grants and Contribution Funding Policy expired on October 30, 2017. What is the status of amending or renewing this policy?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NAMIX Grants and Contribution Funding Policy, as I stated earlier, the old policy would continue until a new one has gone up and that is a sign that if there was an amendment that's needed, the... . We're currently reviewing the policy. In the coming days we will be introducing a new policy as the policies are developed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you indicate which month or how many years it will take to amend or renew this policy? It has been approximately three years now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, there are quite a lot of policies that we have to deal with, and some of them can be combined and made into one policy so that there would be a decrease in numbers.

We are looking at 2021 to renew or amend this policy. We are currently working on a renewal and we are looking at April 2021. This means that they will be completed this spring or summer. This means that it is going to be activated at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. To date and in renewing or amending policies, do they make a request like for water and sewage, for example? There is also a policy in there. Can you give us an update on what is happening with the Municipal Funding Program Policy and Water and Sewage Services Contribution Policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, as I stated earlier, we are looking at combining some of the policies so that we can have fewer of them. To date we are looking at all of the policies and have had dialogue with the mayors of the municipalities, with the SAOs, and so on. We would like to redesign the policies, combine some of them, and I know when the mayors are having their meetings, we will be bringing this forward so that they will be included in reviewing the policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that information. Going on to another subject with regard to emergency services and search and rescue, which is under your department, again, in your opening comments, I was very pleased that there was an increase of \$375, but in your plan for 2020-21, and looking at the 2018-19, it was at \$500, and then there is a decrease for this year. Emergency services and search and rescue operations are vital in community. What is the reasoning

behind the decrease in the amount? That will be my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that it is not going to affect the emergency and search and rescue operations. It is quite large and at times we have to reprofile some of the money in order to provide money, but we feel that it is not going to have an effect on the emergency and search and rescue operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** The next name on my list is Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials.

Your department's 2020-23 business plan indicates on page 211 that one of its priorities for the 2020-21 fiscal year is to work with the departments of Health and Environment in conjunction with the Government of Nunavut's (interpretation ends) sustainable development advisory group. (interpretation) I'm not sure what it's called in Inuktitut and I do apologize. You want to complete the water and sewage funds and also water and sewage. To date, what is the status of these? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think your question is for water and sewage. Mr. Chairman, I almost said Mr. Speaker.

We would like to provide safe water and

it's of great importance, and we're not the only department that deals with this subject, but we do work with the Department of Health and the Department of Environment to provide safe drinking water. I can say that, for example, the Department of Health is finalizing safe drinking water operations or policies and that's going to be the foundation for providing safe drinking water in the communities. That will be our foundation.

We are going to provide the same policies for water and sewage. The departments have different policies and I think that it would be better if we provide the same Nunavut water strategy and drinking water strategic framework and action plan, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you commit to tabling these items in the Legislative Assembly? I'm referring to the Government of Nunavut's water strategy and the drinking water strategic framework and action plan. You indicated that you will be working with the departments of Health and Environment. Would you commit to tabling these items in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we are working on it to make sure that we provide safe drinking water. Once they're finalized and approved, yes, I would commit to tabling those items in the Legislative Assembly, Mr.

Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister's department has proposed, the 2020-23 business plan indicates on the next page, on page 212, that one of its priorities for the 2020-21 fiscal year is to "Engage with relevant stakeholders, including the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Inuit organizations, and federal governments, the Government of Nunavut" on the development of this Nunavut Solid Waste Management Strategy. As of today, what is the status of this work and what is expected to be its main elements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Perhaps you can allow the official to my left, Mr. Seeley, to respond to the question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The solid waste strategy along with the drinking water regulations and drinking water strategy are two interdepartmental projects that CGS has engaged in, and if it's acceptable to members, I would be happy to provide a full summary of the status of each of those and timelines following session.

