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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment

Alex Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)
Minister of Community and Government Services

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Health

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

Samuel Nuqingaq
(Uqqummiut)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

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

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Justice; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

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

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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Tuesday, May 27, 2014****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak,
 Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr.
 George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase,
 Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve
 Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr.
 Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik,
 Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa,
 Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan
 Rumbolt, Mr. Alex Sammurtok, Hon.
 Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq,
 Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter
 Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon. Welcome to
 our table, Mary Sillett, Clerk of the
 Nunatsiavut Assembly, and Hilda
 Hunter, Assistant to the Clerk of the
 Nunatsiavut Assembly.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Item 2. Ministers'
 Statements. Minister of Education, Mr.
 Quassa.

(interpretation ends) A point of order.
 My apologies. Hon. Minister of Justice,
 Mr. Okalik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 011 – 4(2):
 Launch of Online Land
 Registration System**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation):
 Good day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
 would like to welcome our guests.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it
 gives me great pleasure to announce that
 on April 28, 2014, Nunavut's new
 Parcelized Online Land Registration
 System (POLAR) became available
 online to real estate practitioners.
 POLAR will result in speedier real estate
 transactions in Nunavut, which will be
 more convenient for Nunavummiut and
 will encourage economic development
 and homeownership.

For the last few years, Nunavut has been
 leading the territories in the development
 of an online land registration system. In
 the first phase, the Land Titles Office
 allowed submission of electronic
 documents. This drastically reduced
 registration times from several weeks to
 an average of two days.

>>*Applause*

On April 28, 2014, Nunavut again took a
 dramatic step forward. On that date, our
 new Parcelized Online Land Registration
 System (POLAR) was made available to
 our professional users. With the launch
 of POLAR, paper submissions to the
 Land Titles Office have become a thing
 of the past.

POLAR boasts a host of features long
 awaited by real estate practitioners, such
 as real-time searches, automatic

registration notification, and online billing. It is a system second to none and the first to be introduced in the north.

With this parcelized online land registration, Nunavut is leading Canada in simple and quick access to land registration. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Hon. Minister Quassa.

Minister's Statement 012 – 4(2): Cape Dorset Summer Literacy Camp

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut and Igloolik. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to announce an exciting project taking place in Cape Dorset this summer.

In collaboration with the Amaujaq National Centre for Inuit Education of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Cape Dorset District Education Authority, and the Government of Nunavut Department of Education, Frontier College will coordinate and deliver a summer literacy camp.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, research identifies underdeveloped literacy skills as the number one reason why our students fail to graduate from high school.

During this camp, Cape Dorset children aged 5 to 12 will take part in three weeks of fun, educational activities to develop

their literacy skills in English and Inuktitut.

>>Applause

The goal of the camp is to spread the love of reading, support and value cultural and traditional learning, and promote healthy, creative, social and physical activity during the summer months.

(interpretation) Summer literacy camps address "summer learning loss," the decline in student performance between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next.

Mr. Speaker, the Cape Dorset Summer Literacy Camp will provide an opportunity for children to maintain and develop their skills and confidence while local youth, adults, and elders participate as role models and educators.

Staff hired from Cape Dorset will attend a four-day intensive training and orientation that gives them the background, skills, and resources to plan and deliver the camp.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I know that by working together, we can give our children every opportunity to achieve academic success.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Minister's Statement 013 – 4(2): Skills
Canada Nunavut**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to congratulate Skills Canada Nunavut on the success of their Ninth Annual Territorial Skills Competition, which took place on Wednesday, April 29. The competition challenged youth in 13 various skills categories ranging from cooking to robotics. All of the participants displayed a tremendous level of effort, focus, and spirit and we are very proud of each and every one of them.

In particular, I would like to congratulate the 36 individuals awarded medals for their outstanding achievements and the 15 gold medallists who will be travelling to compete in the 20th Annual National Skills Competition being held in Toronto on June 4. I wish those youth the best of luck in representing Nunavut at the national level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 039 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's
Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduates**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this House today to acknowledge and congratulate two young adults from Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, Mick and Alanna Appaqaq have returned home after completing a successful year at the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program in Ottawa. These young people are not only excellent role models for the youth of the community of Sanikiluaq, but while they were in Ottawa, they acted as ambassadors for Nunavut as a whole.

I would also note that in recent years, both of these siblings have represented the constituency of Hudson Bay as youth parliamentarians in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut's Youth Parliaments.

I join the people of Sanikiluaq in being very proud of their achievement and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 040 – 4(2):
Tribute to Baker Lake Elders**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and congratulate our past leaders. As members know, in my community of Baker Lake, there are many elders, but we have lost a lot of them in the last year.

I want to recognize elders in all of Nunavut to say that we are very proud and have respect for them. They understand other people's feelings. They helped us with the creation of Nunavut.

We now have a legislature and we can have meetings for the public to hear us.

Although there are not very many elders left in Nunavut, I would like to say that we respect them. A lot of them used to teach the traditional values of the Inuit, but unfortunately, the people who were born in the 1920s have passed on. I would like to ask all members to welcome all the elders in Nunavut. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 041 – 4(2):
Kimmirut Airport Relocation**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "hello" to all the people of Nunavut and welcome the table officers from Nunatsiavut.

Mr. Speaker, for at least two decades, my predecessors and I, in both this Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, have raised concerns about the current location of Kimmirut's airport.

Mr. Speaker, it has long been recognized that the location of the Kimmirut Airport restricts the length of its airstrip. (interpretation ends) This, in turn, affects regular flight arrivals and prevents larger aircraft from serving the community.

Mr. Speaker, the government's report titled "Airports for Nunavummiut and

Their Economy – An Investment Strategy for Nunavut" was completed a decade ago. This report indicated that planning studies must be completed for airport relocation and runway lengthening in Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2014-15 capital estimates, I requested that funds be allocated for a new study to determine the feasibility of relocating the airport. (interpretation) In response, the minister confirmed that such a study could be possible.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased that the minister recognized the importance of this issue. If Kimmirut's airport can be relocated and its airstrip expanded to permit larger aircraft, the community will benefit significantly.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this subject for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 042 – 4(2):
Proposed Merger between
Canadian North and First Air**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding the proposed merger between Canadian North and First Air.

Mr. Speaker, as every Member of this House and all Nunavummiut are well aware, our territory's communities and residents depend on accessible and affordable air travel.

The possibility that the two largest airlines operating in Nunavut may merge into a single entity has caused numerous questions and concerns to be raised regarding such issues as airfares and service levels to remote communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, very few people will tell you that monopolies are good for consumers. When it comes to the provision of services in such areas as public utilities, monopolies are heavily regulated and prices are determined by the government.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that a merger between our two largest airlines will likely have a significant impact on the territorial government. Our government spends tens of millions of dollars per year on travel and transportation, including significant amounts for medical travel on scheduled flights that are currently being provided by both airlines.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the federal Competition Bureau, which has the mandate to review proposed mergers to, and I quote, "determine whether they will likely result in a substantial lessening or prevention of competition," has confirmed that it will review the proposed Canadian North-First Air merger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for consent to finish my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you, fellow members.

(interpretation ends) I would hope that the Competition Bureau will take into account the views of northerners during its review process.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut (interpretation) deserve to know where our own government stands on this issue, and I will have questions on this important subject at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 043 – 4(2):
Update on Polar Bear Attack
Victims**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in relation to when I first arrived, I went through an unfortunate situation and I was not able to make a statement since we were advised that a polar bear mauled my grandchild, thinking that perhaps he had died.

I am happy to report that my grandson survived. I really applaud him for making a quick recovery because that time, my daughter and I were waiting at the hotel to see the details up until the wee hours of the morning. It turned out that even though he was hurt, he wasn't badly hurt.

Originally, I was not happy since I have never seen him in that kind of condition. His back had great scratches and he had many bite marks on his head. It affected my life. It seemed that they were going to be spending a long time at the hospital, but it turns out that they will be going home soon already.

I thank my colleagues who made sympathetic remarks concerning this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 044 – 4(2):
Pangnirtung Turbot Fishery**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak in relation to the fisheries operations, which have been in operation for many years. Ever since the turbot fisheries have been going, this winter, the fishing was not as good due to poor ice conditions. They were only able to get over 700,000 lbs. The money that came into Pangnirtung and to the fishers was close to \$1,250,000.

This winter's turbot fisheries were also used to remember that person we just mentioned as a remembrance for his life. Lyvee Kullualik was really into fishing and hunting. It was his whole way of life. This fishery is now dedicated to the remembrance of Lyvee Kullualik. I wish Lyvee's wife and children all the best today, as well as to the fishers in Pangnirtung.

