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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
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(Hudson Bay)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**  
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*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. Monica Ell**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy*

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Environment*

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(Arviat South)

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

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(Baker Lake)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Minister of Health; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for Immigration*

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

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk**  
(Netsilik)  
*Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Tuesday, March 10, 2015****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, 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. Alexander 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, Mr. Taptuna.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) our staff and interpreters, welcome to the House.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Government Leader, Mr. Quassa.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 117 – 4(2):  
Minister Absent from the House**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to advise my colleagues that the

(interpretation ends) Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation) will be absent from the House due to illness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize as I can't find my statement here.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize, I will have to find it and make my statement later.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Minister's Statement 118 – 4(2): Pan  
North Territorial Marketing  
Award**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to announce that Nunavut, together with our partners the Northwest Territories and Yukon, have won the Marketing Campaign of the Year Award from the Travel Industry Association of Canada.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this award is given to an organization that has devised and implemented the year's most outstanding tourism marketing campaign or initiative. This year, there were more than 200 nominations. As the chair of the Pan Territorial Marketing Consortium, Nunavut Tourism played an instrumental part in the campaign's success.

Our successful entry was a commercial campaign that ran during the first season of The Amazing Race Canada. In addition, this success should not come as a surprise - Nunavut has been recognized amongst the finalists in three of the past four years.

Mr. Speaker, as our government and all Nunavummiut work to diversify and strengthen our economy, it gives me real pleasure to see our territory standing out among the big players in the tourism industry.

I would ask all members to join me in celebrating this significant achievement and recognize the kudos and positive publicity it brings to tourism in Nunavut and to our beautiful territory.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 119 – 4(2):  
Progress Report on the Northern  
Adult Basic Education Program  
Innarnut Ilinniarniq: Enhancing  
Adult Basic Education in Nunavut**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try it again, my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, it is my pleasure to share with my colleagues the 2012-14 Progress Report on the Northern Adult Basic Education Program that will be tabled later today.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the five-year investment by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency has allowed Nunavut Arctic College to enhance and revamp its Adult Basic Education Program to better serve adult learners by developing and delivering culturally relevant and sustainable programs.

The Northern Adult Basic Education Program Project (NABEP) has developed our Adult Basic Education Essential Skills Program to meet national standards in numeracy and literacy and is helping prepare Nunavummiut to enter the modern workforce.

Mr. Speaker, midway through this exciting initiative, we can already see dramatic impacts in Nunavut classrooms. Communities are offering new adult basic education programs, enrollment has increased dramatically, and adult educators are teaching using integrated teacher resources for Inuktitut language and essential skills development.

Since the start of the program enhancements in the winter of 2012, student enrollments have improved from 103 students to 238 students in 2014, representing a twofold increase. Highlights include the delivery of 48 programs in 20 communities each year, hiring 27 local Inuit instructors to support instruction, as well as contracting 177 elders to work with student learners.

Mr. Speaker, the work accomplished under Northern Adult Basic Education Program funding has been possible because of the dedication of Nunavut



Arctic College staff, students, and our funding partners, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

Nunavut Arctic College continues to work toward enhancing the Adult Basic Education Program in an effort to continue to raise enrollments and completion rates for adult learners so that they may continue with further studies and obtain better jobs in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 120 – 4(2):  
Conservation Officer Conference**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung. (interpretation ends) Conservation officers' conference.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to offer my congratulations to the 30 Department of Environment conservation officers who recently participated in an intensive two-week training conference here in Iqaluit from February 2 until February 12.

(interpretation ends) The annual conference is an opportunity for our officers to refresh their training and learn some new skills. (interpretation) The conference also provides a forum to discuss issues, new trends, and importantly, successes. (interpretation ends) Some of the training courses that were delivered are:

- Environmental Outreach
- Introduction to Law
- Inspections and Investigations; and
- Defensive Tactics

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight another success of this conference. For the first time ever, all of the training was developed and delivered by five of our own officers. I am pleased to share with my colleagues this important step in the capacity building of our conservation staff.

(interpretation ends) I am very proud of the department's officers for their hard work over the past few weeks and am sure that they are returning to their communities excited to apply new skills to their work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 121 – 4(2):  
Nunavut Land Claims Agreement  
and NTI**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced a tentative settlement agreement with Canada concerning the implementation of the 1993 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Mr. Speaker, the details of the settlement are to be disclosed by the parties soon.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate its president, Cathy Towtongie, and Canada on reaching an agreement. We have been working to improve Inuit employment in the public service since 1999. With this agreement, we look forward to working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on an arrangement to support this underfunded sector of our public government.

Mr. Speaker, we want to work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to put in the proper systems and programs to train our Inuit workforce. We want to provide Inuit with the necessary skills through education and training so that they are afforded the same opportunities as all Canadians and are part of a representative workforce in the Government of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 256 – 4(2): New Health Centre for Arctic Bay

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to Nunavummiut as well as all of my colleagues. Good day to my fellow residents of Arctic Bay and my constituents in the High Arctic.

I rise today to speak about a more pleasurable issue to my colleagues. I am quite proud of our predecessors,

especially the MLAs who represented the High Arctic. They represented the region with all of their abilities and fought for infrastructure the communities wanted.

As the representative of the High Arctic, I now understand the dilemma they faced. Nevertheless, this is what I am happy about and I doubt it will suddenly do a 180. I am proud of the municipality in our community, as they are our local government and part of their long-term plans was to implement the capital plans. I am proud of their work.

Mr. Speaker, I was just provided information which made me quite thrilled, and this is about the future community health centre that was debated. When I first sat as the MLA for the High Arctic, I had asked that it be put on a priority list and fought for it. Mr. Speaker, we were informed this morning about an announcement that the construction of the health centre will begin this upcoming summer. It also includes a five-plex that will be built in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am completely proud of this development and I ask all my colleagues to share in my celebration. To analogize, I have scored for the High Arctic as I have obtained the infrastructure that the Inuit of our community wanted built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 257 – 4(2):  
Sanikiluaq's Eiderdown Industry**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Nunavut and the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for the renewal of the Sanikiluaq eiderdown industry.

Mr. Speaker, as members are aware, for a number of years, Sanikiluaq had an active eiderdown industry. However, due to a number of factors, such as fluctuations in international demand and lack of government funding, the industry experienced a slowdown.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform the House that plans to restore the eiderdown industry are underway. Just last week, the Government of Nunavut's Economic Development and Transportation, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, and the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq announced a total contribution of \$175,857 toward this initiative.

>>Applause

I would like to publicly thank Ministers Ell and Aglukkaq, as well as the Mayor of Sanikiluaq, Frank Audla, for their support.

Mr. Speaker, this joint investment from the municipal, territorial, and federal governments is an excellent example of an inter-jurisdictional partnership. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this strategic investment will significantly support the revitalization of Sanikiluaq's eiderdown industry.

Mr. Speaker, this is also an example of an economic development initiative that utilizes a sustainable and renewable resource unique to our territory. It will provide employment opportunities to the people of my constituency as well as warm, high-quality eiderdown products to people across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in acknowledging this excellent investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 258 – 4(2):  
Appreciation of Clyde River's  
Piqqusilirivvik Centre**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express both my pride and sense of accomplishment. As we are aware, Clyde River houses the school that teaches Inuit culture which is called Piqqusilirivvik. I want to express my delight in the residents of Clyde River, as they warmly welcome the students who attend that school from all over Nunavut.

Just recently, students enrolled for classes and there are 23 students from all over Nunavut, with some students from Clyde River itself. The semester will be ending on May 22 this spring. Some of the students are away from their home communities for long periods, as they come from all over Nunavut from 15 different communities. With the eight students from Clyde River, that makes up that class.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to share in this celebration and to extend our gratification to the people of Clyde River, as the students spend quite a lot of time in the community and the residents are very hospitable and welcoming. I ask my colleagues to share in expressing our pride in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will proceed. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my colleagues, my fellow Nunavummiut and residents of Arviat, as well as the people of Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize a visitor from my constituency, specifically from Arviat. I am very pleased that he was able to visit us today. I want to acknowledge this person and ask everyone to share in celebrating his achievements.

Ever since I can remember, he has been constantly involved (interpretation ends) voluntarily (interpretation) of his own accord to help the community. As an example, back in 1979, he was the (interpretation ends) fire chief volunteer (interpretation) from 1979 up to today

and he has led the Arviat fire department for many years.

He is also part of the Arviat search and rescue operations since 1990. As of 2013, he was appointed to the (interpretation ends) Liquor Licensing Board (interpretation) and that is why he is present today, as he had to attend meetings in the role.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize Joseph Kaviork, my fellow Arviat resident who is visiting the gallery today. Please welcome him to the Chambers. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

#### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

##### **Question 420 – 4(2): Employment Equity in the Public Service**

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

The government's annual report on the public service contains important and detailed information regarding the makeup of our territorial workforce. For example, the most recent annual report indicated that the average GN public servant was 44 years old and had approximately seven years of service.

However, one area that we lack information on concerns representation

in the public service by disabled persons. Can the minister tell the House approximately how many disabled persons are currently employed by the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information. I can't tell her how many disabled people are in the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal *Employment Equity Act* recognizes four specific groups: aboriginal people, visible minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. Can the minister explain what measures, if any, are in place to help disabled persons obtain employment with the territorial government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the information from Ms. Angnakak. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is an equal opportunity employer. We don't discriminate against anyone with disabilities if they are qualified for a job. As I said before, the *Public Service Act*, we hire on merit and we promote on merit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try again. On November 4, 2014, the minister tabled the government's new Human Resource Strategy. Can the minister describe what measures are in place to accommodate persons with disabilities who are currently in our workforce? Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, our government is an equal opportunity employer. We hire on merit and promote on merit. All the government department officials are aware that we have a workplace that we want people to enjoy. If there are disabled employees in the department, then the department should make provisions for those disabled employees so that they can work and be productive in their workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. [Oral Questions]. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

#### **Question 421 – 4(2): Gjoa Haven's Swan Lake Bridge Project**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, colleagues, (interpretation) and the residents of Gjoa Haven.

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

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, in 2010, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, through the Community Bridges Project and the Community Access Roads Program, announced that it would “provide the Government of Nunavut with more than \$1.3 million to build and expand community access roads and upgrade or replace community bridges.”

Mr. Speaker, my community of Gjoa Haven was selected to receive and have installed “a new 26-metre Swan Lake bridge.” Although my constituents welcomed this announcement with enthusiasm, the Swan Lake Bridge Project remains incomplete, nearly five years later.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what specific actions her department is taking to complete this much anticipated initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The 2010 project involved federal funds at that time and unfortunately, the funding ran out before the bridges were installed. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is currently looking at how to access funding to complete that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been identified that the community of Gjoa Haven does not have the appropriate equipment capable of moving the structure to the intended site. Will the minister commit to working closely with the municipal government to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. (interpretation) Yes, my departmental officials negotiate with the hamlet administrations to develop the project and to finalize the various details related to the bridge. They are looking at ways to extend the life of the bridge by fixing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal announcement of February 24, 2010 indicated that the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Economic Development and Transportation “will coordinate the work and funding through its existing Community Access Road Program.”

The infrastructure for the Swan Lake bridge was delivered to the community of Gjoa Haven in 2011. However, it has not yet been installed and made operational.

What is the Department of Economic Development and Transportation doing to ensure that the appropriate arrangements are made to properly

coordinate the completion of infrastructure projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The department undertook engineering work in 2014 and currently, the department is looking at available funding sources to construct a bridge for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 422 – 4(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I have a question for the Minister of Environment.

As we all know, there is a moratorium on caribou hunting on Baffin Island. Mr. Speaker, we also know that through the agreement that led to the moratorium, the government has to work with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. After these three have worked together, I believe they are required to determine how things are going to date.

Can the minister indicate to us if he is working with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for asking that question. In compliance with the land claims agreement, this has been an ongoing work in progress with respect to the moratorium on caribou on Baffin Island. We have worked with QWB and NWMB on this issue.

Personally, however, I haven't heard much from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and so I don't know if they have participated in any part of the moratorium. If I understood the question correctly, I haven't heard from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is clearly written in the agreement that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association has to be involved because they are a representative body for Inuit, along with the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.

A lot of people out there are expecting some kind of announcement as it was announced that this moratorium would be in effect until March, when it is expected to be revisited. It states here that the moratorium will be in effect until March.

Can the minister state what involvement Inuit representatives have had or is just uncertain as to whether the moratorium would be dealt with in March or that it

would be lifted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for that question. These organizations were constantly involved, especially NTI as well as NWMB officials. Baffin region wildlife groups have also taken part. We have been working closely with those organizations from the very beginning ever since QWB identified caribou as a major concern.

This week, NWMB is going to be holding hearings here in Iqaluit on the moratorium on caribou hunting on Baffin Island. I heard the QWB chair on the radio and he indicated that in the month of March, the minister will be able to make a decision on the caribou issue. The government itself has never made a statement that the caribou ban will expire in March. The member asked about this issue, so I am grateful that he wanted more detail. That is what I am responding with on the past process for this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would I assume that we can't expect his response this year? Would the response come after his staff has done their work?

As it states in the agreement, the Inuit organizations have to be involved in terms of wildlife management and any

changes to that as outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The support must come from the Inuit organizations with the minister having final say. This is in accordance to changes that are outlined through the land claims agreement.

Are we going to have to wait for their involvement in this process before this ban can be lifted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, in accordance with the NLCA, NTI, NWMB, as well as the Government of Nunavut are collaborating on various wildlife issues, with the current emphasis being caribou management in the Baffin region. With the collaboration of these bodies as per the requirements of the NLCA, the groups also try to work on the requirements listed in the agreement.

At this point, NWMB is following the process laid out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that states that NWMB is the main instrument of wildlife management in Nunavut. As part of this wildlife management process, NWMB is currently holding a public hearing on the Baffin region caribou management issues. I am expecting the results of the public hearing either this spring or this summer, which records the comments voiced at the public hearing. I expect them some time around the summer or spring.



I, too, am expecting the results of the public hearing process that my colleague asked about, and I thank him for clarifying the legal requirements in his question. I certainly hope I answered him properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 423 – 4(2): Status of Medical Transportation Contract**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the fine residents of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, Baker Lake residents often face transportation difficulties in getting to the airport for their medical travel appointments. The Hamlet of Baker Lake has raised a number of concerns in this area.