Each of the projects, including the solid waste, the departments are working on, looking at the different regulations as far as the parameters that solid waste sites need to maintain and will need to

maintain in the future to adequately manage solid waste or the strategy. We will also need to take a look at reduction in waste and practices to reduce the overall flow of solid waste into those sites as they're established and remediated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the department be committed to tabling Nunavut's Solid Waste Management Strategy in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. No, Mr. Chairman. I'm kidding. Yes, of course. I said in my earlier comment that these are documents that we would be able to share with our colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

Your department's 2019-2020 main estimates and 2019-2022 business plan indicate that the department has reorganized its grants and contributions funding programs for sports and recreation. Your department's new Sports and Recreations Grants and Contributions Policy expires on March 31, 2023. What feedback has your department received concerning the new policy? *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.



**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the first year of the new policy and we're just currently monitoring that. We haven't had any negative feedback yet, but on the other term we haven't had a lot of feedback to date and we're monitoring that progress at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister for your response. Your department's proposed 2020-21 main estimates indicate that its budget for team Nunavut athlete development is decreasing from \$550,000 in the 2019-2020 fiscal year to \$100,000 for 2020-21 fiscal year. Is this decrease entirely a result of the 2020-21 fiscal year being one in which the Arctic Winter Games will not be held?

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your departments' 2019-2020 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for 2019-2020 fiscal year was to "continue the development of a proposed territorial framework on sport recreation and physical activity and to renew it with relevant stakeholders. Your department's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates on page 211 that consultations were completed in 2019 of November. What groups were consulted and what is the timeline of the new framework? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there was a vast group of people that were consulted in building this framework, including but not limited to youth, elders, municipalities, non-government organizations including GN organizations, and different sporting and non-sporting groups that access funding throughout Nunavut. We are anticipating that the framework should be available for review this spring, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister for their response. Your department's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates on page 212 that one of its priorities for 2020-21 fiscal year is to develop resources to ensure sport and recreation stakeholders are prepared to address and eliminate abuse and harassment in sport. What specific resources are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm really glad that my colleague is asking about this. Mr. Chairman, today is Pink Shirt Day and it is appropriate that you have asked that question.

Mr. Chairman, our department is committed to working with sporting organizations across Nunavut to work with them to do workshops with athletes and also with coaches. Mr. Chairman, to talk about safe play areas, safe sport, we

had a conversation at the Canada Winter Games in our meetings in Red Deer where we had a safe sport discussion. I don't know if it's an MOU, but it was a commitment, a declaration, to have safe sport across this country. We're working that way. Our department is working with sporting agencies and coaching agencies to work and move forward and have only safe sports across Nunavut, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for your response. That's good news. Your department's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates, on page 212, that one of its priorities for the 2020-21 fiscal year is to "develop a strategy to support increased opportunity for Nunavummiut to participate in traditional sport and recreation activities." What specific barriers to participation have been identified by your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I respond to that, I forgot to mention the importance of something that we are working on; our department will be, in the future, near future introducing a hotline for the youth to report to if there is abuse or such to report on.

There will be a hotline that athletes and participants can report to. I will keep you abreast on that development, but we are working with the sporting groups and Inuit sport group associations and so on, towards standardizing some sporting activities in traditional and non-

traditional sports, amongst other things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his staff.

I want to ask about this matter similar to what Mr. Kaernek queried you about as it supplements that question specific to search and rescue operations. Which communities will have the aforementioned search pattern plans to deal with emergencies that will be used by the local SAR groups? Will they provide the templates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This applies to every community, as they have all received a template for an emergency management plan specifically for searches and rescues. Every community within Nunavut is included in that requisition of equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This especially applies more to smaller communities who need it, obviously. Now, the larger centres have SAR groups that are better equipped and, if smaller groups want to learn about these things, which community could they direct their questions to and how many can be provided to the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Practically every SAR group in all communities and their emergency management operational group pretty well all have this equipment in Nunavut. Our regional emergency operational employees work closely with communities in their regions on emergency preparedness and this occurs irrespective of whether the community is large or small. To use this example, in Rankin Inlet they have equipment that can be used for searches located in the emergency measures offices, and if the communities aren't aware of where the offices are located, they can enquire at their local hamlet offices or their local RCMP detachment as each community places them in different places.