We were able to get assistance from Greenland in order to carry out our fisheries operations, to which I am making a statement now, especially more in relation to provision of employment for those who are not able to work in offices.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whew!

>> *Laughter*

I, too, am happy in serving Pangnirtung. They are able to have a quota of 40 narwhal. However, there was a decrease in that number recently. Congratulations to the HTO of Pangnirtung for defending the quota of 40. I, too, was not pleased because it seems that there was an arbitrary decrease in the quota without consultation whatsoever.

The people of Pangnirtung had to work together in order to have the quota reinstated, which will now be at 45. I am quite pleased because this was to have been the original request. I am very thankful to the people who pushed for the increase in the whale quotas, including the RWOs and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

I would like to recognize the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Government, Sean Lyall, who is here in the Gallery, and welcome.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 044 – 4(2): Program Review

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

In yesterday's Budget Address, the Minister announced that the government will, and I quote, "review all its programs to ensure they are being delivered in ways that are economical, efficient, and effective."

As the minister will recall, the previous government spent over \$836,000 for an external consulting company to undertake the GN's "report card" project. Can the Minister of Finance indicate how the new government's program review process will be different than the one we spent almost one million dollars on five years ago? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The difference is it would be anticipated that it would be less costly and we will have many of our own people working on the program review. We are hiring an independent, outside organization to provide us with some objectivity during the program review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer. The Minister's Budget Address indicated that the GN will "review all its programs."

Mr. Speaker, there are literally dozens of programs that are administered by our departments and Crown agencies, and I am not convinced that it's realistic to promise that each and every one of them will be reviewed in depth.

Can the minister indicate which specific programs will be reviewed as the government's first priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could provide a detailed answer to that question from Ms. Angnakak. At this time, I can't provide a list of the priority programs

and services that we are going to review.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): It's
already my last question. (interpretation
ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the
minister will recall, I have suggested that
we need to look at a new governance
model for the Qikiqtani General
Hospital, including an independent
management board. Will the minister
commit to ensuring that this issue is
considered as part of the government's
program review exercise? Thank you,
Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I
can't commit to that. Mr. Speaker, I was
the former Minister of Health, so I'm
very aware of where Ms. Angnakak is
coming from. I would have to talk to my
colleague, the Minister of Health, to see
if she's willing to consider something
that you're talking about. Thank you,
Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Oral Questions. Member for
(interpretation ends) Arviat South, Mr.
Savikataaq.

Question 045 – 4(2): Management of the Public Service

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. My questions are for the
Minister of Finance too.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's new *Public
Service Act* was passed last year by the
previous Legislative Assembly. As the
minister is very much aware, a
longstanding concern that has been
raised on many occasions is the
government's over-reliance on the use of
casual employees.

According to the government's most
recently tabled quarterly employment
report, there were approximately 2,300
casual and relief workers employed by
the government as of December 31,
2013. Can the minister indicate what
actions are being taken by the
government to reduce the use of casual
employment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the
question. Mr. Speaker, I am very aware
of the issues with the casuals across
Nunavut in all departments. I have asked
for a full report on all the casuals in all
departments across Nunavut just to get
an idea of how long they have been in
the casual positions, in some cases,
years.

I have asked for my department to pull
some files to look at their employment
work history and terms of the
competition. I have asked my officials to
stress to the departments that over-
reliance on casuals is something that we
don't want to continue and, where
possible, to convert some of those
positions to term positions or go out to
competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another longstanding concern that we frequently hear from constituents is that the use of casual staffing can be abused in a way that allows for favouritism and nepotism in the hiring process. Can the minister indicate what actions his department is taking under the new *Public Service Act* to address the issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working very diligently in my Department of Finance on the human resource side. There's only so much we can do. We're very pressed with time-consuming issues on the HR side, but I have asked, again as I indicated in my earlier answer, the department to remind all departments about the *Public Service Act*.

We do promote people and hire people based on merit, and we will promote people based on merit. Again, we have to ensure that departments don't rely on casuals, but they should either be identified as term positions or go out to competition on an indeterminate basis.

There are mitigating factors. If there's a housing issue in a community, it could complicate the hiring of indeterminate employees. There are other factors, but we're well aware of the issue and we're working hard on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2011-12 Public Service Annual Report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March 13, 2013. Can the minister explain why the 2012-13 Public Service Annual Report is not yet ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for reminding me of that. Mr. Speaker, I'll check with my staff and ensure that we table the report at the earliest possible opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 046 – 4(2): Activities of the Nunavut Liquor Commission

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Peterson is going to feel like he's in the hot seat.

>> *Laughter*

My questions are also for the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the Nunavut Liquor Commission.

In yesterday's Budget Address, the minister indicated that, and I quote, "there is a role for the government to play in helping Nunavummiut to make

healthy and informed decisions about alcohol. These decisions would become increasingly important in the context of beer and wine stores.”

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked him questions in the House earlier this year concerning the process that his department will undertake to consult communities and Nunavummiut about whether or not to open a retail beer and wine store.

Can the minister clarify how his department will determine whether or not there is sufficient community support to warrant the opening of a beer and wine store? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is getting awfully hot in this corner over here on May 27.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have been clear in the past that if a community approaches the Department of Finance and indicates that there is an interest in a beer and wine store, then we would consider it, but at the same time, as I have also stated, it would be on a pilot project basis. It's not to say that a beer and wine store would necessarily open in any community and, if so, we would still monitor the results and progress of a beer and wine store on a pilot project basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may have to speak to the minister to get a little bit more clarification on that later.

Also in yesterday's Budget Address, the minister indicated that his department will take steps to “strengthen the government's social and corporate responsibility with respect to liquor.”

Earlier this year, amendments to the territorial Liquor Regulations were approved. Mr. Speaker, these amendments provide that a “maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year... may be paid out of the Liquor Revolving Fund for expenses related to education campaigns promoting the socially responsible use of liquor.”

Can the minister outline some of the specific initiatives that the government will be undertaking during the coming year in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's enthusiasm for the government in terms of our expediency on implementing some of the programs. We just recently received approval from my colleagues to use some of the funds from the revolving fund and it will not be \$500,000. I think the maximum we would use this year is \$125,000.

I anticipate that there will be programs rolled out in all communities and possible TV spots, radio spots, posters, and coasters where they serve alcohol and things like that. We will be

educating people about the dangers of drinking while pregnant, for example. We will be working with our client departments as well to ensure that the social responsibility education programs we do implement will meet Nunavut's requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I realize that it doesn't happen overnight.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleague from Arviat South has raised the issue of introducing civil forfeiture legislation to fight bootleggers and drug traffickers. Can the minister outline what new enforcement initiatives the Nunavut Liquor Commission will be undertaking to cooperate with law enforcement authorities to fight the illegal sale of alcohol? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have any information on new initiatives, but I do know that the Nunavut Liquor Commission, through the Department of Finance, cooperates fully with the RCMP. We exchange information on unusual orders that may warrant some investigation by the RCMP, but I can't speak to any new initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 047 – 4(2): Safety and Security at Sanikiluaq Airport

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the issue of safety and security at Sanikiluaq's airport.

One of the ongoing priorities in the business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is to review the needs of Nunavut's airports.

Concerns have been raised with me that Sanikiluaq's airport currently lacks an emergency back-up generator. As the minister will appreciate, this poses a safety and security risk at the airport, especially at night.

Will the minister commit to reviewing this issue as part of his department's ongoing assessment of Nunavut's airports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow Nunavummiut. In all of Nunavut, we do not want any of the airports to have any kind of dangers or safety concerns with the actual infrastructure, electrical lights, and the airstrip. However, due to some of the locations of these airstrips, it is somewhat impossible to correct them properly. I can direct my department to look into your concern to see if there is planning for it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where airports are located outside the communities, security can become an issue.

Within the last few days, Sanikiluaq's airport suffered a break-in. Although the damage and theft resulting from this incident was limited, the community is concerned that security is inadequate at the airport.

As the minister will be aware, and as my friend from Tununiq will clearly recall, his department has provided security upgrades to some airports in Nunavut, including the installation of cameras.

Will the minister commit to reviewing security measures not only at Sanikiluaq's airport but at other Nunavut airports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the previous year, some airports have been broken into, including aircraft. It was really worrisome. We really have to do something about it, especially with aircraft security, to ensure that they are not broken into.

I agree with my colleague that some Nunavut airports have security cameras installed. We always wish we had enough money to install the security systems to all the airports in Nunavut. I can say that in the past few years, we did

the priorities and they have been involved in those airports.