Can the minister provide an update on when a request for proposals for local medical transportation services for Baker Lake will be tendered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of today, only three communities, namely, Whale Cove, Coral Harbour, and Arctic Bay, have been recognized for the provision of this service by the federal government programs. The federal government

provides funding for ground transportation. To date, only these three communities have been recognized by the federal government. It seems obvious that we will have to revisit this issue and restart our dialogue with the federal government on the list and criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Not everyone in Baker Lake had ready access to a vehicle and it is well known that health centre staff are not able to use their vehicle to transport patients to the airport. Can the minister clearly explain what consideration is being given to providing transportation between the community and the airport to medical clients who need to travel out of the community for appointments or treatment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This requires discussions with the federal government about the other communities that require ground transportation assistance. Yes, we are aware of the need in communities where the runway is quite distant and we know they require assistance. This will require that I urge my officials to review these cases where service is needed so that they can be discussed when we get back to the table with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is important that our government provide all the necessary support to medical clients. Can the minister confirm that a medical transportation contract for Baker Lake will be finalized by the beginning of the new fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier responses, only the three communities have been recognized through this federal government program. We will have to meet with our federal counterparts to discuss these issues. After a meeting with them, we will have a better idea of what we get in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 424 – 4(2): Aviation Program Positions**

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that

her department is eliminating three aviation program positions in Rankin Inlet and Kugluktuk as a consequence of the government's decision to end its agreement with NAV Canada regarding community aerodrome radio station services.

As the minister is aware, a fourth aviation program position in her department is currently located in Pond Inlet. Can the minister assure me and my constituents that this position will not be eliminated and that it will remain in located in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The three matters that I talked about are with respect to those who work in this area and who are the senior management and regional staff. There are also the two positions that we haven't determined what new jobs they will be. As I stated previously, they are being negotiated. With respect to the repurposing of their jobs, it doesn't necessary involve their immediate duties, but other tasks they perform from time to time. They are involved in finding solutions to their job duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully I will get this right in the end. That position in Pond Inlet has not been mentioned at all with the other jobs. Will that position in Pond

Inlet stay there? It hasn't been mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get more information and get back to the member asking about that particular position. Once I have the information, I can provide it to the member. Right now, I don't know which job position he is specifically referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister stated, they are talking to the workers who will lose their positions in Kugluktuk and Rankin Inlet on whether they would be transferred to other duties. What is the status of those talks with those workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague. Those positions were funded by the Canadian government through NAV Canada. I know that one of the workers has agreed to take a job with the NWT government, but the other workers are still being dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 425 – 4(2): Gaps in Homelessness Planning**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question today for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, last June during Committee of the Whole proceedings, I was asking the minister a question regarding what kind of financial resources or human resources are being improved to provide shelter services. At that time, the minister committed that they would be going back to the communities outside of regional centres to hear more from them and assist in identifying any gaps that are considered to be there. I was wondering if the minister would be able to update members on what progress has been made on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for Tasiluk for asking that question. We know that there are only two homeless shelters and they are both in Iqaluit, the Uquutaq shelter for men and the Agvik YWCA for women. One community has approached us about creating or establishing a homeless shelter, the community of Gjoa Haven. There have been discussions, but we have not yet arrived at any decision. 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 information. Part of my question was, through the regional offices, they are going to be exploring gaps from non-centralized communities. I was wondering if the minister could again update me and the other members on what type of work is being done in the smaller communities to deal with the homeless. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Tasiluk for that question. We initiated discussions with the community GLOs on that issue. Interested organizations that want to operate the homeless shelters query the department on how to begin the process of creating a shelter. However, to date, there have been no decisions, but it is being reviewed currently.

When communities request information on the creation of a shelter, they are provided with the Tunngasuvvik policies and procedures to give them a better idea of the steps involved and how to submit proposals for funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the study in 2014 that came up with the amount of I believe it was 90 or 98 true homeless people in Nunavut, it was substantially different from the Nunavut Housing Corporation study that was done in 2010.

One of the issues that have been identified is identifying true homeless or people who have challenges with... . What is the wording I'm looking for here? There is true homeless and then there are people who are at risk of homelessness and people who are couch surfing and staying with family on a short-term basis. The difference between those two numbers was over 1,000 residents of Nunavut.

I'm just wondering: is the department looking at collaborating that information together or if they're looking at doing a further study to identify the homelessness need in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Tasiluk for that question. One of the findings resulting from this review was the fact that any resident can lose their house or they can be evicted. The figure can increase or decrease depending on the person getting accommodations.

However, the social workers try to provide assistance to the locals who are trying to access housing by assisting them to write up applications, reviewing the life situation of the client, and they work together to either apply for housing or if they were evicted.

The people who board at other people's units have been included in the housing corporation's study on housing. The housing corporation is one of the departments we collaborate with on the

actual situations we are facing in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 426 – 4(2): Management of the Public Service**

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

In November of last year, I asked a number of questions to the minister concerning the government's use of casual and relief workers, and I know that casual and relief workers will always have to be used.

At that time, I expressed concerns about the overreliance on the use of casuals and I pointed out the risks that this approach can lead to with respect to nepotism and favouritism in the hiring process.

Can the minister describe what safeguards his department has put into place to prevent nepotism and favouritism in the government's hiring process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for being so diligent in following up on casual employment.

I think we have discussed it enough in this House over the last year that managers, deputy ministers, and other

supervisors are well aware that they must follow the policies. There is the Human Resource Manual. There is the *Public Service Act*. The department can only do so much. We don't have staff sitting on every department being sheriffs. There are rules and processes in place and we expect them to be followed.

If any MLA has any information that there is nepotism or favouritism being shown in the hiring of any government casuals in any government department, then I would be more than pleased to investigate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A specific concern that I have received from many constituents is the practice of hiring individuals on a casual basis for a significant period of time and then opening up their job to competition to be filled as an indeterminate position. Obviously this gives the incumbent a significant and unfair advantage in the hiring process. Is the minister's department working with the hiring department to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the benefits, I guess, of casual employment is it does open up an opportunity for individuals in a community to seek and gain employment. They can learn on the job. The department can provide training, as we point out in our Human Resource

Strategy, to casuals and all government employees.

I wouldn't go as far as to say that we are opening up to hiring casuals just so we can give them the edge in future competitions. It's more of a function of us hiring people with certain skills. They may not have all the skills to fulfill the functions of the position, but at some point, they may and if there is a competition, you would think they would have the advantage.

I must point out too that at certain times and intervals, we don't just hire casuals without the input of the northern employees union. We also require the departments to provide us with an explanation for hiring casuals beyond one year. There are some safeguards in place, but again, we expect the departments to adhere to the established and approved policies. The human resource directives are on the Finance website. Every deputy minister is responsible for what goes on within his or her department.

Again, if the member has knowledge of any eccentricities in the hiring of casuals, then feel free to let me know. I'm more than willing to check into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month, my colleague from Iqaluit-Niaqunngu pointed out that the government's most recent tabled quarterly employment report indicated the GN was employing

over 2,700 casual and relief workers as of June of last year.

Can the minister just explain to us if there is a process where, eventually, the hiring department, if the casual is working to long, is told to advertise the job instead of keeping the casual on there for extended periods? As the minister indicated now, he does not like casuals going on and on. Is there a point where the hiring department can be told to advertise the position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as I mentioned, the departments are expected to justify casual positions going beyond one year. There may be extenuating factors in a community. As an example, there may not be any housing to hire a full-time person in a permanent position. The person fulfilling the duties on a casual basis would have lesser skills, but they can perform certain functions.

There are some casuals on backfill positions, especially if there are employees going on internal transfer assignments for longer than a year. Under an ITA, or internal transfer agreement, the person in that position, with 30 days notice, could go back to their original jobs.

Again, the departments are well aware of the concern about relying too much on casuals. We get the list of long-term employees. If there are casuals who are longer than one year or two years, if they're going up in the range of three,

four, or five years, then there is definitely an issue there and the departments should be making some provisions to staff those positions on an indeterminate basis.

We have the ability as a government and cabinet to direct-appoint people to positions if they meet the minimum qualifications of the job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 427 – 4(2): Promotion of NHC Homeownership Programs**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there can be great benefits to being a homeowner. However, it can be very expensive to maintain one's home. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has a number of good homeownership programs available for eligible Nunavut residents, including the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program and the Home Renovation Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2013-14 annual report indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation spent \$3,553,000 on homeownership programs that year.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate how these important programs are being promoted so that eligible Nunavummiut in all communities are aware of their existence? Thank you, M. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his question. These Nunavut Housing Corporation (interpretation ends) programs (interpretation) are all varied, as there are programs for homeowners amongst others. Now, as to whether they have this information provided, there are various avenues to provide the information, such as through the LHOs.

Alternatively, people can use the regional offices in Nunavut to submit their requests to, such as the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Baffin regional offices. The offices are staffed with various managers looking after these (interpretation ends) programs (interpretation) in the various areas. Our main office and all regional offices are open to these types of information requests about our (interpretation ends) programs (interpretation) and we can provide the information on assistance programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2013-14 annual report also indicates that there were a total of 293 pending and waitlisted applications and 55 declined applications for homeownership programs as of March 31, 2014.

Can the minister explain how the Nunavut Housing Corporation helps waitlisted and declined applicants

reapply for homeownership programs?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the question from the member about how and for what purpose the appeal process is used for determining complaints, the other side to this is what other assistance would be provided if a complaint was lodged against a tenant.

Mr. Speaker, I can't respond today what the reasoning is for denying the applications. I don't have the details surrounding the issue the member was querying about. I don't have the information. Perhaps in the upcoming sitting days, I will have the information the member wanted. I will first do some research to see if the information is available and I will respond later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of situations in Rankin Inlet where individuals have spent thousands of dollars to undertake necessary repairs or improvements to their home. These individuals may have been eligible for assistance under the Nunavut Housing Corporation's program guidelines. However, because they were unaware of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's programs to provide assistance in these areas, they did not apply for help until after the

work had been completed and the money had been spent.

Will the minister commit to reviewing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's policies to allow for appeals of these situations on a case-by-case basis?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking a question on that issue again. Mr. Speaker, based on my earlier response, there are various (interpretation ends) programs (interpretation) to assist private homeowners, including subsidy programs run by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We have regional offices in every region. LHOs can be your avenue to request this information if you don't know what kind of subsidies may be available.

We also have NHC offices offering these different (interpretation ends) programs (interpretation) and the managers looking after the programs are Inuit and some are fluent in the language. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question posed by the member, these offices can be reached to request the various programs offered in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Question 428 – 4(2): Workers  
Working on Iqaluit Airport  
Project**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Last week, my line of questions was related to the Iqaluit airport. I would like to get further information on this issue.

First of all, I would like to ask the minister if she is aware of Nunavummiut who aren't from Iqaluit who are working on the project. That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. The project is through a contract. With respect to numerous employees under the contract, I am not aware of that level of detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) During the Committee of the Whole's review of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2015-16 capital plans, MLAs were informed that an audit of the Arctic Infrastructure Limited Partners' compliance with the provisions of Inuit

engagement in the project was underway and that once complete, the results will be provided to members. I would like to ask the minister if she can indicate when we can expect to receive these results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I answered this very question last week and it's the same answer. The report is being tallied as we speak. It will be completed by the end of the month. I should be able to table something for the spring session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is whether the minister can make a commitment with respect to the (interpretation ends) Arctic Infrastructure Partners (interpretation) so that they can start hiring Inuit in particular from other communities outside Iqaluit, such as Cape Dorset and Kimmirut, as well as other smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have asked for Inuit engagement reports. We don't specify where they are from. If that is the wish of the member, I'm not sure if we can do

that, but I will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 429 – 4(2): Construction of Multilevel Apartments**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

In my constituency community of Arctic Bay, I heard a person speaking on the radio that lodged the idea in my brain which I feel is a good idea related to our housing challenges. I would like the minister to properly inform me if this is impossible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister: when considering housing projects, has your department ever taken into consideration this idea and does your department have an approach for a Nunavut-wide strategy to construct large, multilevel residential buildings, such as apartments? Currently there are no apartments in the communities and I wonder if the department has considered apartments as part of their strategy to face the housing challenges or if there are no plans to this effect.

Hopefully my question is understandable, and I would like my first question to be on whether the department has ever considered apartment buildings to house our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the member's question, I would like to first thank the member for his question. With respect to multilevel residential buildings, such as apartment buildings, if I understood that to be part of his question, to look at multilevel buildings such as those built in the southern cities and actually here in Iqaluit with the high rise, if the member was indeed speaking about buildings such as these apartment buildings, we don't have any plans to construct these types of buildings. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well, I thank the minister for that response as I know this was an unexpected issue.

What I was trying to ascertain here with my reference to apartment buildings wasn't the multilevel apartment buildings, but more like a two-storey building that can house twice as many tenants, two floors, one lower and one higher. This was brought up as a possible solution to house our elders, those without caretakers as there are no overnight workers, but there are daytime caregivers. Due to these reasons, the idea was to have a two-storey building housing the elders on the lower floor and to have their relatives on the higher floor.

Currently, elders with grown children are usually too far away and they prefer having them closer at hand, and when circumstances dictate that our children live on the other side of town, it becomes a lot harder to visit amongst families.

Mr. Speaker, has this ever been considered for a future building of two-storey buildings? I would like to see at least one pilot project to see if it would work here in Nunavut. Has this ever been considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. Mr. Speaker, with the challenge we face with housing shortages here in Nunavut, with thousands of people waiting for housing, we are looking at cheaper options, as well as whether we can make more units following a basic plan and our limited funding.

Mr. Speaker, the units currently under construction as well as past buildings built last year or the year before are part of the current strategy we are following. Perhaps the five-plex units or even the large ten-plex, single-floor units are the ones being built. Mr. Speaker, we plan on constructing more units in this fashion, as it is a fairly cheap design. At this current time, we don't have any other building designs being reviewed such as what my colleague was referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my executive colleague for clarifying that matter to my understanding. Just to continue that example, we are faced with a severe housing shortage in Nunavut. Current buildings in the communities include single-person dwellings. The units are like bachelor units that can only house one person, yet we face housing shortages in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see more options for all future negotiations with the federal government, if the funding is to be continued, to research more building designs that can meet our current needs, such as the two-storey building idea. Will the minister and his officials start reviewing this idea or is the department stuck on that basic design? I would like more information to enable me to understand the issue. 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 very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member again for raising that issue in his question as it is a good question. Mr. Speaker, we try to look at the most beneficial and least expensive option when reviewing the housing issue. We are limited in funding for the housing shortage and we haven't looked at larger buildings or more buildings for that matter.