I know it is true that resources are often scarcer in the smaller communities for searches. However, most hamlets have the emergency equipment while others are located with the RCMP detachments that can be used for conducting their searches. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Last name on my list, on this page, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to first say (interpretation ends) I just want to follow up on the question on the sports framework. Ms. Kamingoak was asking in the letter provided to the committee by the minister, there is no date on it actually. This is the first; I will just call it the first letter. It mentions the Arctic Winter Games participation and it lists how many staff will be attending. Thanks to the department for providing

that.

On the third page of the letter it mentions that the Arctic Winter Games have a policy on inclusion or an MOU on inclusion and it says, "adopted Canadian Olympic Committee's terminology to encourage all participants to feel welcome, accepted and respected regardless of factors such as race, family status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, family status, political or religious belief." Is this Canadian Olympic Committee terminology something that will be included as part of the framework on sport and recreation where we would see something like this rolled out to all the arenas, to all the gymnasiums or sport facilities across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe so. I think all our sporting facilities across Nunavut should be inclusive of everybody and I think it's something that we're definitely looking at through the framework that we're working on, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I want to ask a question specifically about your department's funding programs for sports and female hockey. I hate to generalize for the whole territory, but the vast majority of hockey players in Nunavut are male, and female hockey is a big thing in some parts of Canada. Has the department received any feedback or

enquiries from community groups regarding why there are not more girls or women playing hockey in the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a growing amount of female hockey players. In fact I stand to be corrected, but from Rankin Inlet I went to see the atoms or peewees or that age group, ten-year-old age group, for the first time fielded a team when they went to Winnipeg earlier this year and competed very well, an all-girls team.

The number is growing in terms of women or girls, females participating in hockey. We haven't had any enquiries into that I think, first of all, because there is not a lot out there, but secondly currently they're included in the minor hockey programs. I know my grandson plays here in Iqaluit and there are quite a few females involved in his age group. The number is growing. I look forward to having more dialogue in terms of female hockey and bringing that forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I think it is important to make sure that girls are included and that when we're talking about hockey, we're not just talking about men and boys; we're talking about girls. I'll just leave that as a comment, girls and women as well.

Moving on, in the same letter, there are no page numbers, so I apologize; I can't

refer to a page number, but when it comes to the grants and contributions policy, it says on this page here, I'll refer to table 3. It gives a number of different policies and it mentions that a revised grants and contributions policy has been drafted. I just want to clarify: these policies which are listed on this table 3, are you proposing that they would all be rolled into one grants and contributions policy or are there some of them that will continue to be on their own? I was reading through it and I found it confusing and I'm just trying to clarify this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, leading back to females participating in hockey, I would like to see more females participating in all sports across Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, in terms of the grants and contributions policy the goal is to have an all-encompassing policy, Mr. Chairman, it includes that whole list. That's what we are trying to do in a nutshell. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It mentions in the letter that CGS plans to pursue approval of this policy in the winter of 2020, with the implementation in the next fiscal year. It says this will provide municipalities and non-government organizations time to align program and budget plans with the funding parameters identified in the policy. I wonder if the minister could provide an example of what types of changes will be required. What will

municipalities have to do to align their program and budget plans differently once this new policy is in place? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you would allow Mr. Seeley to give some details on those parameters, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The notion of incorporating or consolidating a variety of existing policies into one larger comprehensive policy is not new. A similar exercise was undertaken just last year with the Sport and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy wherein one set of principles is captured in the introductory portion of the document, where the distinct funding schedules remain clearly articulated throughout the document. The strength of this format, we believe, is that it gives the recipient, the partner in the policy one comprehensive document to see the full scope of funding that is available through the department. It provides one document rather than the existing dozen or so that we've got them looking at.

To the member's specific question on what potential implications that could have on budget alignment with our municipal partners, the core businesses of the municipalities, we don't see any significant changes coming there. However, the financial accountability requirements identified within for the audit requirements for the municipalities are quite specific. Some of the names

that are identified within some of the policies, our existing expired policies, are quite dated. The alignment of those funds and the language that's used specifically within the municipal budgets would be best served to be updated accordingly.

