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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

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Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 16, 2015

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, 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 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, people of Nunavut, members, ministers, visitors, our staff and interpreters. Have a good afternoon.

Before I start, I would like to announce that yesterday, my mother-in-law had her birthday. We imagined you had a wonderful birthday and we thought of you. We heard you celebrated your 83rd birthday.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 135 – 4(2):
Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform members that (interpretation ends) Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation) will be absent from the House on March 16 and 17, 2015. He is attending (interpretation ends) the Boston International Seafood Show. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 136 – 4(2):
Deployment of Income Support
Delivery System**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to inform this Assembly that the Income Assistance Division is deploying a case management system in communities to increase our capacity to support Nunavummiut who need this program in time of need.

Currently, the Income Support Delivery System has been deployed in seven communities: Iqaluit (both headquarters and the delivery office), Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Cambridge Bay, and Baker Lake. We are committed to roll out the system in Igloolik this month, March 2015.

Mr. Speaker, we continue with deployment of this automated system

across the territory. With the coming online of these communities, we move closer to putting Nunavut's income assistance delivery and tracking at par with other Canadian jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, the automated income assistance case management system is a good investment. It greatly improves our ability to deliver income assistance in a timely and organized manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 137 – 4(2): New Ethics Officer for the Public Service

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am pleased to introduce Mr. Jeffery Schnoor, Nunavut's first Ethics Officer. Jeffery is sitting in the gallery right behind me here. I ask all Members of this House to give him a warm Nunavut welcome.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, as part of his role, Mr. Schnoor is responsible for carrying out duties as listed in Part 6 of the *Public Service Act*, Disclosure of Wrongdoing. The Act comes into force on April 1, 2015.

The *Public Service Act* creates a process for Government of Nunavut employees to report wrongdoing by public servants to an ethics officer, commonly referred to as whistle-blowing.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of this type of legislation has been something that previous House members have sought since the early days of Nunavut. I recall raising the issue when I was Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts back in 2004. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the government has moved forward on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the disclosure of wrongdoing protocol as set out in the legislation and internal human resource directives is a mechanism to allow public servants to come forward without fear of reprisal when they honestly believe something is wrong. I have spoken about it many times and I again state that we expect the highest standards of conduct from our employees and we know the vast majority of our public servants serve this government with honesty and integrity.

Finance staff will make sure the information needed to contact the ethics officer will be readily available to all employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 138 – 4(2): Increase to Fur Pricing Program

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Minister of Environment, I am pleased to inform members of changes to the budget for the Department of Environment's Fur Pricing Program,

which will have a significant positive impact on Nunavut's hunters and trappers. Effective April 1, 2015, the department will be increasing the purchase price for sealskins by 25 percent...

>>Applause

...and will start covering the cost of the auction house commission on all other furs sold through the Fur Pricing Program.

This decision clearly demonstrates the Government of Nunavut's recognition of the importance of hunting and trapping to Inuit culture and to the health and socio-economic well-being of Nunavummiut. The sale of sealskins and other furs is an important source of income for our hunters and trappers, and helps to ensure continued access to a bountiful renewable resource as well as contributing to food security in our communities.

In a time when much negative publicity surrounds the Canadian seal hunt, we are taking action to ensure the continuation of this vital and sustainable part of Nunavut's traditional economy. We hope that this pricing increase will encourage seal hunters in particular to sell their sealskins through our program, which in turn will help us better meet the local market demand for dressed sealskins here in Nunavut and begin rebuilding markets abroad.

This decision should be welcome news to all Nunavummiut involved in seal hunting, fur harvesting, and related industries. That is some good news, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 269 – 4(2): Nanook School Cooking Club

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share with you a wonderful success story from my constituents in Apex.

Mr. Speaker, the Nanook School Cooking Club began last October and runs every Friday afternoon with almost 25 children attending regularly to learn about food and nutrition and how to cook healthy meals.

Mr. Speaker, the focus of the cooking club is for these young students to learn such skills as healthy shopping and food preparation, learning how to cook from scratch and feed themselves, and contribute to their families and communities.

So far, the cooking club has cooked for the Apex Community Christmas feast and for the soup kitchen and they are planning a year-end feast for Niaqunnguamiut in June.

Mr. Speaker, the cooking club has the added bonus of providing meals to those children who face food insecurity in their homes. As their skills in the kitchen improve, so does their confidence and self-esteem. Developing good habits in choosing healthy foods and preparing

them will benefit these students throughout their lives and hopefully be something they can also pass on to others.