We can look at your community to see if we can install the same system in it as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can indicate how his department is working with NAV Canada to review the needs of Nunavut's airports with respect to making safety improvements in such areas as navigational aids and GPS systems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Installing GPS systems in airports would help in take-offs and landings and basic navigational aids. The airports don't have them yet, but my department is looking to see if we can have those installed. We are working with NAV Canada to see if those systems can be installed in areas where there are more travellers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 048 – 4(2): Proposed Merger between Canadian North and First Air

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

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will be aware, the parent companies of Canadian North and First Air have announced that they have entered into merger negotiations.

The federal Competition Bureau, which has the mandate to review proposed mergers to “determine whether they will likely result in a substantial lessening or prevention of competition,” has confirmed that it will review the proposed Canadian North-First Air merger.

Can the Minister of Transportation indicate if the Government of Nunavut will be making a formal written submission to the Competition Bureau concerning the proposed airline merger? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all have heard that there will be merger negotiations between Canadian North and First Air. For that reason, many things have to be prepared and we have no plans in place at this time in that respect. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s no secret that I have expressed serious concerns about the impact that this proposed merger will have on the flying public in Nunavut.

For the benefit of the public record, can the minister indicate what the Government of Nunavut’s position is on the proposed airline merger between Canadian North and First Air? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, we all know that Canadian North and First Air will be merging. As a government, we will not be doing anything because there are many things that they have to do. As you know, the federal government will have to do all kinds of things while the two airlines are merging. While Transport Canada and the airlines are doing their work, we cannot do anything about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister and we are aware, the Government of Nunavut spends tens of millions of dollars per year on airline travel, including medical travel on scheduled flights.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) will the minister commit to having his department undertake and publicly release a study on the impact that a merger between our two largest airlines would have on Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated that they are doing their work at this time and there is nothing we can do as the Government of Nunavut because the federal government is dealing with this. We cannot do anything about it at this time while the federal government and the two airlines are negotiating with the merger at this time. Transport Canada is dealing with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 049 – 4(2): Office of the Public Trustee

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier in my Member's Statement, my questions are for the Minister of Justice, (interpretation ends) who is responsible for the Office of the Public Trustee.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Trustee program "administers trusts on behalf of minors and administers estates and trusts of Nunavummiut who die without a will or who are in need of protection because of disability."

Can the minister indicate approximately how many files the Office of the Public Trustee manages on an annual basis with respect to Nunavutmiut who have passed on without leaving a will? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the member's question, I cannot respond to his question at this time because there are stuff that are open and closing with respect to those things that are being dealt with by the Public Trustee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very important that Nunavutmiut prepare for the inevitable and ensure that their affairs are in order before they pass on.

Although I am aware that the Department of Justice has produced a sample will guide in both English and Inuktitut for the use of our territory's residents, the preparation of a will is still a challenge, especially for people with limited experience in dealing with complex documents. This situation is not helped by the fact that there are very few legal professionals in our smaller communities, which is an issue that I raised during yesterday's question period.

Can the minister indicate what assistance his department or the Legal Services Board provides to ordinary Nunavutmiut who need help in preparing their wills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question. When people die without a will, their property is taken by the Public Trustee and they have to go through the courts to resolve that. We offer the will kit to avoid this and allow people to do their wills. If they require the Public Trustee when someone dies, the toll-free number is 1-866-294-2127. People can call that toll-free number in order to get some assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Office of the Public Trustee performs very important work on behalf of Nunavutmiut and it is very important that Members of the Legislative Assembly are aware of what the office is accomplishing. Will the minister commit to tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the activities of the Office of the Public Trustee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that the trustee's work is very challenging and they always have to go through the courts. We have a lot of work to do, so I cannot answer at this time. I will find out more information and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for

(interpretation ends) South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Question 050 – 4(2): Kimmirut Airport Relocation

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of his department's 2014-15 capital estimates, \$100,000 in small capital funding was allocated to planning work for transportation facilities, including airport facilities.

Mr. Speaker, the minister will also recall that he agreed that a portion of his department's small capital funding could be used to undertake a new feasibility study for the relocation of Kimmirut's airport.

Can the minister provide an update on what actions his department is taking to start the feasibility study during the current 2014-15 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. While we're talking about the Kimmirut Airport, in 2011, they did a study and it cost \$1 million. That's the response I can give to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recently received correspondence from the minister regarding the relocation of Kimmirut's airport. The correspondence indicated that a "capital project will be submitted for consideration for fiscal year 2015-2016."

Can the minister clarify if this project is different from the study that I had requested to be undertaken during the current 2014-15 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, as I said, \$1 million was spent on the Kimmirut Airport relocation study, lighting, and other facilities we would like to do. Perhaps all of these airport facilities will be studied. That's all I can say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, for over two decades, the need to relocate Kimmirut's airport has been raised by residents of the community and their elected representatives.

During that time, several studies have been completed, but the relocation has

not happened. However, there is information available that can be used as the basis for moving forward on this project.

Will the minister commit to using existing studies to move forward on this much needed project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said with respect to Kimmirut's airport relocation, \$1 million has been spent so far for the study and they will do a study on the lighting and improvement. We have nothing in place to relocate the Kimmirut Airport at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 051 – 4(2): Summer Literacy Camp

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't anticipate you getting to me that quickly.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education made a Minister's Statement this afternoon regarding the Cape Dorset summer literacy camp. I listened with a lot of interest. He listed a number of different partners that are involved in utilizing this or involved in setting up this summer literacy camp, stating at the end that Frontier College will coordinate and deliver this camp.

How are the other partners involved and how are the responsibilities and costs shared? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Literacy is very important to us as a government while the emphasis is on quality education for students.

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the education group in Cape Dorset, along with Frontier College, will be cooperating to provide us with some programs. Perhaps I should add that this is a pilot project in Cape Dorset. I would like to state that these kinds of programs could also be operational in other communities. Naturally, it will be expanding to other communities as well, but we are responsible for the provision of funding for part of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. My next question regarding the literacy camp is: how are the students going to be selected to attend? Is it going to be based on greatest need or voluntary applications that the students within the community will submit to attend the camp? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Participants will be young children ages 5 to 12 years old. They are not selected in any old way; they would need parental permission. This program will be running for three weeks. They will be in school and doing reading still. Parental permission is mandatory for student participation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. You have already answered one of my questions on whether this could be operated in other communities, but I do have, if the Speaker will allow me, a two-part question. Who developed the curriculum and how many students will this program be able to carry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is an excellent question. I stated earlier that there are various groups. Only one group did not create this; it is a cooperation of various groups.

I understand that he had two questions, but I already answered the first question. Nevertheless, we are able to create this literacy program through cooperation. Perhaps I did not answer appropriately, as I forgot what the other question is, Mr. Speaker. I guess I am getting too old.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 052 – 4(2): Programs and Services Review

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister of Finance once again.

Mr. Speaker, in my earlier question regarding the review of government programs and services, the minister indicated that he did not know which specific programs and services would be reviewed as a priority.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, there has to be a list of program services that have been identified to be reviewed. Can the minister tell us what areas of the government's program and services will be reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for her question. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my earlier answer, I don't have the details. My intent would be to look at all programs and services in the government.

Again, we are working on an RFP. We have to select the organization that will assist us, plus we also have to select our team. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Finance will put a team together, and then we will be in a better

position to assess specific priority programs to review.

As Ms. Angnakak indicated, there are a lot of programs and services throughout the government. We do provide a lot of programs and services to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us how long the review will take? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Perhaps I should have my crystal ball over here. I certainly hope it won't take four years. We are already six months into our term. I would be hopeful that it would be complete within, don't hold me to this, but within a year and a half to two years, and then we will have time to make some improvements. I don't want to make any firm, hard commitments. It's going to be a challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 053 – 4(2): Disaster Compensation for Harvesters Policy

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I

had been asking about people who passed away, but the question I now have is to the Department of Environment relating to hunters anywhere in Nunavut who have been receiving assistance if wildlife has destroyed their hunting equipment, such as polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I stated earlier that there would be a review on this in terms of what kinds of assistance hunters would get. There are some assistance programs available now, but we will continue to review the program with the view to improving it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, in a compensation fund package, there are always funds that are set aside. My additional question here would be: are those compensation funds exhausted or are they carried over if they are not utilized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy for these funds... Perhaps the member could specify which program. However, if there are surpluses, they are redirected

to some other program within the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. My additional question in regard to this compensation package for the hunters or families is: if there is no physical damage to any of their hunting equipment, can the minister...? Does the current compensation package that is in place for harvesters reflect human life loss? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought the question was related to compensation for damaged equipment. In terms of the loss of life or physical damage to hunters, this was dealt with and improvements were made to the issue in relation to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 054 – 4(2): LHO's and NHC Boards of Directors

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the housing corporation.