Additionally, if we are looking at breaking out some services, subject to approval by Executive Council it would mean setting up separate reserve funds for municipalities for distinct programs identified within the consolidated policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Sorry I got distracted; I have a cute baby beside me.

>>Laughter

That will show up in the *Hansard*, and she is very cute.

Mr. Seeley just mentioned "breaking out services." I wonder if he could elaborate, I don't know what that means exactly "breaking out services?" (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for using our in-office language on describing the work that will happen. To give an example, within the draft policy one of the options that we're considering for approval is dividing how the water sewer subsidy program is currently positioned. In that it is currently positioned as a subsidy to the end user. However, with the

increased advancements in the water treatment plants, and the complexity of the treatment protocols, there are expenses that are higher in some communities, depending on the complexity of their operation.

By taking a look at dividing out, or separating I should say, water treatment operations, to use that as an example, from the subsidy that would be provided to end-users, that would provide significant clarity, we believe.

It would provide significant clarity on how the GN's financial contributions are being best allocated to communities for the operational costs versus the subsidisation for the services being provided to the various classes of end users. I hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. It sort of clarifies it.

My next question is on revising this policy and how you deliver the funding for water sewage services. Will this in any way address the longstanding situation where the Nunavut Housing Corporation is in affect funding operations and municipalities through invoices for water sewage services or is that still a situation that is not been figured out yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the end of the day they are still a user and they are right there, so it

will not change that part of it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am going to keep on this topic of water sewage service subsidy program. Again, I am referring to the letter without any page numbers, and it gives detailed information on one particular community with a mechanical wastewater treatment plant. I guess I am just curious as to how many communities have these mechanical wastewater treatment plants. I am trying not to go into capital, but it directly affects this subsidy program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we only have a couple mechanical wastewater sewage plants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. A couple; which communities are those located in? It appears from the operations funding that a lagoon system is much cheaper to operate than a mechanical system. I would just like that whether the department has a position on lagoon versus mechanical system for across Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By a couple I meant just one community, Pangnirtung. We believe that the lagoons are the viable way to go and that is the goal we are on at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Lagoons are the way to go, and then... . Okay, I will leave that alone.

I want to talk about the other end of the formula where the water provision, it mentions that there's a base amount, a subsidized volume. It says the subsidized volume, if the community is on a trucked service, the community is subsidized for 90 litres a day, but if you're on an utilidor service, you get 225 litres a day. I wonder if the minister or the department could explain why you're subsidizing different volumes of water for different communities based on their infrastructure. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is based on more historical data that people on utilidor tend to use more water than those on trucked water, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It begs a question where if a community is able to get their trucked water system working well enough, they can deliver, they can provide the water to a resident,

I just can't understand. Why wouldn't a community on trucked service be given the same volume per person of subsidized water? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this was a standard set years ago before our time. In terms of some formula that decided that communities needed this much in order to be healthy, it's something I definitely can get my department to look into to see where and when it's possible to change those numbers, Mr. Chairman. We can look into that. It's a good question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. It mentions here again, and this is the page with table No. 5 on it, and it mentions a water/sewer subsidy program. CGS has identified the opportunity to improve the clarity of the policy and ensure the following items are articulated, and the second point here says, "Clarify how the terms through which the subsidy may be administered by municipalities." What is this point trying to get at or is this getting at allowing municipalities to set different rate classes so, for example, they might be able to give a cheaper water and sewage rate to homeowners specifically? I'm just trying to understand what this one means. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to confuse the situation any more, but this talks about the subsidies versus the cost of operations, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the department could just clarify that a bit more, the subsidies versus the cost of the operations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I mean by that is to ensure that the cost of the subsidy that we are providing is meeting the operational costs, but maybe Mr. Seeley can give a bit more detail on that, Mr. Chairman, through you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I do think that the minister has captured the clarity on how the subsidy may be administered. The meaning behind that is that the contribution that is currently administered to each municipality is currently positioned as a subsidy to the end user.