We are trying to look at all of our options and we have an annual review. The strategy we are working on, the (interpretation ends) Blueprint for Action on Housing, (interpretation) includes these issues as well as the idea the member raised. It will be included in that review as part of our future strategic direction related to housing and for our plans to that effect. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 430 – 4(2): Permanent Social Worker for Repulse Bay**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have raised questions about this issue in past sessions about Repulse Bay's situation. We have a social worker who works part time and is only at the office during certain hours. Currently, we have another worker in the community who will be providing services temporarily.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide details on exactly when the community will have a full-time social worker located in Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for enquiring about that position. With regard to the actual date, I

don't have that information presently, but once my officials have briefed me on the actual date of the Repulse Bay social worker hiring, I can pass that along to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can look into this issue or if she is already aware of what the barriers are to hire a full-time social worker in Repulse Bay. The services are a necessity to many of our residents and they note the lack of services when only temporary social workers are trying to fill the void. What is the reason for the lack of progress in hiring a permanent social worker in Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member as well for asking about the barriers. We aren't really involved in this process and aren't aware of the difficulties associated with hiring a social worker in the community. However, we usually know when a community is having difficulty hiring social workers, as there aren't very many local residents applying for these positions.

We would prefer that local people apply towards these positions or alternatively, to take courses relevant to the vacant position in social services. The courses are offered in Cambridge Bay and the courses now include university designed

courses to ensure we have properly trained workers in our future.

With respect to the actual barriers, we don't have the information written anywhere, but we understand the need to look into this issue. Once I have that information, I will provide it to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Savikataaq.

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

**Committee Report 007 – 4(2): Bill 1, Bill 11, Bill 12, Bill 13, Bill 17, and Bill 19**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that the following bills have been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole:

- Bill 1, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, as amended and reprinted;
- Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Corrections Act*;
- Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*;

- Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*, as amended and reprinted;
- Bill 17, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-2013*; and
- Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 1, Bill 11, Bill 12, Bill 13, Bill 17, and Bill 19 will be placed on the order paper for March 12.

Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) I have some. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 111 – 4(2): Enhancing Adult Education in Nunavut**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table the 2012-14 *Innarnut Ilinniarniq*, Enhancing Adult Education in Nunavut, Progress Report on the Northern Adult Basic Education Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have some.

**Tabled Document 112 – 4(2): Pension Administration Report, March 31, 2014**

*Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Corrections in Nunavut.* (interpretation)  
Thank you.

**Tabled Document 113 – 4(2): Response of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut to the October 29, 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

(interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 020 – 4(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

**Tabled Document 114 – 4(2): Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut on the 2013 General Election and Rankin Inlet South By-election**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 12, 2015, I will move the following motion:

**Tabled Document 115 – 4(2): 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Corrections in Nunavut**

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 2, that when the House concludes its winter 2015 sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 26, 2015.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, members. As required by the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the Pension Administration Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

Also, I wish to table the response of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut to the October 29, 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on the Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts.

**Bill 20 – Legislation Act – Second Reading**

I am also tabling the Chief Electoral Officer's report on the 2013 general election in Nunavut and the subsequent by-election in Rankin Inlet South.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 20, *Legislation Act*, be read for the second time. (interpretation) Thank you.

Finally, I wish to table the 2015 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in

order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 20 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 15, 16, and 18 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 19 – 4(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

(interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 14:59 and Committee resumed at 15:25

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut (interpretation) who are watching or listening to the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 14, 15, 16, and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. We wish to continue with the review of the 2015-16 Main Estimates of the Department of Finance, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and, if time permits, we will commence the review of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the main estimates for the Department of Finance?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Finance – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Is the committee agreed that the minister's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** *Iqsuktii*, please assist the staff to go to the witness table.

Minister, please introduce your staff.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Peter Tumilty, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. General comments. A reminder to members that the contents of the minister's opening comments are covered in the branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, ask them under the appropriate branch. Any comments? I see none. Please turn to page C-4. Finance. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,998,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to the next page. C-5. Branch Summary. Finance.

Policy, Planning and Financial Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,294,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. C-6. Finance. Branch Summary. Internal Audit Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,600,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. C-7. Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$26,303,000. Agreed?

Thank you. Page C-7. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go back to C-7. The government's current collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union expired on September 30, 2014. As of today, what is the status of the collective bargaining with NEU? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Mr. Chairman, Finance and NEU have had a couple of sessions together. We're expecting to go back to a meeting with them in April. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the department's proposed business plan for 2015-18, it indicates

that one of its priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year is to "Negotiate Nunavut Employees Union collective agreement." Does this refer to the current round of bargaining? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq, could you let the minister know what page you are on? Thank you.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you. I should have looked it up first. Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

I just have to find it here in a minute. Just move on to the next person, I guess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My line of questioning concerns the issue of the government's management of sick leave. Let me begin by asking this question: on average, what percentage of the public service is absent from work on any given day due to illness? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Chairman, that's a very difficult question to answer. We don't have that information. We can't estimate on any given day. We just don't have that ability at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That kind of surprises me. Is sick leave tracked? Do you have an idea? You must have some kind of idea.



Is it 10 percent? 50 percent? Can you give us a rough estimate on how many people, on average, are absent from work on any given day due to illness? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Chairman, there's no secret that there is a lot of absenteeism in the public sector. We do offer generous sick leave benefits, I think up to 15 days per year. The sick leave is calculated on an individual basis and I believe we aggregate it at the end of the year. Part of our plan for this upcoming fiscal year is to implement a leave and attendance module in our ePersonality program which would give us more capabilities to calculate that kind of data for Ms. Angnakak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me go on to my next question. Approximately how many GN employees are currently on some form of long-term leave due to illness or disability? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We didn't bring that level of detailed information. If Ms. Angnakak wants it, we can get it. We just didn't bring it here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would be very nice if we could get that information.

As the minister is very aware the federal government is currently trying to make fundamental changes to the sick leave system for the federal public service. Although I am not expert, of course, on any of these details, it is of my understanding that the federal government wants to move away from the concept of bankable sick days to short- and long-term disability provisions. Is our government looking at also moving in this direction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for that question. I have been following the federal government's initiative with great interest over the year to see how it's progressing, but I can tell Ms. Angnakak that the Government of Nunavut has no plans at this time to follow in a similar direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us why they decided not to follow the same suit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. It is an issue or initiative that hasn't come up on our radar. We are focused on other areas. That has not

been an issue for us at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go back to the sick leave. I've had a couple of constituents approach me to discuss the issue of sick leave. I'm sure that the minister has also constituents who face the same situation where people exhaust all of their sick leave credits due to long-term illness. Although disability insurance helps to protect incomes, it's not always sufficient.

One suggestion that I have heard from a number of constituents is to allow employees who have the good fortune to be in good health to be able to transfer some of their sick leave credits to other employees who are not so fortunate. It is my understanding that some employers in North America allow this. Is this an idea that the minister would be open to exploring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak again for that interesting question. Mr. Chairman, it's the first time I have heard of such a thing where an employee in good health at maybe 400 days can start transferring his or her sick leave credits to other employees. We have to do a lot more research before we could even comment with any intelligence on that item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to encourage the minister to look into that. It might be a new way of doing things. With the way people get their health care here, a lot of people have to go away long term, like if they have cancer or some of those things that take a long time. It might be a way of helping those employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all for me.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, we have to do some more research before we could even comment or consider something like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to start off with hopefully an easy one for the minister. When will the 2013-14 Public Service Annual Report be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the easy question. It's ready to be tabled anytime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify from the minister's response, will that be tabled before the end of this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move over and I'm sure the minister was paying attention when I was asking the Minister of Family Services yesterday regarding summer student employment and linking academic studies to job placements for summer students. I was wondering if the minister had anything to add from Minister Ugyuk's comments yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Chairman, I think it's a good discussion topic for Mr. Hickes to follow up on.

In our Human Resource Strategy we tabled last fall, we did state in there that we want to encourage summer students to work in our various departments and public agencies. We were very successful last year. I think we had over 200 summer students working across Nunavut in, I think, 18 communities, so we're hoping to expand it to other communities.

We encourage departments to develop work plans for summer students so that they can work in areas that they may pursue in their post-secondary careers, whether they go to college or university or tech schools. We obviously hope that when the students graduate from post-secondary, they will come back and

choose the Government of Nunavut as their employer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before I go back to you, Mr. Hickes, I would like to welcome Mr. Daniel Shewchuk to the House.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, former Minister Shewchuk.

I would like to stay with the summer student employment theme. In the business plan on page 28, the third bullet speaks to expanding "student employment opportunities for students in non-decentralized communities." What specific actions are being considered to accomplish this goal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes again. We have identified the communities where students have not been hired over the last several years. We are making efforts to contact the hamlets and representatives of the hamlet councils and the SAOs. We are talking to departments to see if they have offices in these smaller communities where they can place students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the minister's department officials considered providing a wage subsidy to

private enterprise to hire summer students? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something we would consider if other attempts to hire through hamlets and through our GN offices in the communities are unsuccessful. Obviously our main focus is on public sector experience, training, and work. We hope that with our GLOs and other representatives in the communities, we can raise the profile of the summer student program there, but if it's unsuccessful, then we may consider subsidies for private sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Just to go a little step further from that response, how will you measure success for one, and what kind of timeframe would you be giving your department officials to decide whether further steps are necessary to encourage summer employment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. I believe the summer student program runs from the middle of April until the end of August. A lot will depend on the numbers of applications that come in from the different communities to our regional offices and to the Iqaluit office here. We will see early on what the trend is and feedback from the communities and then we can

make early decisions on other considerations for the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing some progress on that file. Speaking from experience, I gained some invaluable work experience through summer student programs in another jurisdiction that did provide a wage subsidy to private enterprise.

I would like to go back to the public service annual report. The latest one tabled in 2012-13 indicates that the turnover rate government-wide is approximately 11 percent. I know the minister and I have had numerous discussions on exit surveys and interviews. According to the information provided by departing employees when they complete these exit surveys and interviews, what are the main reasons people leave the Government of Nunavut employment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Yes, Mr. Hickes and I have had those conversations. I think it's on our Human Resource Manual and it's on the website. At the current time, exit surveys are not mandatory; they are voluntary, so individuals do not need to fill them out. We would encourage them to fill them out. I have asked my deputy minister and our HR officials to start "breathing new life" into the program, asking individuals to consider filling out the surveys, providing feedback to us so that we can help future employees in

terms of making change that would improve our workplaces. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister or his department consider making exit interviews mandatory to people departing the public service? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not going to make it mandatory. We don't feel that we should force people to fill them out. There is no compelling reason for a person leaving the government to fill them out, but what we do plan to do is make sure that everybody has the knowledge and the awareness that they can complete exit surveys. If we raise that with them or provide that information to them, then perhaps we will get more exit surveys completed by departing employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question for the minister then is, not all employees would be encouraged to fill out an exit interview, depending upon the reason of them departing employment with the Government of Nunavut. What type of education or strategy does the department have to make sure that all departing employees are notified that they have that option to provide an exit survey to assist the HR function of this government to alleviate the turnover rate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In every department, there is an individual who is assigned certain human resource functions. As the Department of Finance, we're what I like to call the big HR. Within each department and public agency, there are people who have HR responsibilities. They, I would hope, would be the people who make sure that the information is provided to departing employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'm sure we will be having further conversations down the road on this topic.

I would like to jump over to the implementation of the ethics officer and the wrongdoing provisions of the *Public Service Act*. In the minister's opening comments, he stated that the position has been filled and the person will be coming to Iqaluit next week to meet with the minister and some of the MLAs. What is the first order of business for the ethics officer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say that the first order of business for the ethics officer is, by virtue of him coming to Iqaluit next week, to get some orientation here in Iqaluit and talk to my senior officials in the Department of Finance, and then talk to other deputies and meet the ministers and MLAs. That would certainly be the

first order of business, and then I'm sure he will familiarize himself with a number of other areas, including the emphasis on IQ (Inuit traditional knowledge), collective agreements, our Human Resource Manual, and all sorts of things that an ethics officer should be aware of when they take on that job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to switch gears over to the management of GN financial processes. In my opening comments, I spoke to grants and contributions and the lack of detail that I and other members have raised under the grants and contributions annual report that is filed. Some of the funds are going to corporate entities and for-profit organizations, with little to no information on what the grant or contribution is to achieve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Department of Finance, when preparing the report for tabling, our responsibility is to take the information that is provided by the departments and then put it in the report and table it. We certainly encourage the departments to provide us with more detail that spells out what the funds are used for and then we can table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand that you're taking information in from other departments, but as the central agency, you dictate the

parameters of information that you receive. My question to the minister is: will you be directing other departments to provide further information under the grants and contributions category? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Chairman, we have to be careful with how much level of detail we want in reports. Now, I'm not sure what information Mr. Hickes wants, but if we start dictating the information to be in reports, we could have some very thick, heavy reports. I have to be absolutely clear on what information Mr. Hickes would like us to include in the report and then we could consider it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure my colleagues and I can get back to the minister with a little bit more of a detailed request. In general, when we're voting on these budgets and, as the minister has said in the past, you want to see value for investment, and if we don't know what these funds were intended to do, it is hard for us to gauge the value received. Maybe if the minister could just elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with Mr. Hickes. We do want to know if we receive value for funds given between organizations and businesses and of course, we compile the report on who has received the funds.

Mr. Hickes and his colleagues always have the opportunity on a micro level to ask individual ministers for that detailed information if they wish. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go back to my original question about the collective agreement on page 28 of your business plan. One of the priorities for 2017-18 at the very last bullet says, "Negotiate Nunavut Employees Union collective agreement." I was just wondering if you mean that you anticipate not completing the current one you're negotiating until then. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. I'm more optimistic than I sometimes let on.