Many communities get confused, especially misunderstandings in the

boards of housing associations and the housing corporation. The local housing associations say that they have some powers, yet their powers are taken away.

I would like to ask the hon. minister a question in relation to the housing association boards and the housing corporation. If there's disagreement and they can't reach an understanding as to which demand would be followed, who has more power in terms of the final decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question. The local housing association boards get elected by their peers in the community and they take their seats. However, they work with the housing corporation in terms of assigning houses paid for by the housing corporation.

Issues develop and when they are able to have discussions, they resolve their differences, but sometimes the hamlet councils or the various housing associations have policies and procedures that they must follow, whether it be related to their selection or money matters in terms of subsidy programs. Housing associations deal with many issues.

However, if there are disagreements, there are by-laws and policies in place by the housing associations, so they should be following their policies, procedures, and by-laws. Those by-laws would override any other contentious opinions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister can clarify the question that I would like to ask. It relates to local housing association managers, sometimes referred to as the general manager, who is in charge of all the employees in the community. Who hires that manager? Who can hire and fire the manager? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They hire managers of the housing associations in the communities through open competitions. They have their own boards and the boards are responsible for the hiring and firing of the managers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I can get perfectly clear on this, let me ask a simple question. The housing manager in the community has been selected for the job by the local housing association. The housing corporation cannot touch him and cannot fire him. Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I cannot respond to that. There are many agreements in place for the management of local housing authorities, as they are referred to. Some of these are contracts between the housing association and the manager. There are other agreements like union agreements in place. If there are other agreements in place, then they have to follow those in order to remove a manager. The housing corporation cannot fire managers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 055 – 4(2): Cape Dorset
Summer Literacy Camp Selection**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, even though he was just asked a question by our colleague from Iqaluit-Tasiluk. I thank him for asking the question.

Who is going to select the students for the literacy camp in Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The local education authorities, as they stand, are in the communities, so they would be doing the selecting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. The question that was almost asked earlier is: how many students will take part in the literacy program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that there are many kids within the age group of 5 to 12 years. I cannot say off the bat how many there will be in the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can you say how much the funding is for this literacy program so that we will be able to assess the value of it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question. I cannot say right now how much it will cost, but I stated that it is a collaboration between a number of different groups, including the Amaujaq National Centre, Inuit Tapiriit, the Cape Dorset District Education Authority, the Government of Nunavut, and Frontier College. I cannot say how much the total

cost is to run this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. We will proceed with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister Tom Sammurток.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 012 – 4(2): Department of Community and Government Services’ Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements as of March 31, 2013

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the financial statements as of March 31, 2013 for Nunavut Lottery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 2 and Bill 3 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:00 and
Committee resumed at 15:29*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2 and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Health, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Health?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Does the committee agree that Minister Ell’s staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please allow the witnesses in the Chamber.

Thank you. Minister Ell, for the record, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Rosemary Keenainak, Interim Deputy Minister, and on my left is Johan Glaudemans, Interim Finance Controller. Thank you.

Chairman: We are now ready to go line by line with the budget. Please turn to page H-4. The floor is now open for questions on page H-4. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that this is not the first time you have heard this question. Yesterday, you were referring them to your officials and your interim officials. When will you be able to announce to us as to your permanent deputy minister and a permanent finance controller? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for asking that question. I am sure you are aware that the position for deputy minister was for competition and it just closed last month.

Right now, we are going through an interview process of interested people, including the department director position. Three individuals would handle the director and they are the Premier, the finance person, and I. After we have look into it, we expect that we will be able to hire someone this fall.

I am glad that Rosemary is able to be in this position right now. She has to wear

two hats, but she only brought one for this meeting.

On my left, he just started as assistant deputy minister of operations. I am confident that we will proceed with hiring a permanent employee for this position as well.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for a clear answer. Make sure your interim deputy minister does not think we do not want her here. I am glad that she is here. She gives us very clear information.

When do you think you will be able to announce the assistant deputy minister of operations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you. To clarify the matter; that position for assistant deputy minister, we're creating it. We should have it filled by this fall as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak...

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the functions listed in the business plan states, "The Department of Health will be implementing the Nunavut Interoperable Electronic Health Records in referral sites located in Ottawa, Edmonton, and Yellowknife."

I am wondering how you will assure Nunavummiut that their private and personal information stays and private and confidential. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are nine security directives that have been approved and will be used to administer the electronic health records. To say it in English. (interpretation ends) Nine privacy and security directives have been approved to government the access to the electronic health record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just reading the business plan and further on down it also says that you are going to introduce health-specific privacy legislation. What impact that does not having legislation in place for this have on your department and keeping files confidential? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just for member's information, we're on H-4. Hon. Minister, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The suite of security and privacy directives were approved by Canada Health Infoway, and meets all the requirements for the operation of electronic health records. Since personal information under the ATIPPA includes information about individual's health and healthcare history, including

information about a physical or mental disability. Therefore, personal health records privacy is monitored through an audit control system. There is a directive in place for handling privacy complaints or privacy breach.

I'm not sure if I may have answered the member's question, if she wants to ask further. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering why legislation would be thought of later on down the line and if everything is kept confidential without legislation. Maybe we could talk about why you want to introduce the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Information and Privacy Commissioner have recommended that the Government of Nunavut consider health-specific privacy legislation to deal with the complicated issues surrounding personal health information. All other jurisdictions in Canada have health-specific legislation in place, and/or pending. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. That really is very helpful. The department receives a large amount of third party funds. How much control do you have over these funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer question to my Interim Finance Controller, Mr. Johan Glaudemans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Glaudemans.

Mr. Glaudemans: The third party agreements are normally regulated by funding agreements that set out specifically what their responsibilities are as well as the type of expenditures that we can incur based on these agreements. There's a variety. Some, we have more flexibility and some, we can carry over unspent funds from one year to the next, but we have a responsibility to adhere to these agreements. That has been done so in the past and we are always working on this and making sure that we respect the agreements, and also that we use the funding that is provided to us to the maximum extent possible.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know, sometimes, it can be very difficult, I think, to keep the criteria. I'm just wondering what kinds of challenges are posed on the department in regard to third party funding, for example, keeping to timelines or reporting. What kind of impact has that had on the department in delivering the programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister, Rosemary, to respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the challenges we have encountered in the past, for example, around tobacco is funding might have been approved later on into the year, so we're not able to spend some of the funding for that current year. That kind of delays us.

In the past, however, as Johan has indicated, there is some flexibility where, if the agreement is multi-year, as long as we spend the money within that timeframe, we could rollover and then hopefully maximize the funding from there. Those are some of the challenges we've had, but there has been some flexibility put in on some of the agreements we're getting from the third party. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. My next question is about your department is going through an evaluation of programs and services, and I would like to know what you found out from that evaluation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The planning is underway. I can't really answer that right now because it's still in the works.

Perhaps my deputy minister can respond to that better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a priority in 2013-14. However, we've had some staffing issues around that area. Now that the GN mandate is to do a program review, we will be looking at incorporating that into the overall evaluation of the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are you done? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Yes, I just have one more question. Have you looked at specific factors that might contribute to whether the cost of medical travel will exceed or not exceed the allocated budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to her question, if we overspend the budget, in efforts to reduce the amount of money we use for medical travel, whenever it's possible for them to fly with an escort... We changed the Medical Escort Policy in June. That's one of the cost-saving efforts. We look for other ways to reduce costs.

I would like my deputy minister to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance has been trying to find ways of reducing

medical travel and improving expenditure management reporting.

We have been working with the managers within the department to make sure we provide better projections, particularly around medical travel and out-of-territorial travel where we have continually been over budget for the last several years.

Those are the kinds of things we are doing, trying to improve reporting and we are also trying to take a look at trends. Again, as the minister indicated yesterday, we tend to look at historical expenditures and then project the future depending on the percentage increase that we have seen. Those are the kinds of things we're looking at Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple questions also regarding the directorate. In the Minister of Finance's budget address yesterday, he quoted that it is important that we provide an adequate level of medical service in each community.

In the priorities, also from 2013-14, it has got a comment complete and implement the health services strategic plan based on the health care gap analysis aiming at optimizing staffing levels and service delivery approaches in each community.

Obviously, this is a priority under the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate. What has your department done to complete this analysis and what are optimal staffing

levels for communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the question you are asking about what we're planning for the future. Perhaps the funding we get from the federal government or the budget that we have now. Can you please clarify your question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, Minister Ell. In the business plan the third last bullet under the priorities for 2013-14, the status lists the department is considering approaches aimed at establishing optimal staffing levels in each community.