What members will see in table 5 on the unnumbered page is that there is a difference in the amount of funding administered to each community. The clarity that we are looking to achieve is by breaking out... . Pardon me, I'll try not to use that term. ...is by separating the operational costs of providing the

water and treating wastewater versus the delivery costs and sewage removal, and then the hamlets, the municipalities are ultimately responsible for making the decision on how the subsidy amount will be allocated. It will continue to remain responsible for deciding on how they will allocate the funding from CGS to their end users based on the various classes of ratepayers within their community, which are set by by-law.

I really hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It does. Thank you.

My final question on this water/sewer subsidy program is it mentions here on the same page that in 2018-19 all communities received a percentage-based increase. Is that what you're proposing for this upcoming fiscal year? Will all communities again receive a percentage-based increase and, if not, why not? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not for the water and sewage program but for the Municipal Funding Program, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The final name on this page, second line of questioning, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you for recognizing me again, Mr. Chairman. I want to speak English for



now so that if my question can't be answered, I won't have to repeat what I said.

(interpretation ends) Your department's Grant in Lieu of Property Taxes Program Policy expires on March 31, 2018. What is the status of amending or renewing this policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, when the policy expires, they're still in use until they're replaced. We're still following the same path. As I stated earlier, we're currently reviewing those policies and we will tabling them on April 1. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On December 14, 2018 your department issued a request for proposals, operational review of three non-government organizations which support Nunavut municipalities. The stated purpose of the request for proposals was to "review the organizational structure, mandate, operational plans, and human financial resources of three non-government agencies funded by the Department of Community and Government Services: the Nunavut Municipal Training Organization, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators." The request for proposals closed on January 16, 2019. Has the final report from this study been completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it has been and we have provided it to the members, as I understand, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut's *Emergency Measures Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2007. Sections 5 to 9 of the legislation provide for the preparation of "emergency management programs" on the part of government institutions and municipal councils. However, these sections of the legislation have not yet been brought into force. What is the government's current timeline for bringing these sections of the *Emergency Measures Act* into force? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, as it was introduced we sent the email. I will look into it again to see if they have it now by the clerk. If he still doesn't have it, I will try and send it again. On emergency measures, last spring, Community and Government Services had discussions with government organizations on what they have prepared and if they plans in place in the event of an emergency and whether the departments are prepared. The government departments will be useful as we prepare if there was an emergency in the community, what the plans are in place for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the last question I wanted to ask. (interpretation ends) As of today, which municipalities have not finalized and submitted their emergency management programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to say all of the communities have emergency plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your second line of questioning, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. (interpretation ends) I have a few more questions on this letter. We will call it the page numberless letter. It mentions the development of a water and wastewater master plan in the community of Rankin Inlet. I wonder how many communities have a waste and wastewater master plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of any, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That kind of jumped out at me. How did the department decide that they were going to develop a master plan, and is this the first community to have this type of

master plan and it will go across Nunavut eventually? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the thing with Rankin Inlet is that it has an utilidor system for water and wastewater. It is quite unlike any other community on that front. That is where that started from, Mr. Chairman. It is to review and identify critical components of the utilidor system in Rankin Inlet to see where upgrades and repairs are needed to be able to supply and remove water and wastewater. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We all know that we do not have enough capital funding across Nunavut. When it comes to O&M, utilidor versus trucked services are very different. Is the department aware of any work in the three communities that have utilidor systems, being Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and Resolute Bay, any work to evaluate the feasibility of above-ground utilidor, below-ground utilidor versus trucked services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could, through you, have Mr. Seeley respond to that that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I thank the member for the question. To confirm, the master plan is applicable to the utilidor system. Just because of the additional complexity beyond trucked services, as far as the infrastructure development in capital dollars piece goes, yes, utilidor is more expensive to install and design.

The requirement for communities to continue to operate on trucked systems; it is a far more complicated delivery system and vigorous on the part of the municipality operating it, but the department definitely considers not only the full capital investment and developing the utilidor system but also the ongoing costs of maintaining and accommodating growth when considering utilidor for additional expansion in communities.

I hope that answered the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That does answer the question and it leads to my next question which is: would the department be able to commit to looking at conducting a feasibility study on utilidor versus trucked services?

I am concerned when it comes to the operations and the maintenance, which is just mentioned, and climate change and the ground shifting. I am concerned that utilidor may just be too expensive for where we live, if we consider the limited capital dollars, limited O&M dollars.