We're negotiating a collective agreement now. As I said, we've only had a couple sessions. We're hopeful that we will have some good, productive negotiations and that we will have a collective agreement. A lot depends on the length of the contract, whether it is two years, three years, or four years. That priority may change in the business plan next year or the year after, depending on what agreement we eventually settle at and at what length. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The question was coming from Mr. Savikataaq, not Mr. Hickes. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity then, you're

talking about the next collective agreement on 2017-18. I didn't quite hear an answer and I'm not sure if you're talking about this current negotiation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to Mr. Savikataaq for calling him Mr. Hickes earlier. I'm a little foggy down here.

We're talking 2017-18 that would be the next collective agreement, not this one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on a completely different matter that my counterpart, Ms. Angnakak, brought up about sick leave when she brought up where you can transfer from a healthy to a non-healthy person, I would like to come at this in a different way.

Like the minister said, you have a generous sick leave benefits package, and it is generous, so I think the minister would agree with me saying that there is some abuse of sick leave and there is a good chance of abuse.

Is there any consideration to putting a value on sick leave when you leave the public service, not a full day's value, but a value on the sick leave so that if you left the public service with a huge amount of sick leave, you can get paid out for a portion of it? I believe that if you put a value on it, then the chance of it getting abused should be less because there's a value.

Currently, right now, there is no real value for anyone not to use them. When you leave the public service, they're just gone. A lot of people just want to use them up like holidays and just use them up while the sick leave is available and while they're there. Are there any plans to put a value on sick leave when leaving the public service? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. I understand clearly where he is coming from. I know there are many Government of Nunavut employees and other employees across Canada who can work for decades and build up 300 or 400 or 500 sick days. With respect to the Government of Nunavut, it's not something that we have considered and it's not something we are considering at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think other jurisdictions may have something like that. Is there any particular reason why it is not even being considered? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Mr. Chairman, there is no particular reason why it's not being considered. It is just that we are not considering it. We have many other areas in HR that we are dealing with and banking sick leave and paying it out is not something that is high in our priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his candid answer and that is all I have. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and his officials. I believe this is under C-7. I asked the minister last week on medical travel leave for GN employees. At the time, I think there might have been a slight misunderstanding because I didn't ask him to change the current provisions of the Public Service Regulations or the collective agreement, but I asked him if he can review the government's current interpretation and administration of those provisions pertaining to medical travel leave for GN employees. I'm wondering if he can elaborate more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I'm not sure what the misinterpretation might have been. It says in the Public Service Regulations that you have up to four medical travel days to travel to another community for treatment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To go on further to that, there might be employees that use up all of that in a week or two depending on how far they live outside of where they are



travelling to, the hospital or the doctor they are visiting.

As I mentioned in my question to the minister, there have been cases where some employees have to end up using up or they have to claim special leave or other different means of trying to make ends meet. They end up using their sick leave up or in extreme cases, they take leave without pay. I'm just trying to emphasize to the minister that maybe you can look more into this issue on behalf of the public service. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for expressing his concern about the program. As the Department of Finance, we work within the rules. The rules are up to four days. As Mr. Joanasie clearly stated, there are sick days, special leave, and leave without pay. We can look into specific instances if Mr. Joanasie wishes and see if it was fair or not.

I hate to say this, but the rules are the rules and that's why we have the *Public Service Act*, Public Service Regulations, we have a collective agreement signed between the NEU and the Government of Nunavut, and then we have the Human Resource Manual. There are all kinds of rules and processes so that people can understand their rights and the employer understands what they are required to do and their responsibilities to the employees. I don't know if I can say much more than that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move along to a different topic, this summer's employment opportunities for students. According to the business plan on page 28, the third bullet, it says they are expanding "student employment opportunities for students in non-decentralized communities." Have they started identifying which communities that might have summer students? I'm not sure if that has already been answered. Can you clarify? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for that question. There were 18 communities last year that participated in the summer student program. That means there are seven that didn't. I thought I had that list here with me. Unfortunately, I can't bring in all the paper that I need here. We are going to work very hard to encourage other communities that didn't participate to see if we can get some employment in those communities.

Officials brought the list. We do have the list here. I've got the list of the 18 communities, but I don't have a list of the seven communities that didn't. We are going to approach all the communities to ensure that they have an opportunity to create some employment for summer students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just advocating on behalf of my constituents in Kimmirut. As a non-decentralized community, if they

are not on that list, please add them on that list. I'm out. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for pointing that out. Kimmirut had one student and Cape Dorset had five. It was a very successful program last year.

I'll run some numbers by you folks. There was \$4.2 million in student salaries last summer. There were 206 students employed in the 18 communities and 172 were beneficiaries. Our budget from the Department of Finance was \$950,000, so that means the departments used their own resources to pay the balance of that. The \$4.2 million includes overtime earnings, northern living allowance, employer costs, and bilingual [bonuses]. There were 347 eligible applications last year, but only 206 summer students were hired. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on page C-7. Branch Summary. Finance. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page C-7, I just want to get a clarification so that Nunavummiut can have the same level of understanding because I represent the public out there. Nunavummiut feel it's important that regular people can start working within the government.

Let me ask this question. We hear various issues about some people getting a job or being hired and we hear about nepotism. I'm sure that you have heard about that, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Why is that the

case? Why is this happening? Is it because the department staff are lacking on the compliance part or is it the departments knowingly doing that? How come it is that way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated previously, the *Public Service Act* is quite clear that you're hired on merit and promoted on merit. If there is a competition in a community for a particular job, relatives are not supposed to participate in the recruitment. It is quite clear there.

The Human Resource Manual outlines all the criteria for hiring casuals, relief workers, and indeterminate employees. It is all spelled out very clearly. The code of values also is quite clear on nepotism and favoritism. Individual departments are responsible for ensuring that their directors, managers, and others who are in charge of hiring follow those rules. The deputy ministers should absolutely be certain of them.

As the Department of Finance, on the occasions when we're notified that there have been some possible breaches, the deputy minister should not be fighting us. They should be working with us to ensure that there is compliance to the rules. We're not the bad guys here. We're just trying to make sure that they follow the rules. We believe strongly in a fair and transparent process. If everybody follows the rules, then we shouldn't have a lot of questions in the House from yourself and your

colleagues about nepotism and favoritism.

I don't know how to be much clearer. There are the rules, the deputy ministers absolutely should know them, and it should be raised at senior management committee meetings internally to ensure that all the assistant deputy ministers, directors, and other managers are well aware of the rules.

On occasion, when the Department of Finance is brought in to investigate, we should not be confronted with threats and intimidation. I can assure the member that there are senior officials in this government who threaten my officials on a regular basis because they think we are trying to do something to overturn decisions that they made, but that's our job. We're there to make sure the rules are followed so that it's a fair, transparent, and accountable process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand clearly what you said and I understand everything and felt what you just said. However, many deputy ministers, directors, or managers don't seem to be following the regulations or policies. That is why we keep hearing all these unpleasant comments. What would happen if somebody didn't follow any of the policies or regulations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Through the competitive

process, we have more oversight on competitions to ensure that the rules are followed.

We have less oversight on CSAs, or casual service agreements. That's where you hire casual employees. We're relying quite a bit on the integrity of the individuals in the departments who are the hiring officials. As I was answering a question earlier today, if any CSAs come to our attention over a year long, then we should absolutely seek justification from the employing department and we will investigate those.

If any MLA has any information on possible breaches of hiring for casual employees, for example, please let us know. I'm pretty certain, on the competitive hiring process where you apply on the job, there's a whole complicated process in terms of the job descriptions, putting the ads out, screening, and the Department of Finance participates in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nonetheless, the situation is aggravated when residents are informed after the fact and there's nothing to be done about it. The person in question is now a permanent employee and so this breach of the rules can't be corrected.

Many times we get misinformed about bad news, especially when we get them too late.

Let me then ask this other question. For approximately the last two years or a bit longer, the current casual hiring process

has been used. I believe it was a new policy from a year and a half ago that was implemented. From that period to now, has the system produced better results? With each department now conducting its own hiring of their departmental positions, has the hiring of Inuit improved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. We believe it's getting better. There's more rigour and consistency in human resources. We are providing more insight as the Department of Finance and ensuring that human resource coordinators and other officials in departments are well aware of their obligations. People are listening and people are observing debates such as this on the television and the radio.

We direct officials to the appropriate directives in the Human Resource Manual. I believe it's improving. When we took on human resource functions a couple of years ago, I was under no illusion that we're going to turn things around overnight. It does take time for rigour and consistency to make its way through the system, but I believe it's getting better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When your department is aware of breaches of this hiring practice and process, either by notification or information provided by members, when the department conducts an investigation and sees that a certain department has

bypassed these legal requirements applicable to them, can your department reverse their decisions or if you find a certain employee is the responsible person who broke the law, can you fire them? Does your department have that level of authority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Again, within our Department of Finance, we follow the rules very consistently and ensure that the competitive process is done fairly. We feel that a lot of delays in job offers going out to individuals are because people appeal them. We ensure that everybody has their appeal rights.

When it comes to the casuals, it is very difficult for us in terms of punishing the individuals in another department. We will advise the deputy minister of breaches and recommended punishments and it would be up to the deputy minister to consider those. As the Department of Finance, we can't go into another department and fire people. It's up to the individual departments how they proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps now is the proper time to enact the authority so that your department can start removing public servants who are breaching these legal requirements. I want to see your department terminate any position found to be breaking the laws.

Alternatively, does this mean this government has to start deliberating on reversing the departmental HR positions and have one Department of Human Resources with that capability and not have the departmental positions? When you try to question the employees who make these decisions or request information, all you get is a brick wall of silence.

Perhaps if a singular position was created that is solely responsible for all human resource decisions in all departments to mitigate this breach of trust, is this something our government should be revisiting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. If there is an individual in a particular department that has seriously breached the rules, it is possible that we bring that to the attention of the officials in that department. I don't see any reason why that person couldn't be dismissed. We would have to consider all the legal implications that that would entail. There is nothing to say that you couldn't remove an employee for failing to comply with the duties of their job and the policies and directives of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, these are the types of situations I was referring to. I just want to ensure that the

(interpretation ends) Hon. Minister (interpretation) is fully aware of the fact that I believe every MLA wants to ensure our legislation is being complied with, the existing laws we have to follow.

We wish to give you the benefit of the doubt and let you have the opportunity to put a stop to these kinds of abuses. It is especially counterproductive when as Nunavummiut, the jobs we could have been hired for are given to outsiders who are flown in from elsewhere.

Even when I first sat as the MLA, I received correspondence outlining that this department brought in a non-resident to work in a casual position, all the way from the southern locales. We hear of many cases of nepotism and breaches of trust by civil servants. That is deplorable.

Let me ask this other question which is based on an actual experience I went through and I believe I raised the issue in one of my questions. I just want further explanation on how a permanent government employee is required to be seconded to another position and the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister (interpretation) is aware of this situation. How long can secondments last where an employee is fulfilling those duties before his or her original position is declared vacant?

I can provide further background on this issue, but since I have raised this question previously, I am sure the minister is aware of the facts pertinent to this case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate Mr. Enook's support. Under the *Public Service Act* which I am responsible for, myself and my officials have some broad powers or specific powers to do certain things if there is non-compliance to our hiring practices.

With respect to how long a person could be away from their job, it would depend on the particular situation. If there is an individual who needs to be in another community for three months or six months working for another department, that could be an internal transfer assignment up to three years. If it's a secondment for a specific time because only they have the knowledge or information to do that job, it could be a set time.

If an individual is, say, living in Cambridge Bay and going over to Gjoa Haven for an extended period of time, I'm just using Kitikmeot communities as an example, the maximum amount of time that they could have a claim in a hotel, for example, would be 25 days and then they would have to find other alternate accommodation. It wouldn't be on per diems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This may be my last question. As regular MLAs, if we want to talk about a particular employee or if we have a concern, would it be better to go directly to your office or to a place where this person is working? I would like to make sure we all fully understand that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the opportunity to answer that question. I would recommend that you come directly to me rather than go to the individuals in the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions will be on business plan page 28, some of my colleagues did ask, but on that very page, the third bullet regarding summer students. Seeing that Baker Lake is a decentralized community, would the minister be able to provide me information if there were summer student employment the past year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. In Baker Lake, there were ten summer students employed last year, one with Environment, three with Community and Government Services, and six with the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that there are other government departments within the community of Baker Lake. Will those other government departments also be pursued in reference to summer students? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to Mr. Mikkungwak for that question. Mr. Chairman, all government departments are encouraged to submit applications to our summer student program. Whatever other departments are in Baker Lake, we certainly encourage them to consider summer student employment in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving along on that same page again under Priorities (2016-17), the third bullet, "Undertake a formal review of workplace health and safety including WSCC compliance," would that be related to government infrastructure buildings or government-funded infrastructure buildings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. We're referring to our employees and our workplace buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What happens to other organizations that haven't been inspected by a WSCC officer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Chairman, other organizations would be responsible for

their employees and for their facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recall that there was a WSCC officer that visited the community of Baker Lake and did some inspections to various buildings within the community. There were some buildings that did not meet the National Building Code. Would that report be provided to your department, even though they are not under government departments, but may be, for example, under the Nunavut Housing Corporation or Hamlet of Baker Lake buildings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. I just so happen to be the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. If Mr. Mikkungwak can provide me with more information, it's something I can take up with WSCC and get back to him with that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$26,303,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page C-8. Finance. Branch Summary. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I may just have one question

here, but last year, I brought up some discussion on the Fuel Tax Rebate Program and the amount of dollars that were actually going to harvesters or tourism or quarrying practices, which was very miniscule in comparison to mining companies.

One of the commitments that are listed in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 reports was that that was acknowledged and that the department was going to be looking at ways to improve the program used by traditional activities. I realize the 2014-15 report isn't out yet, but I'm wondering if maybe the minister has some information on how the uptake of traditional activities has been on this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. I recall him asking me about it last year, last October maybe.

The uptake for harvesters and outfitters has not been very good over the years. I'm looking at the numbers here.