What has your department done to recognize staffing levels in each community and what approaches are being aimed at maximizing the benefit to our constituents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is still in the planning process. I cannot point out that this is what we are doing right now. We are putting together what we are going to be doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fear I may get the same answer for this question, but I will ask it anyway. Also, under the very last bullet under the

priorities for the 2013-14 fiscal year in the business plan, the department is considering revisions to the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy based on the evaluation. The status is saying that the department is exploring revisions. Can you give the members an idea of what revisions are anticipated to be put forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Recommendations are being considered include improvements to hiring and human resource practices, as well as improving orientation, mentorship and professional development opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have been living in the past here I am going to jump ahead a couple of years. In the business plan under the very last priorities in 2016-17, it's got developed health professions umbrella legislation to allow the regulation of multiple health professions currently regulated in Nunavut.

As the minister is aware, I have recently brought to her office's attention on chiropractic legislation in Nunavut. I understand with some of the services now being offered in Nunavut, there might be a more expedient need to have this legislation looked a little bit sooner. Is that an option for your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember the question from the member. There are many revisions that we have to make because from the time Nunavut came to be those legislations have to be reviewed and revised.

In 2014, the *Vital Statistics Act* and the *Public Health Act* have to be reviewed. In 2015, the *Medical Professionals Act* has to be amended as well as the *Mental Health Act* because we stated that we would be doing the revisions on those Acts and we want to continue doing revisions on those Acts, as well as the *Unregulated Professions Act*. Perhaps they will be completed in 2016 or later.

I will say it in English. (interpretation ends) Currently, these professionals maintain life insurance in another Canadian jurisdiction. Those regulatory bodies may not provide regulations and disciplinary services across jurisdictional boundaries. (interpretation) In those, but we will be doing those revisions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I was done, but I just have a supplement to that question. I understand there is approximately seven different health professions that are under the spectrum of the analysis for these regulations. Is there a priority to them or are you going to be doing them all at once? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: We are hoping to do them all at once. The 12 professions are medical practitioners, physicians,

midwives, licensed practitioners, dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, denturists, pharmacists, psychologists, optometrists, ophthalmic medical assistants, and veterinarians.

Nunavut currently licenses 12 health care professions and some of the professions, as I said, are regulated by an umbrella legislation, which includes the chiropractors, speech language pathologists, pharmacy technicians, dental assistants, paramedics, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on the list, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to the opening comments. Minister Ell stated yesterday that she would have an update for us today on the \$1.7 million for mental health and addiction, and I would just like the update now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq has asked for an update. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the reminder and I am happy to give an answer, Mr. Chairman.

Mental health and addiction, \$1.7 million, is for one program officer. Funding is provided to communities through contribution agreements and provides programming, such as cultural programs, land activities, skills development, and mentorship for youth, suicide prevention programs, and anti-bullying programs. The department delivers programs, such as funding

ASIST training delivery through Nunavut Arctic College, Mental Health First Aid, and partners with the Embrace Life Council for education and awareness events. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different subject, your main estimates show an amount allocated for compensation and benefits for 2014-15 that is similar to the amount budgeted for 2013-14. Is the compensation and benefits budget based on all staff positions being filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll have my deputy minister, Rosemary, respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you heard us whispering. I was asking our finance controller.

(interpretation ends) It's not 100 percent. There's a bit of a vacancy factor built in. We would have to verify that, but the vacancy rate may be about 3 to 5 percent in terms of compensation and benefits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And that's with the new 13.5 PYs that you anticipate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you. I would like our finance controller, Mr. Glaudemans, to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Glaudemans.

Mr. Glaudemans: Yes, that is taking into account the new PYs that are to be created. The vacancy factor is calculated on an overall global compensation amount. The new PYs that are being budgeted for are included, and then there is an overall amount that gets deducted based upon vacancies and budgeting factors that are being considered.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What initiatives are currently underway to recruit more Nunavutmiut into the health professions, not just nurses, but to the health profession in general? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you. We have the Nursing Program at Nunavut Arctic College. The member may be aware that we help with those medical professions. I will have my deputy minister elaborate on what we are doing with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department does provide bursaries and scholarships and we do work closely with Nunavut Arctic

College to make sure that there is a dialogue between the nursing program itself and the department. We are trying to make sure that we have a closer relationship with them on that.

We also work with them in terms of community health representatives and home care workers. We are going to continue to provide funding and training through Nunavut Arctic College for that.

I am not sure if the Minister of Arctic College already indicated we do fund the midwifery program through Nunavut Arctic College. I believe there were two that graduated just this month in Cambridge Bay. Those two students are expected to complete their studies and start their work in Cambridge Bay as soon as they pass their national exam.

We also do medical terminology for medical clerk interpreters and we will continue to do that.

The department is also recognizing that we also need to increase other medical professionals, not just in nursing. It is going to be looking at human resource plan in this upcoming year to make sure we include that we have trouble recruiting for ultrasound, individuals, lab techs, and those fields.

Hopefully the strategies we develop will incorporate a lot of those, and not just doctors and nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Keenainak for that answer. As she stated, she works closely with Arctic College so maybe

can you give us an update on the number of Nunavut nurses expected to graduate from our nursing program this year and whether any or all of them will come to work for the government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell do you want Ms. Keenainak to respond?

Hon. Monica Ell: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, there are 20 students registered in the nursing program; nine are beneficiaries. Five students are in first year; two of which are beneficiaries. Ten students are in second year; six are beneficiaries. Three students in third year; no beneficiaries in that. Two students are in fourth year; with one beneficiary.

The department is also sponsoring a long-term northerner to take that nursing program as well so we are encouraging that program.

We hope that all of the nurses will work for the Department of Health at the end of their studies. The way it has been operating, the students are asked what section of the health centre or hospital they would be interested in, whether it's acute care or if it's home care or a different part, and then we talk to them to see what capacity we have and then place them in the health facility with the department of health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's rumour that graduated nurses from our nursing program have trouble getting on as a nurse with the Government of Nunavut. Can the minister clarify whether that is true or not? If one of the nurse graduates passes the national exam and is ready for employment, will the Government of Nunavut hire him or her as a nurse upon graduation and upon passing the national exam? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they graduate and when they pass their national exam, the Nunavut government does want to hire them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for making that clear. I'm happy and glad that we will hire them as soon as they are done.

On a different matter, recently the reports have focused on medical travel clients being sent to the southern health centres only to find that their appointments have not been booked. I know of this happening twice in constituency of Arviat. It was in the media that this older couple went down four times and all four times the appointments were not booked.

Recently, a few weeks ago, a different older fellow got shipped down to Winnipeg, and the same thing happened. He got to Winnipeg and he had no appointment. Not only is it bad for the elders to do that. There is a whole lot of

money that is being thrown out the window.

What efforts are being made to address this lack coordination and unnecessary expense? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is an issue across Nunavut. It's an issue of coordination and communication between the health centre, the referral sites in Ottawa, as well as medical travel. It's a number of office and individuals, in terms of coordination. We flagged that as an issue.

There was a recent workshop in Rankin Inlet where Health Canada, WSCC, medical travel folks in the departments, and we also had a senior management meeting at the beginning of April where we also brought in all the senior managers from all the regions to talk about medical travel. That is something that we are going to be working on, in terms of making sure that there is better coordination between all the individuals and people that are involved in that. I'm aware that Member Rumbolt has identified that as well in previous sittings.

We're striving to work on that and the minister had committed to doing a review on the medical travel policy, but we've also included the case managements, as well as the referral

system on that to try and deal with some those issues that you've identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate if this a manpower issue or a communication issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It could be both. It could be the manpower and the communication. It could be one or the other or both. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an unexpected response because you're just stating now that you have no idea why there is a problem and why clients are being sent to the south and not getting treatment. Can you just elaborate a bit more? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can't really answer that question without having specific cases. It's a case-by-case basis. I can't say that this person had an appointment and missed it because of this reason when another patient could have a different reason for having an appointment that might have been cancelled for some reason. Mr. Chairman, I can't answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You would think that someone in the health profession, maybe at the nursing station, would call down and say, "So and so is leaving. Does he or she have an appointment to go to when they get to the medical facility?" Something as basic as that is not being done. Can you please just clarify whether someone at least makes a phone call to say, "So and so is coming to Winnipeg or Ottawa or wherever for an appointment. Do they have an appointment?" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the study that we're going to be doing into why these happen, it will definitely be included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it, then, until the study is complete that patients will keep unnecessarily being sent to the south for appointments they don't have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Keenainak answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount of volume that we deal with in terms of medical travel

is quite high. I think that the majority of medical travel appointments do go okay. There are some cases where there are issues of coordination, as you have indicated, but I think we recognize that that does happen periodically and that's why we're trying to do the review and trying to streamline some of the processes so that kinds of things will be minimized. We will not completely eliminate issues like that, but we hope that we will be able to minimize them in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not in the health profession at all, but until you have studied this problem and figured out what the problem, wouldn't a good interim solution be just have the nurse-in-charge call the facility where the client is going and check the day before the patient leaves to see if there's actually an appointment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they do always make checks, but we can't tell you that on a specific day, a specific nurse did so and so or a specific patient did that on that specific day. We do have a grievance system where these could be dealt with, what we call Patient Relations. The individuals could go to those and check it to see what caused them to have miscommunication. I can't specifically tell the member a specific case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on the list, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your staff. I think we're on page H-4. Can you confirm whether we're on that page? I don't have the Inuktitut copy. I figure that human resources are included in here. If I am out of order, please rule me out of order.