Can the department look at the two different options and conduct an analysis of the numbers and come back to the

members with the analysis at a later date? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not see why we would not be able to do that. I think it would be interesting and good to know if it is in fact better to deliver with a truck or to deliver it through the utilidor system. I do not see why we would not be able to do that, to look into that. I will definitely get back to my colleague on that, but it is something we could look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Will you look at it? I am just trying to get a firm commitment here. I do not see why you could not look at it either, but will you commit to looking into it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to move now to asking questions about the municipal funding program, and this is referring to a letter there which has page numbers, dated January 27, 2020. First of all, thank you to the department for providing this

letter. It is very informative and I think heeds off a lot of the questions that you would have been facing if it was not provided.

It mentions here on page 16 that CGS is planning a review of actual staffing levels and expenses in municipalities. It says “The outcome of this exercise will inform future allocations towards compensation and benefits for core funded positions.” This review of staffing levels and expenses, will this look at all municipalities across Nunavut or will just take a sampling of them and will it be conducted internally or will it be contracted out? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is that we will take samples from large, medium and small municipalities to get a broad perspective on that and we will be looking for expertise in this field, so it will be contracted out, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It will be contracted out. What’s the timeline for this exercise? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to elaborate a bit on that, we will be contacting all the municipalities’ SAOs to see if their community would like to participate in

this exercise, to see if there’s interest there. We’re looking at the new fiscal year to proceed with this study, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the same page it mentions the \$1,729,000 increase to this program and the minister talked about that it has to do with utility costs. When I read that, it makes me think that “Okay, despite this additional money, the municipalities are still going to be where they were before the utility rates increased.” Just at this current point in time, how many hamlets across Nunavut are operating in deficit recovery mode? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you give us a moment, we will see if we have that number of recovery mode before us, Mr. Chairman. Just one moment, please.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the moment. Based on 2018-19 audited statements there are eight communities that remain in deficit mode, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister could provide that to the committee, that listing of communities in deficit recovery mode, I mean not right now but at a later date, and if possible, indicate how many years the municipalities each have been in

deficit recovery operations.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If we have one-third of Nunavut's 24 non-tax based municipalities in deficit recovery mode, it suggests that the underfunding of hamlets is a pretty serious problem. I'm just concerned about this that the situation is not getting any better. Is there any trend in the number of hamlets that are in this deficit recovery mode? Is the number increasing? Eight is the number right now as of this date. Is there an increasing number of these occurrences or is it declining? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The indications are that it's not increasing. That number, eight, is two less than the previous year. It is not necessarily because of underfunding. There could be imprudent financial decisions that were made. In some municipalities there are vacancies in senior management positions or poor financial controls, a lack of accurate monthly financial reporting and those things. It is not necessarily a lack funding. It just might be over expenditures in other areas. It is a combination of things, but the trend is

that it is not increasing in comparing these eight to the previous year where there were ten. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It is good to see that it is not increasing. I'm happy to hear the minister mention financial management because I wanted to ask a question or two about the Municipal Training Organization and the training that they offer specifically in that area of financial training.

I am looking at the letter provided on page 12 of 28, and I don't see anything specifically on financial operations. Is this a need that has been identified? I know that the Municipal Training Organization is independent somewhat, but does the department know if this is a need across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those courses that are put on by the Municipal Training Organization are courses that are identified by the municipalities. The Municipal Training Organization works off of those, Mr. Chairman. If there is a call for them by the municipalities and the number and interest are there, then the Municipal Training Organization would go from there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Also on page 12 of 28 I note that the

Municipal Training Organization delivered a number of class 3 air brakes courses, including one in Whale Cove. Has the department been made aware of any bottlenecks in the driver examination function specifically for the class 3 air brakes course that are negatively impacting the ability to train class 3 air brakes drivers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't been made aware of any issues surrounding that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Well, I can help you with that right now. In Arviat, for example, a class 3 air brakes course was held towards the end of 2019 and to my knowledge those students have still not been examined. They have still not had their examination completed, so I would like to request if the department can look into a bottleneck within the examination function. I know that it is not within CGS, but it does affect Municipal Training Organization type courses. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Am I muted?