In 2014-15, seven applications were received and we paid \$715. In 2013-14, there were three applications received and we paid \$404. The bulk of the funding that is rebated under this program goes to mining companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's kind of exactly my point. It also states in that report that it has been several years since the GN has actively promoted the fuel tax rebate to

harvesters, which, in the report, is a contributing factor for the decline in applications. It states that information was going to be sent to previous recipients of this rebate. I believe that, if I recall correctly, the minister was going to take a look at an awareness campaign across the territory to help initiate more uptake of this program by traditional activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have sent that information to all the HTOs, all the government liaison officers that are in the communities, and to past applicants. There should be very few instances where a harvester would not be aware of the information, especially if you're the HTO. Most people in the community are hunters and harvesters or members of the HTO, so that information should be available to them there. We certainly have the GLOs and if you applied in the past, even though there have only been seven last year and three the year before, you will get that information or they will remind harvesters that that program is available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that commitment from the minister to revisit those organizations to bring forward the information. I was just thinking while he was speaking that it might be worth consulting with your counterpart, the Minister of Environment, of other sources of information that might be available to get out to consumers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.



**Chairman:** Just a comment? Okay. We are on Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just out of curiosity, Employee Benefits, it says there is \$23,752,000 allocated for the 2015-16 year and it lists the different type of programs under that. There is the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, relocation, medical travel, and other benefits. Out of curiosity, are we able to get a bit more of a breakdown of the \$23 million or give us what the top three items are under this branch? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I believe, if memory serves me, medical travel, for example, would be \$13,150,000, relocation would be \$1,100,000, WSCC premiums would be \$3,778,000, and sick leave accrual would be \$3 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response, minister and his officials. I was just curious, so I wanted to ask that.

Moving on to the Nunavut Child Benefit, has this been \$2,055,000 for...? Can you give us an idea of what more this program is about, and if there are any plans on moving like in the next year or two? Is there any idea if there are any changes or can you just give us an

overview about this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. It is a tax refund from the Government of Canada and then we get invoiced for it. We haven't considered increasing the amount. It has been \$2,055,000 for a while, I believe. It's a non-taxable amount paid monthly to qualifying families with children under 18 years of age which is fully funded by the Government of Nunavut. The Government of Canada processes it and then we remit the funds to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie, are you done? Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 29 of the business plan, my question will be in reference to the Energy Subsidies. In that particular section, it names off, "...residential customers to encourage private home ownership and to small commercial enterprises..."

When I look at Energy Subsidies, when you look at the budget in that area, would that include the fuel subsidy that was occurring across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. No, this would be a subsidy we would pay directly to QEC or the

small businesses directly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that paragraph, it says, "Energy Subsidies provide equitable power rates throughout Nunavut to residential customers to encourage private home ownership and to small commercial enterprises to support the development of local business." How does private homeownership fall into the picture? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Private homeownership falls into the benefits. I believe the subsidy is up to the first 700 kilowatt hours on your monthly bill, so that keeps the power low. If there were no subsidies, your power bill would be quite high. That's a little bit of a benefit that we provide to the private homeowners, 1,000 kilowatt hours in the wintertime, 700 when it's not winter and 1,000 when it's cold out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$52,050,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Back to C-3. Department Summary. Finance. Detail of Expenditures. Total. Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$91,245,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded this department?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister, closing comments?

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you and your committee for your good questions today. My officials and our staff in our departments across Nunavut will ensure that we follow up on some of the areas that you wish us to follow up on, particularly the summer student program. It's coming up shortly and that's going to be beneficial.

Your questions today allowed me the opportunity to make some statements to our public sector out there, the deputies and other officials, that it's very important that there should be rigour and consistency in employment across Nunavut. Accountability is important. I believe that you will continue to ask us those kinds of questions until we make some serious improvements. I appreciate the questions.

If you, Mr. Chairman, or your colleagues have issues or hear of instances where the human resources is suspect, please let me know and we will look into it right away.

I would like to thank my officials who were here with me today, Mr. D'Arcy and Mr. Tumilty. I would also like to recognize over in the gallery Christine Bens. She used to work in the Department of Justice, so we are very

pleased that she came to work for us in corporate services in Finance.

I would also like to personally acknowledge our Comptroller General, Jeff Chown, who does a lot of work to ensure that the human resource side is put together.

I would just like to thank all the departments for all of their participation in putting this year's main estimates together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you to you and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

We will take a five-minute break in order to set up. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 16:46 and resumed at 16:58*

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you and welcome back. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation if she has officials that she would like to appear before the committee.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Pauloosie Suvega, my Deputy Minister, and to my left is Jim Stevens, Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to appear before the Committee of the Whole to present the 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The budget we are reviewing today is for grants and contributions, compensation and benefits, and other expenses. The total budget I am proposing for the 2015-16 fiscal year is \$68,101,000. This is an increase of \$7,419,000 over the budget for 2014-15, which will help us manage Nunavut's transportation system and support the development of Nunavut's economy.

The budget increase comes in three separate areas:

1. The first is an increase in our support for Tourism and Cultural Industries totalling \$3.8 million;
2. The second is a scheduled increase in the operations and maintenance budget of the Iqaluit International Airport and totals \$2.6 million; and

3. The third is an increase of \$1 million in our funding to community transportation projects.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is committed to acting on the *Sivumut Abluqta* priority to foster economic growth through responsible development across all sectors through the following actions:

- Ensuring the application of sound regulatory processes to attract and manage responsible resource development;
- Encouraging and supporting economic development initiatives that build on and add value to identified areas of potential, including the arts and tourism sectors;
- Promoting entrepreneurship and business development by simplifying rules and making it easy for small business to comply; and
- Supporting the development of current and future Nunavut artists in all media to produce high-quality work and to market their work across Canada and around the world.

The department's budget will help the Government of Nunavut fulfill these commitments.

The increased support we propose for Tourism and Cultural Industries includes \$1,550,000 for contributions to community-based projects through a revived Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program. Hamlets and local organizations engaged in the

arts and crafts or tourism sectors will be able to access this money to carry out their own priority projects.

Another \$1,661,000 is budgeted to support organizations with important sector development mandates, namely, Nunavut Tourism, Nunavut Film, and the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association.

An additional \$620,000 is budgeted to increase the capacity of the department's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division, which has an important role in guiding the development of both the tourism sector and the cultural industries. The division also has a role in the regulation of tourism operators, and this increase will help fulfill this role.

Consistent with *Sivumut Abluqta*, these investments will help the department and our partners build on and add value to identified areas of potential, particularly the arts and tourism sectors. Similarly, these investments will support the development of current and future Nunavut artists working in all media.

For the Iqaluit International Airport, the proposed increase stems directly from a scheduled increase in the annual service payment and is part of the P3 project plan. It is important to emphasize that the O&M annual service payment is separate from the capital payment.

The airport project is proceeding on budget and on schedule, and airport operations are now being carried out by the private partner. We are satisfied with the performance of the airport operator and maintainer, Nunavut Airport Services Limited.

While airport operations are now performed by the private partner, the department still needs to retain enough internal capacity to manage those responsibilities which have not been transferred to the private partner. This includes management of responsibilities, such as commercial development and leases on airport land, collection of aeronautical fees, and oversight of the project agreement provisions dealing with Inuit participation in employment and contracting opportunities.

The additional \$1 million for community transportation projects will allow us to broaden the scope of the popular Community Access Roads Program and to include marine infrastructure projects in the program eligibility. The new program will be called the Community Transportation Initiatives Program and it will be delivered using the same process as the access roads program. At the same time, we will maintain the \$500,000 Small Craft Harbour Program within our capital budget.

*Sivumut Abluqta* commits us to supporting local economic development initiatives that build on and add value to areas of potential identified by communities. Many communities have made it clear that their local economic initiatives, whether they are tourism-related, mineral exploration, or in the fisheries, are dependent on investments in the transportation infrastructure that connects communities to resources and opportunities.

This new funding doubles the funding available for local access road and marine projects across Nunavut. We are pleased to help communities realize their visions.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I believe I did not go through a part of my prepared speech here. It was in the first part of my presentation.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is committed to acting on the *Sivumut Abluqta* priority to foster economic growth through responsible development across all sectors through the following actions:

- Ensuring the application of sound regulatory processes to attract and manage responsible resource development;
- Encouraging and supporting economic development initiatives that build on and add value to identified areas of potential, including the arts and tourism sectors;
- Promoting entrepreneurship and business development by simplifying rules and making it easy for small businesses to comply; and finally
- Supporting the development of current and future Nunavut artists in all media to produce high-quality work and to market their work across Canada and around the world.

The department's budget will help the Government of Nunavut fulfill these commitments.

Besides the areas I have mentioned, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is also continuing to make progress on a number of important files. I would like to highlight a handful of these.

- i. Firstly, the renewal of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy is nearing completion. A draft strategy is currently being reviewed by members of the Nunavut Economic Forum.
- ii. Renewal of the NNI Policy continues, in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. This work is on track for completion and we are hopeful that this will be early in 2015-16.
- iii. We will continue to improve driver's licence and vehicle registration services to Nunavummiut while also increasing safety through vehicle inspections and public awareness.
- iv. Last but not least, we will encourage the responsible development of our territory's mineral resources. This is an important moment in Nunavut's development, with several mining projects at or approaching important milestones. We will be focusing on helping Nunavut's communities, business, and workers take advantage of the many opportunities that are emerging.

Mr. Chairman, the main estimates and business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for 2015-16 reflect the department's mandate to develop Nunavut's economy and maintain and improve Nunavut's transportation system. This budget will allow the department to fulfill its commitments under *Sivumut Abluqta*.

I would be happy to respond to any of my colleagues' questions on the department's 2015-16 main estimates

and business plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget of \$68,101,000 has increased by 12.22 percent since the introduction of the department's 2014-15 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 141 for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The department's 2015-16 business plan indicates that a priority for the 2014-15 fiscal year has been to work toward the release of a new Nunavut Economic Development Strategy. The standing committee recognizes that the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy reached the end of its ten-year life in 2013. The standing committee looks forward to the launch of the new strategy in the 2015 calendar year.

The department's 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year has been to "draft a renewed policy to implement Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, implementing the changes identified in the 2012-2013 comprehensive review of the NNI Policy."

The department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that the "First draft of the NNI Policy has been completed" and that "on December 4, 2014 an MOU was signed between the GN and NTI for working towards a renewal of the NNI Policy."

Mr. Chairman, a number of concerns have been raised in the Legislative Assembly regarding issues related to the government's contracting and procurement practices, including the question of whether the current Contracting Appeals Board should be replaced with a new body that has a broader mandate to hear appeals of government contract awards based on evaluative factors beyond simply the application of the NNI Policy.

The standing committee supports the fundamental objectives of the NNI Policy which are, "Good Value and Fair Competition, Strengthening the Nunavut Economy, Inuit Participation and Nunavut Education and Training." The standing committee is concerned about the issue of incentives and penalties regarding compliance with Inuit employment and training targets. During the minister's recent appearance, members raised a number of concerns related to this issue.

Another ongoing issue regarding the NNI Policy relates to the contracting and

procurement activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The Qulliq Energy Corporation has argued that it is not bound by Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This issue was raised in the 2012 External Review of the NNI Policy and has been raised in this House on many occasions.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is looking forward to the tabling of the revised NNI Policy in the Legislative Assembly this calendar year.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation administers a number of policies concerning its funding programs, including the Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy, the Strategic Investments Program Policy, the Small Business Support Program Policy, the Country Food Distribution Program Policy, the Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Contribution Policy, and the Film, Television and Digital Media Development Contribution Policy. However, the versions of these policies that are publicly available indicate that almost all of these policies have expired or are about to expire. The standing committee recommends that the department ensure that all of its key policies are up to date.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2015-16 main estimates include \$600,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and \$3,358,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Development Corporation. The 2014-15 Ministerial Letters of Expectation to Crown agencies and territorial corporations were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4 of

2014. The responses to the letters of expectation were also tabled on that date. The standing committee encourages the timely tabling of her 2015-16 Ministerial Letters of Expectation.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the Nunavut Development Corporation is required by law to “create employment and income for residents of Nunavut, primarily in small communities.” The Nunavut Development Corporation’s draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to work within the corporation’s investment guidelines and the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* to “assess opportunities for new subsidiary company investment in Nunavut’s smaller communities.” The standing committee encourages the minister to carefully consider this issue while preparing her 2015-16 Letter of Expectation to the Nunavut Development Corporation.

The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation indicates that a priority for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to “Support efforts to increase the loan limit to \$2 million per business enterprise.” This represents an increase of \$1 million. Given the significant increase in the loan limit to business enterprises, the standing committee recommends that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation ensures that this change is closely monitored.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation’s new Tourism Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 16 of 2013. The department’s proposed 2015-16 budget for Nunavut Tourism is increasing from \$1.8 million in 2014-15

to \$3.08 million in 2015-16, which represents an increase of \$1.25 million.

During the Committee of the Whole review of the department’s 2014-15 operations and maintenance budget, the standing committee had recommended that the minister table a copy of the department’s contribution agreement with Nunavut Tourism. However, this has not been done. The standing committee again recommends that the minister table the department’s current contribution agreement with Nunavut Tourism.

Mr. Chairman, as members will recall, a number of concerns have been raised in the Legislative Assembly regarding the accountability of Nunavut Tourism. The standing committee has expressed serious concerns about the accountability of Nunavut Tourism and has concerns about this budget increase.

The standing committee notes that the department’s draft 2015-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to “provide leadership to develop stakeholder consensus on a proposed Strategic Environmental Assessment to address petroleum exploration and development.”

Mr. Chairman, earlier this year, the department hosted an “Oil and Gas Summit.” The focus of the summit was to provide “a consensual path forward” for all with an interest in Nunavut’s petroleum industry and possible resource exploration and development. The standing committee recognizes that oil and gas development is a complex and contentious issue in Nunavut. The standing committee looks forward to a



comprehensive report on the outcomes of the Oil and Gas Summit being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's 2014-17 business plan indicated that a priority for the 2014-15 fiscal year was to "Update 20-year capital needs assessment for Nunavut airports." The standing committee was pleased to learn during the minister's recent appearance that this has been completed and will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's proposed business plan also indicates that it will "Continue to work with the Government Liaison division [of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs] on improving the delivery of motor vehicle services throughout Nunavut," an issue that has been raised on many occasions.

On October 28 of 2014, the Minister of Finance tabled the government's 2013-14 annual report on grants and contributions made by all departments during that fiscal year. Between the 2004-05 and 2013-14 fiscal years, the government's grants and contributions expenditures amounted to approximately \$3.0 billion.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2015-16 main estimates include a total of \$25,943,000 in funding for grants and contributions programs. This constitutes approximately 38 percent of the department's total operations and maintenance budget.