Yesterday, it was confusing as to what specific terminology would be used about mental health nurses and psychiatric nurses. What level of education would a mental health worker need? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): If you're talking about community mental health then they could have less of an education but a professional would need to have a professional education.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I was a person with an illness illnesses of the mind, and would like to be treated, would I be a hard person to treat?

Secondly, we talked about psychiatric nurse, a mind doctor, so to speak. I'm trying to determine what the differences are between a mental health worker and a psychiatric nurse? Is there a difference?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the job descriptions in front of me, but a

psychiatric nurse is a profession. They need to have professional requirements and the person that would be working with them in the community would be called a community health worker to support the psychiatric nurse.

The community mental health worker would not be required to have certificates or diplomas. They could be hired from the community and trained with a psychiatric nurse with on-the-job training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me try to frame my question like this; why must all communities have both of these two positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today the psychiatric nurses aren't hired from the communities, and they're not local residents. They are usually professionals.

We have more of those mental health workers in the communities. This is the way we look at them. However, in the future perhaps they may be able to obtain training in the field of psychiatric nursing so that they could deal with people with mental health issues whose lives are affected by illnesses of the mind.

We are looking at the cooperation of those two positions as being desirable for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I respect job opportunities. However, I am also aware that we should not be throwing money around just to have somebody working in a health centre. Perhaps I should ask, in relation to the first priorities, like the psychiatric nurses that we need more money to be throwing into this field because they can really do something with people with mental illnesses. Are we utilizing our resources wisely? Are you saying that both positions needed to be in the community, the psychiatric nurse and his or her assistant?

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, there are already psychiatric nurses in the communities, there are also community health workers in the communities, just not in every single community.

I said yesterday, I talked about community health workers and that there are community health committees in many communities and they are able to provide advice in other areas. We hear in larger communities we do know that people talk about trauma in relation jealous rages. People have gone through the court systems where couples have trouble.

There need to be those kinds of professionals that deal with these kinds of extreme cases and they could also utilize advice from communities' committees that know the community very well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Member, do you believe in that? You have more education than me...if you really believe this from the heart, it's okay.

If you guys figure that you are spending money wisely, so be it. I am not going to say that you are wasting your money. However, Mr. Chairman, may I now move on to some other subject? I think it is in here, like general policies. Where are we?

If I could ask a different question, Mr. Chairman, in reference to what I have stated previously, any questions that I have asked earlier this winter, I would like to go back to the travel policy. I know that you will be reviewing it and that you will be coming with a golden rule in relation to medical travel.

However, in reference to the unilingual Inuit and I am aware and happy that whenever possible I hope that you can answer me in Inuktitut, too, by the way so that those who do not speak English or use English as a second language can understand.

I'd like to ask in reference to whoever will be going on medical travel and do not speak English or are not fluent in English...

Chairman: Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he ask that question when we get to H-5, so that we could go more smoothly as we are on page H-4. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on H-4. Development of Legislation and Policy Directorate. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Continuing on my line of questioning that I have asked policy that I wanted to ask about before I was interrupted, the first question I have it seems that it is applied differently. Let me; therefore, ask again who has the final say in terms how the total policy should be interpreted. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you. In relation to the policy on medical travel, only a policy... . Which one are you talking about? Are you talking about the medical travel policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't want to speak in English but for clarity's sake. (interpretation ends) I'm talking about your escort travel policy. (interpretation) I'm talking about medical travel escort policy. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): The question from the Member for Tununig, once we go to the next page he should ask the question when we get to that particular item. Right now we're on H-4, page 98 and 99, and your question is on page 103. You're getting into healthcare services delivery. We should follow the pages as we're going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Health. Branch Summary. Directorate. Development of Legislation and Policy. I think that's where Mr. Enook is. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you for that ruling once again. I shall try and continue. (interpretation) I shall try to continue. When you are a unilingual Inuktitut speaking and can't speak English, and you have to go to the hospital... Let me rephrase this. Who has the final say as to if that patient is eligible for an escort or not?

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy that was set last in June 27, 2013, we've been referring to it. The Medical Travel Patient Policy states that anybody can complain if their travel didn't go the way they wanted. If that person was going to need an escort and they were not treated properly, they can complain to that group that we have been talking about.

Medical travel escorts are approved by the regional directors. The regional directors have the final say. If patients have a complaint about their request for an escort, they can go to the regional director and they can complain to the regional director. If that doesn't satisfy the client, they would have to be provided with a response in less than 10 days.

If the patient is not satisfied with the response of the regional director, then the matter would be referred to the deputy minister and the deputy minister would have the final say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the person is refused an escort, if anyone is going out for medical is refused an escort, can that person go through the entire complaints procedure? Can that all be dealt with before that patient has to travel to the south? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would want to settle the matter before the patient has to travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To make it absolutely clear and so that my fellow unilingual Inuktitut-speaking people will know, what you're saying is that it would be good if the system ran like that. It sounds like it may not run like that all the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a magic scope that will help me see into the future. I can't answer that. I can't say that that will not happen. We don't want things like that to happen. We want to have good expectations of these things not happening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I don't have a magic scope that will help me see into the future either, but we

have actually witnessed it. Things become clear, things become near, and we can see them without a scope. I have seen it.

Let me ask it this way, Mr. Chairman. With respect to any patient who has to go to the hospital who can't speak English, what are the criteria for getting that person an escort? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy that was approved on June 27 has sections in it that refer to different circumstances. If the intended destination of the medical travel patient has no interpreter, then they would require an escort.

We all have different dialects. For example, Sanikiluaq people have their own dialect. A lot of times, we can't understand what people from Sanikiluaq are saying. For cases like that, if there's not going to be an interpreter down there, he or she can get an escort.

If the patient is too young, the person has mental problems or physical problems that they need help, or they need help getting medication, or going to the doctor, then they would qualify for an escort. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me request a clarification on this. So anybody who cannot speak English has to go to the hospital, can they bring an escort that they will not use as a translator or interpreter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, if the patient is below the age of majority and the escort needed to sign papers on behalf of the parents or if the patient needs a translator in the hospital where they are going then they can bring a translator; however, if the person sent as an escort for the intention of him or her being the translator then they would have to be the translator down there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Maybe you did not understand my question. Let me make it clearer.

Let's say an elder who cannot speak English has to go to the hospital here in Iqaluit or in Ottawa; can he bring an escort even though that escort will not be the translator because there are already interpreter-translators both here in Iqaluit and in Ottawa? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot say yes or no to that. People have different reasons for going to the doctor. If that elder had to leave and the escort has to help with the doctor visit, the escort has to know what procedures will be done to the patient. The patient can have a translator in the hospital destination or the escort can act as an interpreter as well.

We cannot say right off the bat whether a patient going to the doctor will need an escort or not. It is all different

circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Let me ask this question. In your policies it states that there are interpreters in the regional centers in the hospitals of the regions and also down south; therefore, because of that, they do not need to bring a translator to go to a hospital, and, if that is the case, it does not seem to be necessary to bring escorts that speak English because there are already translators in the regional health centres so then the escort can just be an escort. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some destination doctors do not have translators. For example, Yellowknife does not have an Inuktitut translator on staff so they have to bring their own escort/translator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about going to Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are interpreters here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, if I was

coming from Pond Inlet and I'm going to Iqaluit for medical and if I'm able to have an escort is it ok if my escort speaks English or Inuktitut? They do not have to really speak English or Inuktitut? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy to respond to that question.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the person going on medical travel only speaks Inuktitut and has to get some medical advice, they have to have an interpreter. Even though there are interpreters at the final destination, the escort has to know how to speak English.