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** How about now?

>> *Laughter*

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, this mute button obviously doesn't work.

Mr. Chairman, in light of that, let me say this: we will look into it with the Municipal Training Organization, but that is something that is done with another department in terms of transportation and vehicle licensing. We will see where they are in terms of that and see where we can help out, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister, for committing to look into it. Can the minister commit to coming back to the members with his findings once he has looked into this situation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, as my colleagues are figuring out or know, anytime I can provide my colleagues any information from our department we are more than happy to do that. In this case it's no different, Mr. Chairman. Give me a few days to look into this issue and then get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. My last line of questioning is regarding the integrated

community sustainability plans. The minister gave a statement on this recently. During this tour, which visited my communities of Arviat and Whale Cove, did any hamlets indicate an interest in terms of ICSP in terms of the operations of their municipality? Did any hamlets indicate an interest in developing and taking on their own capital projects? Is it in operations even though it is talking about capital? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad you asked that question. Yes, there is quite a few, but there are some communities that are interested in tackling their own capital projects and being block funded that way. It's something we hear.

Having been a councillor and a mayor in a community, I think that anytime a municipality wants to take control of their destiny and take charge of their own infrastructure, the government would be wise in listening to that call. It's exciting to hear that there is some interest out there in communities that can handle such projects and that have the staff and the drive to do that. There is that interest and it was encouraging to hear. That's something that we will continue to look into as we move forward, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess I'll suggest that the minister or the department continue the conversation, specifically with those hamlets that

indicated an interest. Hopefully we will get to the point where we would see a pilot project or we would see a call for applications or some sort of process where the municipalities could self-identify and move towards this.

It is pretty exciting to think of municipalities dealing with their own infrastructure needs in-house as much as possible and possibly even saving us all some money at the end of the day, if they can find a way to do it more efficiently. (interpretation) That was my final question for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is something, Mr. Main, I believe, when my deputy came on stream to join our department, one of the first directions I gave her was exactly that. We need to start empowering our communities to make their own decisions and drive their own communities.

Arviat was one of the communities. I believe Igloolik and Rankin Inlet were the communities that were interested in doing just that. I have given direction for my department to pursue that. There is money out there when you take a look at the Building Canada Fund or the Gas Tax Fund, Green Tax Fund, and stuff. There is money out there and we are anxious to do some pilot projects and bring it forward. It's something we are looking forward to tackling, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep my colleagues abreast of that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The last name on my list: Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question. Following our colleague David Qamaniq's question on emergency plans, the emergency plans were all completed for all municipalities, but on page 212 of the business plan one of the two priorities for this year, 2020-21, the department is to "Develop a Territorial Emergency Plan" and finalize the departmental emergency plans. I'm curious: as of today, it is 2020 February, what's the status of this work? Final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's going forward. Mr. Chairman, we're talking about two different plans. One is the community emergency preparedness plan that I was asked about and that's the plan where all the communities are there now.

In terms of the GN departmental emergency response plans, this spring CGS will be initiating contact with each different Government of Nunavut department and agency regarding their roles related to the development and implementation of departmental emergency plans. That's beginning this spring, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand the municipal plan, but the 2020 business plan says "Develop a Territorial Emergency Plan..." I would like to know: what's the status of the Territorial Emergency Plan?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan we will begin this spring to develop the Nunavut-wide GN Departmental Emergency Plan. That's what we plan to do this business plan. That's where we will begin it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me another opportunity. I just noted within the documentation that on January 27, 2020 at the very last paragraph it speaks about a safety training course that was offered. In my other constituency portion within the community of Igloolik, a piece of safety equipment specific to the health centre that will be used by the community and the local fire crew members received training for that vehicle. I wonder if all the communities that received these (interpretation ends) ambulances (interpretation) also have developed plans to provide training for the emergency workers similar to the firefighting crews. Does your department have concrete plans to provide this training? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These emergency courses, including any type of training provided to the hamlet employees and their emergency crews, tend to begin at the most basic level and work up to the required courses. This is



developed depending on the hamlet's priorities and action plans. If a hamlet wishes to receive training for their local emergency crews, such as ambulance training, they can submit a training proposal outlining their request to the Municipal Training Organization, as they are the ones who provide this training for hamlet employees. They would handle that training request if a hamlet submitted a plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you. I totally support the Igloolik hamlet, and I urge you to submit your application for training as an ambulance was sent up to assist with emergency issues.