As members will recall, the Commissioner's Opening Address that was delivered in this House last year announced that one of the government's

priorities is to "ensure funds provided to organizations, communities, and individuals adhere to better accountability practices that achieve the outcome this government expects from its investment." This objective was also included in the Minister of Finance's 2014 Budget Address.

For example, the government's 2013-14 annual report on grants and contributions spending indicated that a significant number of financial contributions were made to commercial enterprises. Although the annual report identified the programs under which funding was provided, the actual purpose of the funding is often not clearly explained.

Although members recognize the need for the government to safeguard proprietary information of private entities, the purpose and goals for which public money is being provided to private entities must be disclosed. This, in turn, should assist the government and all Members of the Legislative Assembly in evaluating the extent to which grants and contributions expenditures are achieving their objectives and providing value for money.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2),

subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review. I just want to remind all members that the contents of the minister's opening comments are covered in the different branches.

Do members have any general comments? Seeing none, we will go page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. I would appreciate if members would indicate to me at the start of each branch if you want to ask questions on that particular branch. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) welcome. Mr. Chairman, with your forbearance, I would like to ask for more details or explanation on the minister's response earlier. I would like to ask another question with your permission. Prior to moving to that item, can I ask my question? It is a request for further information only.

**Chairman:** Yes. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. I just want to fully understand the reasoning. Mr. Minister, in the English version on page 2, I want to find out what the reasoning is behind the wording. It states that this fund is to provide assistance for tourism and the figure listed here is \$1,550,000, which is specified for community programs.

Now, is the figure for the hamlet and local organizations that are to be involved in this process? Is this for them or for another purpose? Here I refer to local hamlets or local initiatives related to tourism. That is what I want to understand here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$1,550,000 has a portion set aside of \$276,000 going to Nunavut Film. It would include \$101,000 for salaries, \$175,000 for film projects, and \$100,000 would be used for the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association (interpretation) so that they can be more visible in Nunavut and to successfully make plans and to hire more Inuit.

Also, the \$1,285,000 increase would be for Nunavut Tourism. It is called *Tunngasaiji*. It's to strengthen their plan for the future for tourism to grow in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could have asked this on K-5, but it was in the opening comments, so I had overlooked the page. Mr. Chairman, if you can allow me, I just need another clarification on the opening comments. On page 4 of the minister's opening comments, the last part in English, I'm not sure if it's i or 1. It states that "the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy is nearing completion." Who is going to be involved for Nunavut economic development? Is it a board? Is it staff? That is what I would like to get more

information on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The question posed is under page K-5. We're on page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my question might be on K-5 too. It's about the Nunavut Credit Corporation. I just need clarity whether it's on K-4 or K-5.

**Chairman:** Under K-4. Go ahead, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** I just need some explanations from the minister. I can't find it here, but in Mr. Rumbolt's opening comments, the department wants to increase the borrowing limits of the Nunavut Credit Corporation from \$1 million to \$2 million. In the core funding, the Nunavut Credit Corporation gets \$600,000 and I'm sure they can't lend out more than they get. I just need an explanation or guidance of where the money is coming from. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't want to make a mistake. I knew what it was, but this is just for planning purposes. The policy will have to be amended if this is the way things will be planned to increase their ability to increase the grants and contributions approvals. Hopefully that is clear enough.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister didn't understand my question or I didn't understand her answer. Currently, you can borrow up to \$1 million from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and their core funding is \$600,000. I just want to know where else is this funding coming from because I'm sure that it is somewhere else here.

I'm on page 178 of the business plan and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's core funding is \$600,000. Currently, they can lend out up to \$1 million. The minister wants to increase that to \$2 million. If someone did borrow up to \$1 million, \$600,000 is not enough to cover it. There must be funding somewhere else where the money would come from. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): This item currently is under the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, (interpretation) if that is what the member is referencing. The amounts lent out by this corporation throughout Nunavut up to now totals approximately \$20 million. Further, it is true that the minimum amount you can apply for is set at \$125,000 up to \$1 million. That is the amount they can lend to a Nunavut-based business.

If I can get approval to bring in my official, Tanya Winmill, who is our Comptroller, she can provide that level of detail. Mr. Chairman, I would like your permission to ask her to be taken to the table while my ADM vacates his seat, if you don't mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Iqsuktii*, go ahead. Sorry. Members have been asked if she can get an extra witness in. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, NBCC has what is provided to the Department of Finance in working capital of up to \$25 million and that is what their loans are paid out of. It is out of that working capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the explanation. If I understand then, the money that NBCC lends out comes from the Department of Finance's working capital. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. The total funds at their disposal that they can lend out is over \$20 million, but with respect to the actual process of approving applications, I will have to ask that Ms. Winmill be allowed to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I wasn't very clear. The Department of Finance is provided with what you call a working capital, which is a line of credit, essentially, which is up to \$25 million that NBCC uses to loan out money to entities or corporations throughout Nunavut.

The current portfolio, I think, if I understand the question correctly, is you are wondering, with the loan portfolio of already \$21 million, where they would get more money to loan more funds. No? Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq, clarification.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I just wanted clarity on where the money for the loan was from because the core funding for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation was \$600,000 a year and they want to increase the limit to \$2 million. I just want to know where the money was. Obviously, if you have \$600,000 funding, you can't lend out \$2 million. It's just simple math. I just wanted to know where it was coming from.

If I understand, you just made it clear that it's a working capital that is with the Department of Finance. When people or businesses access the loans that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation gives out, it actually comes out from the Department of Finance's funds. They have a working capital there. Is that correct? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Ms. Winmill will respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not under the Department of Finance. The Department of Finance has given us the working capital, so it is under the Nunavut Business Credit

Corporation. We report on it at year-end. It's for the financial statements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what I want to know. Where is it in the budget? I just want to be educated on where I can find this budget. First, I thought it was in the Finance budget, but now it's clear that it's actually in the ED&T budget. Where can I find it amongst all these papers I have where it is? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Ms. Winmill will respond to that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$600,000 that you see is for our contribution to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to operate, which really just, we give them funding for their salaries. You won't see the working capital in ED&T's budget; it is under the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just getting totally confused now. I asked if it was like under ED&T's budget and you said no, it's in the Department of Finance's budget, so then I asked if the money belongs in the Department of Finance and you just have access to it and then you tell me, "No, it's not under the Department of Finance's budget." I just

want to know where I can find a line item budget where the \$20 million plus is located. That's all I want to know. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money that he is asking about is in the Department of Finance. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you. I thank the minister for clearly stating that this budget is under the Department of Finance. I'll just go on before I get confused further.

Back in October of 2014, the former minister who was responsible for the department stated that they were developing the new revised NNI Policy and it was due to be scheduled shortly. Due to scheduling conflicts with NTI, they hadn't completed it yet. What is the current status of the review of the NNI Policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the new revised Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Policy where there's a requirement to hire Inuit under Article 24 in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, this policy is still being discussed by the Nunavut government staff and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. They have set up a committee that will be reviewing the NNI Policy. They are still negotiating on the contents and we're looking at

possibly completing this review by spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that the report is coming out in the spring of this year, 2015. Is that just a report on the recommendation of the NNI Policy or the new NNI Policy or a revised NNI Policy? Thank you.

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak): Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The revised NNI Policy will be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that it is still being reviewed, but can the minister indicate whether the revised NNI Policy will include whether QEC is part of the NNI Policy or they're excluded? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** The revised policy will include QEC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's another part of this here too. What is the department's position on replacing the current NNI Contracting Appeals Board with a new

body that has a broader mandate to hear appeals of government contract awards based on evaluative factors beyond simply the application of the NNI Policy, not just the dollar figures, but on the whole scheme of the evaluating process? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has contracted the services of a procurement lawyer with the firm BLG to facilitate the research for the comprehensive review. BLG completed the review. We are currently looking at those reports with GN staff, the private sector entrepreneurs, and representatives from NTI. Part of that includes looking at how the appeals board is applied and whether we should go into a more structured format. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my last question here. The makeup of what the appeals board could be, is that going to be part of the NNI Policy when it does come out, when it's done, or is it separate or is it part of the revised policy? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an important issue that we may wish to act upon without an approval of a new policy and that is the issue of professionalizing the contracting appeals board, and we are currently

looking at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Following the list of names, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to take Mr. Savikataaq's question just a little bit further. Last year, I brought up during Committee of The Whole proceedings that the appeals process didn't really have a lot of teeth, I believe, was the wording I used at the time. In a response from the department official, it said that "the appeals board only makes a recommendation and has a fairly limited scope." With this review of the appeals board, is there going to be more "teeth" added to their mandate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current board is composed of laypersons. The hearings have become extremely complex and require extensive legal knowledge such that the current board is unable to fulfill the requirements. A new version of the board would be constituted with professionals with expertise in contract law, public procurement law, and administrative law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to further elaborate on my question,

is this appeals board going to have the ability to put disciplinary measures to non-conforming contractors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ell.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that blunt answer. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

I would just like to take a little step over to the Iqaluit airport. In your opening comments on page 3, it speaks that "the department still needs to retain enough internal capacity to manage those responsibilities which have not been transferred to the private partner."

I'm going by memory, but I seem to recall that there weren't going to be any jobs lost from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation through this airport authority during the construction period, yet I have been made aware of at least three positions that have been either eliminated or reallocated. Maybe if the minister could just give me a little education on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask my Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation to come back and sit with

me with those questions and ask Ms. Winmill to leave. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree for the officials' switch?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official out and the other official to come in.

Please introduce your employee.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation, Mr. Jim Stevens. I will ask him to answer the question from the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Stevens.

**Mr. Stevens:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Iqaluit airport project is a very complex project and at this time, we have retained two staff members to provide the oversight to the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Stevens for that response. Just for clarity, with those two positions that you retained, are those from the original three positions that were moved out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I think that question would best be reflected in K-6, but Ms. Ell, if you want to respond. Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** I'll ask Mr. Stevens to answer that question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Stevens.

**Mr. Stevens:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two positions that I alluded to are in the process of being reassessed and re-profiled relative to new duties. There's also consideration of one additional person relative to regulatory and compliance issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm asking is that I feel it falls directly under the Directorate section of the business plan when you're establishing the positions that are needed to do the duties of the department. Forgive me; I'm just not quite clear here.

I know there were three positions that were either eliminated or moved and I don't recall the actual titles of them. I know a couple of the individuals and I know that they have, from what I understand, left the employ of Economic Development and Transportation. Are these the same individuals who are brought back under these restructured positions to enhance the corporate knowledge for this whole project moving forward from years past? Can I just get some clarification, Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ell.

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



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Stevens.

**Mr. Stevens:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of those three positions, one position has stayed throughout the course and that's the director's position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that answers my questions. If I've got any further questions on that topic, I'll go see the minister directly.

Still again, it's on the implementation of the department. If the Chairman will indulge me, I would like to ask about the Inuit employment levels. There was a lot of discussion on an Article 24 committee being formed. At that time, when I was asking the question last year in Committee of the Whole, they were saying that they had just met for the first time with the proponent and would be evaluating and starting the process of recruiting Inuit employees.

My question is: what type of criteria was established through that committee on Inuit employment percentages and are those numbers being maintained? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The first annual audit of the project company's Inuit engagement in the project was started by the NNI Secretariat in October 2014.

I would like to ask Mr. Stevens to answer the latter part of his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Stevens.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Chairman, I must apologize, I didn't understand the latter part of the question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes, can you repeat the question? Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this project falls outside of a normal NNI type of a contract, we were informed that there would still be minimum Inuit employment numbers associated with the project. I was asking what those numbers are and are they being maintained. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Stevens.

**Mr. Stevens:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project has two Inuit labour requirements, one for the construction period and one for the operating period. For the operating period, there's an initial requirement of 20 percent and then there's an escalator clause of 6.7 percent increase over every five-year period to a maximum of 60 percent. For the capital construction, there is an overall percentage requirement of 15 percent. In any given year, there should be no less than 10 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any other incentives or conditions within the contract on

northern employment? I have spoken a number of times in this House that not only Inuit employment is important, but also employing Nunavummiut on projects of this size and staffing needs. I was just wondering if there are any requirements under the contracting process for northern employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not aware of northern employment and we will have to get back to the member on that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to that information. I would like to think that a project of this scope would have more than 10 percent Nunavummiut working on it.

I would like to switch gears over to the pay-for-power program under the Energy Secretariat. I had asked some questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to clarify a little bit of the interaction that has gone on with the Energy Secretariat.

I was just wondering, maybe from the ED&T's side of things, if they could explain the objective, scope, and terms of reference for the pay-for-power program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The pay-for-power program

is a Housing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the department's draft 2015-18 business plan, it indicated that in the 2014 fiscal year, "Energy Secretariat staff have worked closely with colleagues at the Nunavut Housing Corporation on a number of actions, including working towards a new pay-for-power program for public housing tenants, a tenant energy conservation program and energy efficient retrofits." That's where I was asking how the Energy Secretariat plays in the objective, scope, and terms of reference for this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. Yes, we are working collaboratively with the housing department. I would like Mr. Suvega to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister alluded, we are working collaboratively with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on future initiatives. This is a direct result of our membership with Arctic Energy Alliance. We are trying to take advantage of existing research and information that we could apply within the territory on future programs like this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I am sure most members will know I have always been a strong proponent of energy conservation, especially within the public housing field, if you want to call it that way. The deputy minister mentioned that there are other collaborative efforts that are going on with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Maybe if the deputy minister would be able to just elaborate a little bit more on what types of ventures that they are looking at working with Nunavut Housing on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There a number of areas we do try and explore depending on the availability of things like funding, resources both within the department and other partners, such as people or information that is available. Other initiatives might include things like alternative energy options for the future, solar panel energy, energy reduction initiatives, and various types of housing programs, lights, and metering was mention this week. I also saw that. It depends on the type of partnering that happens at the time and what funding we can access.

One recent example would be energy audits conducted within homes. We tried to do a pilot here in Iqaluit. We would like to try and go after even more resources in the future to see how we can expand this throughout the territory. Exciting results, I must say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was in touch with a representative from your department regarding the energy audit and a lot of the spots were filled, so it's obviously a well-received program.