Chairman: Mr. Enook

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like you are breaking your own policy; you say that if that individual is going to Iqaluit for medical treatment and they already have interpreters over here in Iqaluit... it seems like your policy states that you have to have an English-speaking escort. How does that work?

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of people that go for medical treatment in various locations. We cannot really tell because it is a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Wouldn't it be better, Ms. Minister, if it goes case-by-case, wouldn't it be better if you did not have a policy at all?

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have to be guidelines to act as a framework. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's on business plan, page 99, for 2013-14. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's on business plan, page 99, the very first bullet. Thank you.

Chairman: The very first bullet I have is "Complete and implement the health services strategic plan based on the health care gap analysis..." Is that what you are on?

Mr. Mikkungwak: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): George Hickey asked that same question; my response was that we have not finished the strategic plan. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it was

asked. As a member from a different community, all of the Members of the Legislative represent different communities and our communities have different populations.

How are you going to be doing the strategic plan? You deal with patients and to make sure that the people that get medical attention are looked after properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are planning, at this time because they are going to be dealing with the strategic plan in six months. We are also continuing to do the strategic plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. My follow up to that response is in regard to my community; in the last several years we had forced growth due to industry. Was that taken into consideration regarding this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That will be part of the consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. Moving along on the very last bullet there, on the particular priorities

again, considering revisions to the Nunavut nursing recruitment and retention strategy; I understand one of my colleagues did ask a question in reference to this, but my question is, will that be what revisions will be occurring, will that be based on quality of services to Nunavummiut or will that be based on number of people served in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at both. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the answer. In reference to professionalism provided to the medically healed Nunavummiut, how will the professionalism aspect be looked into further? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Ms. Keenainak to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the strategic planning for the department, one of the things we're looking at is quality assurance, and that is looking at clinical standards particularly for nurses. The Registered Nurses Association from the NWT and Nunavut just recently met

here. I'm hoping that we will be able to work with them a little bit closer, because they're the ones that actually licenses the nurses. Those are the kinds of things that we're looking at in terms of clinical practice for nurses. Doctors have their own College of Medicine as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Keenainak for the answer. My follow-up to that question will be is how often are the evaluations done that the nurses within our territory are providing professionalism to their clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Keenainak to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut has the performance management system, and ideally, the performance evaluation should be done on an annual basis, taking a look at their job description and also their work plan. If there were areas of concern, those have been done more frequently. It depends on case by case, but the performance management is about once a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Keenainak for the answer. The reason why I asked that was a number of my constituents have been filing complaints and I believe I can address those matters with the department.

Moving on, that middle bullet there, the one just above that, Office of Public Relations, has the department taken into consideration of possibly expanding the employee staff level or will it be status quo? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, the Office of Patient Relations that was announced last year on July 12, 2013, has three patient relations positions: one in Cambridge Bay; and two in Iqaluit, which are staffed by beneficiaries. This office has not been in operation for one year as of yet. There are no plans at this time to change it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. On your priorities for 2014-15, review and revise the Extended Health Benefits Policy. Do they foresee substantial changes, or is that part of legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review will focus on four areas:

1. Administrative efficiencies, such as updating claim forms, applications, and better communications of the program;
2. Accommodation and meal allowance rates;
3. Clearer definitions of chronic conditions benefits; and
4. Incorporation of health benefits for non-aboriginal social assistance clients, such as emergency dental, medical travel, and medical supplies and equipment.

As well, health has completed a jurisdictional scan to ensure that Nunavut's Extended Health Benefits are comparable to other Canadian jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. Looking at their 2015-16 priorities under the same section again, begin legislative process to introduce health-specific privacy legislation. Do they foresee in the near future a specific health problem? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Keenainak to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Information Privacy Commissioner actually

recommended to the Government of Nunavut that we introduce health-specific legislation because of the complicated issues around personal health information.

The jurisdictional scan that we have done shows that other Canadian jurisdictions have it, and the NWT has it as well. We are hoping to strengthen privacy issues around health-related information, over and above the age of legislation. That is the purpose of this one.

Right now, one issue that came up around electronic health records, we did work with the commissioner and introduced security and privacy directive as part of the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please keep in mind that we have translators who need to keep up. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the interpreters. Under priorities 2014-15, one thing that I skipped here is the fourth bullet, “explore and develop a framework for enhancing performance, management and accountability.” Who is that targeted at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask the member to give us an indication of what page he is on. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Page 99, business plan, priorities 2014-15, fourth bullet.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Keenainak to answer that question.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak, if you can realize we have translators. Go ahead.

Ms. Keenainak: This is related to the ongoing work we are starting to do. The minister mentioned improving clinical standards and quality assurance, the terminology, and it is one that your raised making sure that health care professionals and health care centres are meeting a standard. That is the work that this is talking about. We want to develop guidelines and standards to evaluate health centres and clinical professionals in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Keenainak, for the answer. The answer that I received and understood very clearly is it's for the frontline staff who provide services to Nunavutmiut who are feeling sick. With that answer, who will be enforcing this performance management? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Keenainak to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have frontline staff in the communities, but we also have positions in the regions as well as headquarters that mainly deal with policy and program development. This would be one of their tasks to take a look at the overall quality management framework. We have been looking at quality assurance committees, which also include, for example, the chief of staff as well as regional directors, and so forth.

There are kind of four things that we're looking at. It's the organizational culture and values, the structure and processes within the department, the technical resources and supports, and quality initiatives to make sure that the work we're doing aligns with the strategic priorities of the department as well as the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you once again for the answer. I heard very clearly that it will be all management staff, deputy heads, and whatnot from the Department of Health. I would also like to suggest that the Office of [Patient] Relations be involved in that particular performance management considering the fact that they have heard complaints or issues regarding medical matters from the actual client who is feeling sick. I guess that's just a comment and I have no further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a few questions...(inaudible)... .

Chairman: Ms. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they're translated into Inuktitut or English, sometimes we have miscommunication. He mentioned deputy heads. It's not just the deputy heads that will be reviewed, but they would be included in the review. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: I just wanted to make myself clear. The answer that I understood is that enhancing performance management is going to come from all management of the health department. I guess that's what I was trying to say. So if you guys could also include the Office of Patient Relations considering the fact that they hear various complaints and they hear it first hand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to just go to the policy and planning section when we talk about business planning processes for the department and this is where I'm referencing my questions to. I would like to ask: what is the current status of the scheduled medical travel contracts for each region in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please wait a moment while I look for it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to receive this question. The medical travel contracts that I referred to in the Kivalliq Air Ltd., Nunasi Corporation, Canadian North, and First Air; all these airlines started September 1, 2011 and the end of their contracts is August 2014. These were extended by one year, so now they will be ending in 2015 while the senior staff are doing the reviews. That was the reason for the extension of those contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to further ask what the current status of emergency medical travel contracts for each region in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy will wait while I look for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. (interpretation ends) The current contract information for the Baffin region; the provider is Kivalliq Air. The contract started December 2010. It end December 2015.

For the Kivalliq, it's with Keewatin Air. The start date was December 2011, and ends November 2016.

The Kitikmeot medical contract started December 2011, with Aqsarniit Airways and Medic North, and is set to end November 2016. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. What is the current status of the boarding home contracts in Yellowknife, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Edmonton, and Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have that too. In Edmonton, Iqaluit, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Yellowknife are all led out by contract agreements. The only one different is Churchill, which we, as a department, run in Edmonton, October 2011, to end in September 30, 2014. We can extend the contract for three years and we have the ability to do that for Iqaluit, 2010, and it will finish in March of 2020. We can also extend that by two years or five years. For Ottawa, April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2028 and no extension. In Winnipeg, June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2016 and we can extend that by one year. Yellowknife; the transition began in 2008 October 23 to 2028. There is no extension period. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ultimately it's up to the Government of Nunavut to ensure that boarding homes are up to standards when it comes to ensuring that patients are in an environment that is clean and safe for them.

How often does the GN inspect the boarding homes to ensure that the contractor is keeping up to standards in all areas including cleanliness and safety? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know that information. I can look into it and get back to the House after I find out. Take the question as notice.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you for that. I look forward to that information. I'm going to go somewhere else with my questioning now. I'm going to go to the office of patient relations.

I know that my colleagues were asking some questions. I wonder how well do you think the office is doing in addressing complaints being called in? I know it's less than a year, but so far what kind of feedback have you got that can tell you how well it's doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can tell the member that between April 1, 2013 and April 23, 2014 there were a total of 93 concerns registered with the Office of Patient Relations. These represent a tiny fraction of the number of visits of Nunavut health centres as an example. In 2013, Nunavut health centers received over 217 thousand visits from patients with less than half of one percent of these visits resulting in concerns brought to

the office of patient relations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I got a little confused between the complaints office and the visiting health centres with the number 217 thousand. I'm going to go on to something else and I can talk with you about that later on.