Let me turn to another subject and this applies to potable water. I will try not to step on the boundaries of the capital estimates. Nonetheless, there is a caveat here as my constituency community of Igloolik is on an island and the water reservoir gets seepage of salt water in the fall season. What plans are in place for the hamlet in light of your earlier statement about communities needing potable drinking water?

Furthermore, I also noted that the lake where they pump water from has stickleback fish. I don't want to tread on the capital estimates, but there are better water sources on the mainland towards Hall Beach. To use this example, this lake called Naluqqajarvik has good water. Has your department conducted water studies on the mainland for Igloolik? They require potable water and I wonder if you can provide funding support to the hamlet to resolve their

water quality issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Hamlet of Igloolik, we have worked closely with them to resolve the challenges associated with their water reservoir. Throughout the winter months, we provided extra funding support to deal with the operations of the water reservoir desalination equipment. This will continue and we will continue monitoring the reservoir and keep a close eye on Igloolik's water issues.

I believe it was the previous year where we toured Igloolik or it may have been two years ago where the water was quite briny and we noted the salinity issue. We will continue to work with the hamlet to ensure that they have potable drinking water, Mr. Chairman.

Further, with respect to the matter of the member's suggestion about other water sources, if we are required to conduct further water sampling studies, it is obvious that we will commence discussions with the municipality on this issue, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to hear that as it portends that this will remain a priority to ensure potable drinking water is available. Now, I can't turn suddenly here, but within your plans or (interpretation ends) business plan (interpretation) on page 212, it states that the department will develop and work with Nunavut residents to have

traditional games and cultural practices integrated into (interpretation ends) sports and recreation (interpretation) for our youth.

Maybe it will be easier to understand if I say this in English. (interpretation ends) “Develop a strategy to support increased opportunities for Nunavummiut to participate in traditional sport and recreation activities.” (interpretation) That’s what it states on page 212 of the business plan. Earlier today you announced today is “Pink Shirt Day” for the reason of fighting against bullying. I wonder if your department has looked at Inuit dogsledding as the number of dog teams decreased in many communities.

Can you encourage youth to relearn the tradition of dog teams and perhaps as a winter games recruitment effort? Can you look into plans such as that to see if we can get more youth interested in dog teams and to promote dog teaming as a sport in Nunavut? That is my last question for now, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue our colleague spoke to on page 212 is specifically related to traditional Inuit games that were for exercise, games that don’t include dogs, but ones Inuit used to play. This is what we meant in that statement. We realize traditional Inuit games are not played in most communities, and this winter we encourage the revitalization of traditional Inuit games so that our youth learn what their parents played and get interested in Inuit games.

As for dog teams and operating dog

teams, it has to be part of a specific lifestyle, and I believe it would be under a different department, Mr. Chairman. Let’s say that a community or someone in a community is interested in resurrecting dog teaming as a sport, we could revisit the issue. However, we as a department won’t likely urge young Inuit to start resurrecting dog sledding as a form of exercise. I believe you understand where we are coming from, but if communities wish to pursue this and if there is interest, then obviously there are other departments dealing with cultural issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Local Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$87,786,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page J-5. J-6. Information Management and Information Technology. Mr. Rumbolt.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Report of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Akoak.

**Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 39 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akoak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Kamingoak.

>> *Applause*

>> *Laughter*

All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. We will proceed. Item 22. (interpretation ends) Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) There are none. Item 23. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for February 27:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 39
  - Bill 40
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we adjourn and this being the very first time I have sat in this seat, I very rarely break out in a sweat but I am awfully sweaty at this time.

>> *Laughter*

Perhaps tomorrow will bring about a normalization of sitting here.

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 26, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:46*