Just more of a comment, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to encourage the department under the Energy Secretariat to continue this work and work collaboratively not just with the Nunavut Housing Corporation but Qulliq Energy to explore how more partnerships could be arranged through alternative energy sourcing and energy conservation methods. That is just a statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I take that as a comment and with that comment, we will take a 10-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:06 and resumed at 18:27*

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. Welcome back. We're on page K-4. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of your department's key policies, including the Community Transportation Initiative Program, the Country Food Distribution Program, the Small Business Support Program, and some other programs where the contribution policies have expired, your department's business plan indicated that one of the priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year was to "Facilitate stakeholder consultations and assist in the renewal of economic development

contribution program policies and guidelines.”

Were there any significant changes to the policies and, if so, what were they? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that a number of department contribution policies have sunset and need to be renewed. For the time being, the department is implementing its programs using the existing policies, but we are committed to developing new policies to best implement *Sivumut Abluqta*. I have directed the department to make this work a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the department can tell me if they have actually gone into some of the communities to talk about the policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, we have not gone to any communities, but that is part of the plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. We will look to seeing what comes out of those consultations.

I'm going to your business plan on page 178 where you talk about the Nunavut Economic Forum. I believe, in the first week of December, there was a conference put on to talk about the next Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, what it would look like. I know that you're planning to launch the new strategy some time in this fiscal year, but do you have an actual date in mind and, if so, what is the date and what are the next steps? What are you going to do with this information and how will it be implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) They held their meeting in December and all the discussions that happened have been transcribed to the Nunavut Economic Forum website. With respect to the *Sivumut* strategy, Paul Suvega sits as the chairman of the committee representing the government. He can explain where they're at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister pointed out, we are members of the economic forum. The current draft of the strategy is being reviewed by the forum members. We hope to try and conclude the review early in 2015. By April, we hope to have it out to most of the members. The emphasis here is to try and get it out to the membership so that they all agree on what the strategy is going to look like and what some of the outcomes might be, not just for the economic forum but all the membership and how they will

feed into the strategy going forward.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the department tell us a little bit more on who that membership is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The membership consists of the Government of Nunavut along with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, as well as membership from CanNor and non-profit organizations as well as other organizations that deal with economic development in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go on to something else. It's to do with the new Iqaluit airport project and the NNI Secretariat participation. It says here, "...specific Schedule 24 Advisory Panel." I'm just wondering if you can tell me what the mandate of this panel is and maybe we could just start there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. It's on page 179. Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*. I will ask Mr. Suvega to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The makeup of the panel is largely comprised of government departments and organizations, the proponents, as well as federal departments and agencies that try and work with the proponents in trying to meet and adhere to contracting terms and conditions to try and meet Inuit employment targets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the department tell me exactly which departments sit on that panel and who chairs it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy ministers of Economic Development and Transportation, Community and Government Services, and Finance sit on that project steering committee and ED&T chairs the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many times has the advisory panel met in the last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Once so far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain

again: what is the mandate of this panel? Why do they meet? What's the purpose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell, if you can wait until your light goes on before you speak. Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman. I'm too short to see the light. Mr. Chairman, my deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To reiterate, a lot of the purpose of this advisory panel is largely to advise the proponents on meeting the terms and conditions outlined in the contract. There are oversight structures in place to deal with those types of things. The advisory panel is an added component to try and move and bolster Inuit employment during the construction phase and again during the operations phase later in its life. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the advisory panel only meets once a year, do you feel that's adequate to provide the oversight that is the mandate of that panel, if you're only meeting once a year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of that initial meeting was to educate the proponents about the environment within Nunavut and also the types of things that they will have to try and do to attract individuals for various types of positions that may become open during the construction and operations phase. We are hopeful that once the audit is complete, we can move on to providing various types of advice moving forward depending on the findings of the audit. That is the general plan going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I didn't understand about the audit. Can you explain what you mean? Which audit are you talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He was referring to the Inuit employment audit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When was the last time this advisory panel met? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before the project was started. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering: if you met before the project was started and you haven't met since, how do you know that you are meeting the targets or that the proponent is meeting all the targets agreed to in whatever agreement, the partnership agreement that you have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

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

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of how we are monitoring the effectiveness of Inuit employment going forward, we are hopeful that the Inuit employment audit could inform the successes or the failures of the targets being met or not being met and we could try and identify jointly going forward how they can better address some of those deficiencies.

Throughout the life of the contract, we haven't been silent. There have been opportunities where we had one-on-one interactions with other departments like Community and Government Services, the Department of Finance, and certainly the proponent in terms of how we can provide some advice going forward individually and jointly. The Schedule 24 Advisory Panel is meant to be the formal instrument to try and convey some of these collectively from the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain more about the Inuit employment audit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Wait a moment. I can't find it in my notes right now.

The Inuit would need to be trained for work and they need to have a contract in the construction phase. They wanted to do it that way and not use what is contained in Article 24 from the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to hire Inuit. It was planned that way. They agreed with NTI and the government to make sure that they don't have less than 10 percent Inuit employment and to have more private Inuit businesses involved. That is why it was set up like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an agreement in regard to Inuit employment, but what I'm trying to get at is: who is conducting the audit? Has this Inuit employment audit been done? Is this something that has already been completed and, if so, who is involved in doing the audit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NNI Secretariat is involved in the audit. Schedule 24 is a departure from the NNI Policy usually used by the Government of Nunavut contracts. It does also contain penalties

for not meeting specific targets in Inuit engagement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the NNI department is, I think, maybe two or three people. Do they have the resources to do such an audit? It's a huge construction project. If this is going on now, they are doing an audit, do they have data or do you have information that you can share with the House of how many Inuit are working on the new airport project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Currently, the NNI Secretariat is capable of providing audit and advisory services to ensure that the private partner meets its obligations in regard to the Inuit engagement of this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How often does the NNI Secretariat meet with the proponent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit engagement figures are discussed and submitted by the contractor as part of their monthly reporting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any oversight, though? I know that there is reporting, but does anybody from the department actually physically go over to the site to look at what is going on there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me ask a question, if you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, on the minister's opening comments.

**Chairman:** Can I ask you what it's about or what it refers to? Thank you.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have only one question that I would like to pose. It states in the opening comments that for small craft harbours, there's \$500,000 budgeted. Is that for one community?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your question is on page K-6 under Transportation. You can wait, Mr. Keyootak. The next name on the list, Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not keen on this back and forth process as our duties are substantial. When my colleague was raising a question earlier, I felt that I needed clear understanding from the minister about the power generation technologies.



Here I refer to the wind turbines, solar panels, and I believe there is talk of hydroelectric projects or underwater turbines. Which of these methods will be used? Has the government conducted studies on these technologies? Do they now have the information on the best method of renewable power generation that can be used in Nunavut?

I am asking about power generation efficiencies or savings in the power generation expenditures and I am wondering which of these technologies is best suited for Nunavut out of the ones I referred to. Can you enlighten me, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good questions. I would like to ask my Deputy Minister, Mr. Suvega, to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For implementing these various technologies for generating power, we are trying to look at the future and we have staff working and doing research as to which would be the most useful for energy.

I cannot pinpoint one energy source that would be cheapest one today, but I can only tell you that we are looking at the research done in the world and what could be best used in Nunavut. On top of that, we look for other organizations or entities that we could work with so that we could start using that energy source in the future.

For example, with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we are looking at how we can be more energy efficient in the construction of housing. We are looking into how we can do the review of the units in question to make sure that they operate more efficiently, for example, if they're heated too warmly or if they are drafty, where the draft is coming from with the use of a camera. Those are just examples that I can give you. There are quite a few things that I elaborate on and I can't tell you which one would be the most energy efficient, but we are looking at what would be most beneficial to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the understandable response. I have a concern on this issue. Whenever an initiative is started, there is rarely any mention of the fact that this item will become very expensive in the future. Nobody ever comments on the increasing costs.

When the federal government first started the housing initiative, I will provide a brief example. When Bud Orange was campaigning in the late '60s, one of his campaign promises was that Inuit would be provided with adequate housing. He also stated that rent would be minimal, starting at \$5 a month. He never mentioned that in the future, rents would increase to \$60 a month. It was very good news to hear at the time, if you can understand where I'm coming from. Today, for example, electricity is produced by diesel fuel, whose price is continually rising with no end in sight.

Please make the effort to understand what we're trying to say before taking final actions. I urge you to comprehend what I'm saying about what is best because that is my last word on that subject. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The power strategy coined as *Ikummatiit* is part of the long-term goal of the department to be more energy efficient, especially with respect to housing costs and other factors related to the cost of living.

There are four goals listed in that paper describing the *Ikummatiit* strategy paper. They are the following: improvements on units to become more energy efficient, to lower heating fuel requirements, to look for more efficient methods that we can use, and how to lower our costs by looking at more fuel-efficient heating units or water and sewer equipment, as well as the power efficiency of our appliances, such as LED lighting, energy-efficient ovens, and similar types of energy-efficient technologies.

The third goal is to lower our emissions to the environment. The current diesel generators common in our communities have side effects, so we are looking at our options, especially in emissions control. Another aspect to this is how much we are impacting climate change in our territory and to see if we have any alternatives to lower the emissions.

The last goal is specific towards private businesses and places of employment throughout Nunavut and what type of efficient electrical appliances that could

be offered to lower their current business expenses.

That is part of the work entailed in this initiative to look at lowering our energy requirements written in the *Ikummatiit* document as their guideline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$11,926,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page K-5. Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My earlier question was partially answered that is related to K-5, or was I asked to wait until we review the page? Part of the question was answered, but your business plan indicates that your department is requesting \$1.55 million for community tourism and cultural industry development.

Your 2013-14 budget had that line item totalling \$395,000 and there were no funds allocated towards this in 2014-15. This line item has reappeared in 2015-16 for a total of \$1.55 million. Can you remind me of the purpose of the fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy

Minister, Mr. Suvega, will respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for the Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program is for community tourism and cultural industries. It can be used by hamlet councils and organizations that are non-profit to be used for the Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can an example be provided as to what the usage will be for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell, an example.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds are set aside for smaller communities. This increase is for local initiatives specific towards tourism. As an example, this fund is used for marketing purposes or (interpretation ends) tourism packages (interpretation) in English. This is to assist our communities to develop tourism-related initiatives, including marketing campaigns, once the material has been developed. It would benefit all of Nunavut's tourism industry. This is only an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on the same item, your policy for grants and contributions

ended on March 31, 2014. Are you going to renew this agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are quite a number of programs that become outdated, but they are still applied to. Some of the regulations specific to the programs are currently being reviewed to see which ones we can continue to offer and to update some of the regulations and policies in place currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will permit me, I would like to ask two questions. The earlier question was partially answered, but if I can ask for further details, when will this new initiative be offered?

If I can ask another question, it is related to the 2014-17 business plan. A statement is included that states that for fiscal year 2014-15, one of your department's priorities will be to "Review the *Travel and Tourism Act* and regulations." With this statement that your department would initiate this review in 2014-15, what exactly did your department do as part of this review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his first question about the review for the upcoming fiscal year 2015-16, we are required to commence the review on this legislation and the need to amend the

legislation. We have to work with some communities immersed in tourism and whether the new draft legislation is in compliance with the (interpretation ends) Financial Administration Manual. (interpretation) This will require a comprehensive review and we are expecting the review to commence in the new (interpretation ends) fiscal year (interpretation) and prior to the end of 2016 is when we expect the majority of the work to be done.

With regard to the second question, I would ask that my deputy minister be allowed to respond to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was unsure whether the member was referring to ships or tourism at the local level. I just want to make sure I understood the purpose of his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. The plans indicate a departmental review, at least in the English version, as I don't have an Inuktitut copy. (interpretation ends) "Review the *Travel and Tourism Act* and regulations." (interpretation) That is what I am referring to. What kind of review has occurred? What has your department done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The draft legislation and proposed regulations need to be completed in the future, so we need to

consult with our partners on the tourism file. This entails consultation both within government as well as outside of the government. We need to consult with the communities as to their plans in this sector and hear their past practices and what needs improvement in the future. We have tried to identify these issues since last year. However, we first need to consult with the communities and receive their feedback. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this review you have identified, what exactly have you declared as requiring further review or if particular issues will be your focus? Additionally, after the review process, when can we expect the results to be tabled in this House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking those excellent questions. The legislation we are discussing, the *Travel and Tourism Act*, has been reviewed for quite some time now.

For example, in order to increase the (interpretation ends) liability insurance (interpretation) for our tourism operators, which they are required to obtain up to \$1 million in liability insurance, we would like to increase it to \$2 million. If we want to change that, it would be fairly easy to change and this includes the definitions within the legislation to be more consistent, such as an (interpretation ends) outfitter

(interpretation) as someone who takes tourists out.

Further, we want to amend particular sections that have expiry dates, such as an arbitrary date set out currently, to be in line with our fiscal year operations. Details such as these are needed in this legislation. We are hoping to expect the review to be completed earlier rather than later. Perhaps in this calendar year or the beginning of the next year, that is when we expect the review to be completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another matter related to tourism is explicitly mentioned in your business plan for 2015-18. The language indicates that your department will commence a review and identify issues related to marine tourism. Did your department conduct one already? I can't grasp the language and the meaning behind the wording in English and I probably am misinterpreting it in Inuktitut. I don't feel that word is appropriate for (interpretation ends) "marine tourism," (interpretation) which I believe your department already studied in the past. What is this referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you. There are particular activities that are under this definition of marine tourism and that includes any service provided on marine waters. As an example, we can use the tourism cruise ships that tote passengers from around the globe past some of our communities. These are the types of activities under

this definition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. Can you table the review you have done in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once it's completed, I would consider tabling it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. We will certainly wait for that information.

Another statement within your 2015-16 budget speaks to \$3.85 million to be used for developing tourism and operating this program. I imagine this is specific towards (interpretation ends) Nunavut Tourism. (interpretation) The minister is aware that concerns have been expressed in the past about this organization and possible misuse of public funds when public funds are to be used solely for their intended purposes. What has your department started to resolve these concerns to the satisfaction of the public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have heard these concerns in the past, both from the members here and the tourism industry. I continue to brush up on the issues upon

receiving this portfolio in light of past questions on this issue.

The budget we provide to the organization is done through a contribution agreement. We are reviewing the agreements to see how the reporting requirements they are to provide annually on expenditure of public funds are being met. That is how we will monitor this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were going through Nunavut, they wanted to increase the funds to \$1,285,000. I'm just wondering what this increase will be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding increase requested by Nunavut Tourism is for both tourism and cultural promotions. This would benefit our Nunavut communities. To cite this example, they would like to hire a person to conduct interviews with tourists who visit Nunavut.