What is the turn-around time for responding to complaints of this office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the type of complaint. It can be immediately, it can be up to 10 days, it can be more, depending on the complexity of the complain and who and where they need get the information from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you had a complaint about the complaint office because they're not getting back to you, where does one go? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: That would be to the Deputy Minister's Office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you for that. I want to go on to the Extended Health

Benefits Program. As we all know sometimes this is the only way that some people in Nunavut can receive medical care away from home when such medical service is not available to them here in Nunavut. Your department is currently reviewing the program. When will the review be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned the four criteria earlier. The committee will examine the clinical and financial implications of any enhancements and the sustainability of the Extended Health Benefits Program. We're expecting the senior management to review the options and recommendations, including any financial implications of any enhancements. We're hoping that will be the next step and we'll have a better idea of the amount of time that this will take, hopefully, before the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'd like to ask then if you know if the applicants under this program are growing in number. Are there more applicants over the last few years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The example for the Extended Health Benefits Policy that I have for residents with exhausted insurance, or no insurance benefits in 2009-2010 were zero. For 2013-14 there

were 20, as an example. Non-Aboriginal seniors over 65 years of age, access this program. From 2009-2010 there were 91, and for the fiscal year 2013-14 there were 91. For those with chronic illnesses in the same timeframe, 2009-2010, 160 accessed that program. 2013-14 a total of 198. So if you look at all the totals for 2009-2010, that would be 251, and the 2013-14 fiscal year, it jumped up to 303. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed that the budget for this program was increased significantly in the 2011-12 fiscal year. I also noticed that over the last five years, there has been a significant lapse of funds. With this in mind, I wonder why the rates of the benefits of this program are so low. For example, if you're an applicant and you're accessing this program, it would be very difficult indeed to live on what you're provided away from home. The reason why someone would access this program is because they really don't have any other means.

I know the program pays for one night hotel and one meal, and after that, everything that you're receiving is basically \$20 per day for hotel and \$20 per day for meals. Will you, as the minister, commit to reviewing the benefits levels to ensure that the benefits are actually meeting the needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Keep in mind that we have an interpreter that is trying to keep up. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)

The Extended Health Benefits are used by people who don't have any other health insurance. The policy is going to be reviewed. There will also be a financial review and what you're asking about will be included to look at the financing. We're also looking at other jurisdictions in Canada to see how they use that. We're looking to see if we are unique or we're doing the same thing as the other jurisdictions. That's being looked at now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. Will you agree to table the revised and amended policy in the House once it's completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Last name on the list, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been listening to the questions posed about the end of the medical travel contract. I'm asking about the Churchill, Manitoba boarding home contract. Who runs the boarding home in Churchill? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's run by the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many staff do they have in Churchill? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, there are four staff members there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there are very few patients going to Churchill now other than dental patients, but the people going to the hospital usually go to Rankin Inlet or Winnipeg more now.

When we were there, the minister was also there, so she probably knows that there was just one patient there. I think that's the norm. What about the cost of running the facility? How much does it cost to run the facility annually, even though there aren't very many patients using the boarding home in Churchill, Manitoba? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question. We have requested \$810,000 for 2014-15. Last year in 2013-14, we requested \$894,436.88. We're always going over budget in the operation budget.

I was able to go and see the Illualuk Centre in Chesterfield Inlet, and you're correct in saying that there aren't very many patients there. Due to that reason, I

told my staff to start looking at closing it down, perhaps to slowly start closing it down. There are good hotels in that community and if patients need to go there, then we can come up with a contract or an agreement with the hotels down there instead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for recognizing me again. We're still on page H-4 and before we move on, I just want to get more information and go back to some of the questions I had.

Mr. Chairman, I want my constituents, especially the unilingual Inuktitut speakers, to understand fully. I want them to be fully served, as we are, like people who can speak English. We don't want them treated any differently. We don't want them to have worse or lesser service than we do. That's why I'm working very hard on the issue and I will keep working hard on the issue as long as I'm able to until it's improved.

Mr. Chairman, the first question I have now and I want it to be perfectly clear that whenever a patient goes to the hospital, the escort has to have a purpose. I would like to ask a question based on your policy, for example, an elder or anybody who has to go to the hospital and cannot speak English at all. If that person is eligible for an escort, what will that escort be doing? Will he be a helper or will that person be a translator? What is the expectation of that escort? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He is expected to be an interpreter or whatever to assist the patient too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. I'm confused because when you answered, you said that they can be an interpreter, but sometimes you say that even though that patient does not have an escort, it's okay because there's an interpreter at the destination.

Hon. Minister, I asked questions last year like what happens if they have to land before they reach their destination. I'm confused now. Do I understand now that an elder or anyone who is going to the hospital can have an escort that is going to be their interpreter or the escort will be just a helper? Is it okay for that individual not to speak English at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): I could just say that there are four guidelines followed for medical travel patients. There are four policies.

It has nothing to do with the escort being an interpreter because it's one of the policies whereby he or she, the escort, can be an interpreter or not. It depends on whether that individual going for medical attention has a disability and thereby they're entitled for an escort or whether they're too young to sign for themselves. That's a different escort.

The fourth policy is the escort has to help out with the... . There's not just one

purpose of the escort, but there are four policies. The individual who is escorting doesn't necessarily have to follow the four policies that are in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I kind of know about the policy and they're all different, but I'm talking about one thing. I'm not talking about if the patient is too young. I'm talking about the elders who cannot speak English. I know the other three.

If the minister can work with me for a few minutes, I just want to get some understanding. Has there been any time when a patient who doesn't speak went down for medical attention? Has there been a case like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): I'm not sure. If he's asking that question, I'm not really sure how to answer the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to your policy, would it be right if I said that an elder who cannot speak English is allowed an escort who doesn't speak English as well? Would I be right if I said that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member does not want to talk about the rest of the four

policies. If we're going to be discussing if the escort is going to be a signatory for their child, they would need to have an interpreter. Even though they both speak only Inuktitut, they could have an escort. The individual doesn't have to speak English. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand, then, that even though the patient doesn't speak English, the patient can have a non-English-speaking escort? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the situation. You're correct. You're understanding that. A unilingual can travel with another unilingual escort, depending on the situation. As an example, if the patient is a unilingual travelling with a unilingual son, daughter, or another patient, may be a mental capacity or any of the other criteria, or the person has to be included in the treatment of the patient, and/or the person has to sign for an under aged patient. That is possible for someone to travel and still need interpretation under different criteria. They're examined separately for each patient. There is no one stream. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are you done? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if it was possible to do this, who has the say that it could be done that way, and they cannot have an escort? Who has the say? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the patient goes to the hospital you have to talk to the directors. If the director does not agree, then you have to talk to the regional director. If that individual is refused an escort, then the deputy minister has the last say, or they can go to the deputy minister if they don't like the decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a patient is going down for medical attention to see a doctor, say for instance, to Iqaluit, who has the say whether that individual who is going to the doctor will have an escort or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut practitioners have to make a recommendation.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you define Nunavut practitioner then?

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): We have interpreters. The doctor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also know that we have

interpreters. I am trying to speak in Inuktitut more for the benefit of the public. The communities have absolutely no say in determining whether the person would have an escort or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Hon. Minister, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): The doctors and nurses can only make recommendations to their supervisors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Are you talking about the head nurse? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): It's not from the community, but from the regional directors in the Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot regions. They all have regional offices and their regional heads are in those offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. If Josephie Enook is going to the hospital, who determines who talks to the regional head? If a person says that they need an escort, who determines whether or not they should have an escort? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): The person that is seen would determine that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you for that clear answer. So the nurse or the person who would see me determines if I need to have an escort, an interpreter, or that person as a support person who would escort me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) They would recommend based on the patient's condition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I understand that it depends on what the patient would need to be seen for. I know the policy is a new one and these must be reviewed. Therefore, while this is going to be reviewed, where are you in terms of reviewing this policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not identified a year yet. We have said that a whole year's cycle has not completed yet, but the end of it would be up to 2018. As long as I have been a minister, it's to be reviewed a year after it has been working. The review will begin in the month of July. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

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

Iqsuktii, can you escort the guests?

Speaker: Item 21. 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 2 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts in the Tuktu Boardroom at ten o'clock.

Orders of the Day for May 28:

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 2
 - Bill 3
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 28, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:49*