For example, business travellers who are visiting communities as part of their delegated meetings, how can we get them to act more like tourists by staying longer in the community or to do a side trip to an outlying community and how can we provide that information to the business travellers beforehand. This is just an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to this last page, another written section outlines the duties of *Tunngasaiji*, which is related to hospitality. The document is related to the strategic direction, (interpretation ends) "A Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut," (interpretation) which your department completed on May 16, 2013. What is the status of this strategy and the included recommendations? What actions has your department taken to implement the recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Tunngasaiji* strategy was tabled in the House in the spring of 2013. Also, there are four parts identified as requiring further work, such as the legislative review, or (interpretation ends) legislation and regulations (interpretation) review. This is ongoing work that we have commenced.

Also, under the (interpretation ends) building partnerships (interpretation) line item, which is with interested organizations and negotiation of partnerships by Nunavut Tourism, this is ongoing at all times.

As well, with respect to tourism training courses or outfitting modules, to try and encourage tourists to travel to Nunavut, it is another ongoing initiative. Training of existing outfitters and people in the tourism industry will be the focus of this initiative.

There is a meeting of members currently and they are dealing with this position of the *Tunngasaiji* strategy. I believe there

are over 100 delegates at the meeting this week. The AGM is occurring here in Iqaluit. There are many issues being discussed, including the issue raised by the member about marine tourism. They are discussing various tourism-related issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to first ask a question on this issue. The petroleum and mining industries have several large projects in the works. Is her Department of Economic Development and Transportation involved with these types of projects and reviews? That will formulate my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman. Could the member rephrase his question? I heard something about mining. I would like the member to rephrase his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the mining industry or oil development, when they start working up here in Nunavut and they start recruiting for staff, is the Department of Economic Development and Transportation involved at that time when mining and oil exploration begins and they start recruiting for workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is involved, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If your department is involved in working with the exploration companies, my community is never involved when they start recruiting workers. It seems like the government does all the handling and leaving out the nearby communities. However, there are decentralized communities that have gained employment.

Is it possible for your department to consider involving the smaller communities when the mining and oil development companies start recruiting employees? It seems like the smaller communities are always left out when it comes to opportunities such as mining development and gaining opportunities through those types of activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. Our department is starting to work with other stakeholders, including the Department of Education, Nunavut Arctic College, and the federal government, as well as companies that are interested in doing exploration work up here in Nunavut.

With the exploration companies and employment opportunities coming up, we look at what training opportunities we can make available. It's a very slow

process, but we are starting to work on it. We are also looking at whether we can work closely with the communities. We're looking at more training opportunities and it's an ongoing discussion we have regarding training and job opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, my community is not involved with the Mary River project, but then again, the ships will be going by my community, whether it's summer or winter. There's going to be constant traffic of ships going past our communities, but the communities that I represent are totally left out. Is it because they think that we're too far from the shipping route? There's going to be constant traffic going back and forth right through my communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an agreement regarding the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. There was an agreement signed on December 6, 2013 between QIA and Baffinland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go back to Nunavut Tourism a little bit. I think I have stood up in the House to raise some concerns over Nunavut Tourism and in fact, I had asked Nunavut Tourism to be part of the government-wide review of government

programs and services. I'm wondering why Nunavut Tourism would be asking for an increase in funding when this review has not taken place yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Deputy Minister Mr. Suvega to answer that question.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While the review is taking place, at a time when various economic sectors in the territory, and tourism being one of the key sectors, are experiencing some difficulty with growth, it's also important to continue to work away initiatives like travel and tourism legislation, regulations, cruise ship and yacht management. Partnerships are also key. In government, we can't do it alone. We also find strength in partnerships.

There is nothing stopping us from making changes as we refine results in future reviews and we will certainly adjust as we find if something needs to be adjusted based on the reviews through the consultation or the reports themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the purpose of the review was to find out if entities like Nunavut Tourism, and there are other programs of course within the government that are going to be reviewed, to see if we are actually getting value for money. Because that hasn't happened, that is why I question:



why are we giving Nunavut Tourism more money before we have found out if they're the best entity to be doing this kind of work?

Do you have any tourism numbers on you now that could say, maybe over the last few years, how has tourism grown? Do you have that kind of information with you now today? Thank you, Mr. Tourism...uh, Mr. Chairman. "Mr. Tourism."

>>Laughter

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Currently, Nunavut Tourism has tried in the past to tally tourism numbers throughout Nunavut. It has been a challenge.

The \$1,285,000 increase to Nunavut Tourism will be utilized to undertake the priorities identified in the Tourism Strategy to build capacity and also strengthen the industry, which has potential for growth.

Part of the tourism funds would go toward hiring a training coordinator to work with operators and communities to identify training needs and major gaps in the training available, as well as hiring a conference and meeting recruiter to attract meeting conferences and retreats to communities throughout Nunavut, and undertake enhanced development activities, including a broad-based awareness campaign focusing on Nunavut. This would also provide assistance to Nunavut operators to develop their tourism product line and packages and develop attractive tourism

destinations that would provide excellent tourist services through a well-trained workforce.

The additional funding will help smaller operators properly develop tourism packages and part of this would also allow for Nunavut Tourism to have key partners in advancing the tourism industry in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have tourism on my mind.

How much work does Nunavut Tourism do right at the community level? I mean not really the marketing, but kind of building up the foundation. If we're going to spend money on marketing and asking people from outside of Nunavut to come to Nunavut, they need to be able to come to something. I think that the communities require a lot of support and help. I'm wondering how much of Nunavut Tourism's time and effort is actually in the community at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut Tourism has a very broad-based membership across Nunavut. If we take this 2015 tourism conference as an example, only a few of them have been able to make it to Iqaluit. Currently, 110 are participating at this week's conference. That is just probably a very small number of people who actually participate with part of Nunavut Tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's great that they can get together and talk about tourism, but I think what I'm really trying to get is at the community level, working with outfitters, helping bed and breakfasts grow, expanding their services, even maybe teaching some cooking courses so that when tourists come to a community, the hotel can offer good or healthy meals, or if you're out camping, if you are at a cabin site. Like those kinds of things right at the community level, building up capacity from that stance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of what Nunavut Tourism does is training outfitters and hotel operators and such that have to do with tourism in Nunavut. They also have outfitters and others provide them support to attend trade shows, and they provide visitor information and services. Part of that, as I said, is the training for the industry and the industry can be those that I mentioned; hotel owners, outfitters, and carvers, those sorts of things that have to do with tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to talk a little bit about tourism in the communities but from a different angle. Over the years, we have seen more and more cruise ships coming into Nunavut.

Often on even some of the radio shows that I have heard and talking with some

people, cruise ships is not always the type of tourism that communities desire and that is because they don't use the bed and breakfasts or the hotels there because they sleep on the ships. They eat on the ships, so they don't go and spend money in any of the small coffee shops or something that could provide sandwiches or coffee. Typically, they spend very little in terms of art like carvings and things like that.

In addition, there have been concerns voiced over the safety of passengers and the difficulties associated with rescue, should that cruise ship need to have one. I think we have discussed even in the House here whether or not we have the capabilities to address that if the need arises. I'm wondering: why are we encouraging this type of tourism? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member, for those questions. Cruise ships are new to the territory. We still have to continue to engage in the interests of them visiting Nunavut. It does hold potential for strengthening the tourism economy.

As part of *Tunngasaiji*, the Nunavut Tourism Strategy, the department is working on a marine tourism management plan. Communities and stakeholders have been consulted. Their input will help map out strategies and how cruise ships and yachts can bring maximum economic benefits to communities where they stop.

We are also working with the communities so that they can be better prepared and ready for cruise ships when

they come in, so that they can also benefit from such visits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Angnakak

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wondered how cruise ships offer maximum benefits when they are not spending very much money in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The interest for cruise ships coming into Nunavut is there. I don't think we can say, "Don't come," when they want to. Although the benefit might look small at this time, with proper training and realizing what potential they might be able offer, I think that as the government, we should be open to more tourism for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister. I think we should be trying to promote tourism in Nunavut, but maybe not so much the cruise ship kind. Maybe we should be trying to support more tourism type of other options where people go in the community, they spend money in the hotels, they buy the food, and they can afford to buy artwork in the community.

Usually these cruise ship trips here to the Arctic are very expensive and often the passengers don't have a lot of money to spend in the community. In fact, I heard of more than one community where they put on a show, they had people display their artwork, and nobody bought

anything. The hamlet paid for some entertainers to entertain the cruise ship passengers. The cruise ship came and went away and didn't leave any money with the community, and the hamlet was left having to pay. They didn't make any money out of it. That is where I am coming from.

I think we should have more of a focus on other types of tourism and not cruise ships because I don't think it's proven to be economical for Nunavut. Also, I know that there has been some concern raised over the fact that there is really no way of monitoring the ships as they go, even along the Northwest Passage, and things like that. I think there are a lot to think about there and we shouldn't just be going blindly forward, "Oh, let's support this kind of tourism," without really looking at it. Really, what kinds of benefits do we get?

I'll leave that for now and let me see if I have any more. No, that's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I think that was just a comment. Minister Ell, do you want to comment?

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Yes, just a comment. This is part of *Tunngasaiji*, the Nunavut Tourism Strategy. It doesn't cover a large amount and we do need to have more training for the stakeholders as well as for the communities so that we can help them develop a plan so that they can maximize their benefits from such trips. In the past, it has been difficult to monitor who and where the ships are coming from, but to date, we are better able to have discussions now with cruise ships coming into Nunavut. As such, last summer, Nunavut received

eight cruise ships from seven different companies. With the weather and other unforeseeable circumstances, sometimes these stops are not made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, go ahead with your 24 minutes to raise questions.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. While you're talking about tourism, the first question I have is, I know it's obvious that Baker Lake has two Heritage Rivers, the Thelon River and the Kazan River. In Inuktitut, they're called *Kangirjuap Kuunga* and *Havvaqtuup Kuunga*. They have both been recognized as Heritage Rivers. In terms of having people come and go see them, what sort of plans has your department made to promote the places near Baker Lake that I just talked about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not really involved with what the communities are doing, but Mr. Suvega is, so I would like him to explain it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some communities outline what they are planning to use or what they want to use in terms of Heritage Rivers or places where people can take other people to. Some communities explain to us what places

they want tourists to go to or what places they don't want tourists to go to, whichever Heritage River or archaeological site that they feel is too important for tourists to be bothering. We make sure about those things when we are planning as a government. We have to work with other groups to do the planning, such as Inuit organizations if it's on Inuit owned lands, or within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. That's a very clear answer. I would like to move to a different question that my colleague, Mr. Keyootak, was asking about in terms of mineral exploration. Right now, in Baker Lake, there is the Agnico-Eagle mine. We know that the Agnico-Eagle mine will open. As the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, once the opportunities open up for businesses and the communities, what exactly is your department going to help us with in planning for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. I believe that what you're referring to is the Meadowbank gold mine. They believe that 2018 will be the end of construction. We spoke with them quite recently and met with them to see what else they're going to be doing. They're still going through an exploration near the property and it's around 50 kilometres northeast of the Meadowbank mine site in a property called Amaruq. They say that they have

found more minerals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. They were planning to open in 2018, but they have found another deposit in the Amaruq site. I have heard about that. They say they have discovered more minerals there. What sort of plans have you made for the people of Baker Lake in terms of economic development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The construction phase is supposed to end in 2018 and if they want to extend that, then NIRB probably would be asked if they wanted to extend the end of the construction site. In the exploration phase, they are still finding other things at the Amaruq site. NIRB would have to look at that if they wanted to proceed with the development of that site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask a question. Are we trying to finish this tonight? It is an extremely long document and I have many questions.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): I am very interested in this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

I would like to ask, in your 2014-15 business plan, the Country Food Distribution Program has a budget of \$1,868,000. It was when we were dealing with food security that we really liked the idea of a country food distribution program.

In the business plan for 2014-15 on anti-poverty for the Department of Family Services, the action paper has been completed. However, country food distribution is mentioned only in the business plan for 2015-18. I'm just using the work that the Department of Family Services has done as an example.

What kind of options have you been putting together for country food distribution? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for 2015-16, \$1,868,000, is not for country food distribution. It's to support the food distribution in Nunavut, whether to transport country food across Nunavut or how they can promote support. That's what this Country Food Distribution Program means. It's continuing from the 2014-15 fiscal year. It was in the business plan. It's just to continue that program in the next fiscal year.

The communities can ask for a community freezer. That's just an example, but it's not used for the construction of the freezers in the communities. I'm just using that as an

example as to how this funding is used.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm just following the Inuktitut version under the Country Food Distribution Program and I believe it's for the transporting of country food. Is that what it's for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll have my deputy minister respond on the use of this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program is for organizations, whether it be the HTO or the hamlet. They can utilize this program for country food distribution. If there is going to be a community hunt and if they have to send the meat out to another community, they could use the funding from this program or if a community wanted a community freezer, it could be used at the local level to store the meat for the community. However, we have to review as to who would be paid for the operations and maintenance of the community freezers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for responding adequately. I know that it's going to be very useful. I'll be asking about the details under that.

Under the regional program, I'm wondering if you can make allocations to communities specific to country food distribution. I know that the policy expired on June 30, 2013. Is your department going to be renewing that policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll use an example. In Iqaluit, last fall, the hunters requested for funding to go out hunting. If they want to go bowhead hunting and if it's going to be a community hunt, the funding could be used and they have to apply for funding or submit a proposal. Each community can apply for up to \$5,000 for a hunt program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you for responding adequately to my question. I believe that policy expired on June 30, 2013. Are you working to renew the policy? Has this policy expired or is it still being used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): There are many pieces of legislation or policies. We are updating them and we want to extend the expiry date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) 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 report progress.

Oh, I'm sorry. Closing comments from Minister Ell. Oh, it's not closing. Escort the... Must be late; must be a long night.

*Iqsuktii*, please escort the guests.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

#### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. (interpretation) Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

#### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow

morning at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

#### *Orders of the Day* for March 11:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 14
  - Bill 15
  - Bill 16

- Bill 18

20. Report of the Committee of the

Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) This House stands  
adjourned until Wednesday, March 11,  
2015, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:56*