Mr. Speaker, the program is funded by the City of Iqaluit as part of the Government of Nunavut's Brighter Futures Wellness Program. It is run by Kerry McClusky and June Shappa with help from Kootoo Alainga, who works at the school.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the Nanook School Cooking Club and I hope members will join me in congratulating them on their efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 270 – 4(2): The Lasting Effect of Suicide

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

(interpretation ends) I Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that we don't talk about enough, that we don't face, and that we don't address because we don't want to hurt each other's feelings.

Mr. Speaker, the effects and impact of suicide are devastating. Not only do we lose a person before their time on earth is up; those who are left behind grieve and suffer.

Mr. Speaker, less than two months ago, I lost a family member to suicide. That one has affected family members, extended family, friends, and their relatives. My thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one who is living with the pain and hurt that one individual's decision has inflicted on them.

Mr. Speaker, as individuals, we are not alone in this world. We are linked to our families and our communities through bonds that we cannot see. Taking one life, even if we think it is only our own, rips the fabric that weaves through the lives of everyone around us. We share responsibility for each other's well-being.

Mr. Speaker, my heart has been heavy and I know that others feel it as well. I would like the community of Baker Lake and beyond to know that I share the pain of losing someone to suicide, but I know that if we support each other and talk to each other, we can overcome life's challenges no matter how difficult they may seem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Member's Statement 271 – 4(2): Condolences to the Family of George Porter

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) To the residents of Gjoa Haven watching the proceedings, (interpretation ends) good afternoon.

I rise today to send my condolences to the family of Mr. George Porter, who just passed away over the weekend. He

is well recognized by the people of the Kitikmeot and maybe some people of the Kivalliq and Baffin. He was for the people of Gjoa Haven and how our community grew. That was the type of man he was.

He would have loved to watch the hockey tournament that just happened over the weekend, a successful hockey tournament. He loved to go to those kinds of games where they get people together and he loved to watch those. I am pleased to say that Gjoa Haven won the gold also.

My condolences go to every Porter, his wife and their children. Keep strong and stay strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before we go on, I wish to advise members that the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk will be absent from the House for today and tomorrow.

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

**Member's Statement 272 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Qikiqtarjuaq
Athletes**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to all my fellow residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honour youth from Qikiqtarjuaq who participated in the volleyball tournament that occurred over the weekend. I want to acknowledge the following volleyball players from Qikiqtarjuaq:

Rosemary Metuq

Geena Aliqatuqtuq
Jenny Mosesee
Diane Kooneeliusie
Louisa Kooneeliusie
Karen Kooneeliusie
Namee Kopalie, and
Nicky

Their coach was Adrian Toomasie.

I want to extend my congratulations to the volleyball players from Qikiqtarjuaq who attended this tournament. Sports are one of the few activities enjoyed by many youth and they enjoy competitions, especially since physical activity contributes to the quality of one's life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Galley. Mr. Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure, as I indicated earlier, to welcome Jeffrey Schnoor, the new Ethics Officer, to the gallery. I also would like to welcome my Deputy Minister of Finance, and Comptroller General for Nunavut Jeff Chown. Welcome, gentlemen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Galley. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like my fellow members to join me in welcoming people from Igloolik. Janet Issigaitok is my constituency assistant and Laura Qamukaq is the assistant to our Speaker. They are both residents of Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Galley. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 460 – 4(2): Support Services Following Suicide

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I spoke of the devastating impact that a suicide can have on the lives of those who are left behind.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of support services, in the form of counselling or otherwise, are offered to communities such as Baker Lake which are left to deal with the loss of a loved one to suicide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation

ends) As a part of this government, we have made mental health one of our main priorities to try and address the issue of suicide. So far, we have hired psychiatric nurses in every community, so that's a start.

We are continuing to work and trying to find solutions to the pressing matter of suicide in our territory. That work will not end. That work will continue. In the following weeks, we will be hosting a major conference, Circumpolar Mental Health, and we will be seeking direction. We're not shy to ask for assistance. I have worked with the federal Minister of Health, and I will continue to work with whoever I can to try and find solutions to this matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Often, in the wake of a suicide, individuals feeling the effect of one individual's decision may begin to question their own thoughts about suicide. Can the minister clarify what policies are in place to ensure that adequate and appropriate services are available to community members immediately following a suicide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier, we have put in place psychiatric nurses in every community to try and assist in the

communities with whatever they may be facing. We also work with Embrace Life. We opened up the phone line for 24 hours where it used to be only set hours. We're doing whatever we can to assist and trying to tackle suicide in our territory. We will continue to find and look for solutions to alleviate some of the stresses in our communities.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response so that all Nunavutmiut can hear the services that are available.

I appreciate that there are many factors that can lead an individual to feel that they cannot go with their life. Can the minister clarify what kinds of interventions are available at the community level to provide support to those who may be considering suicide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For example, in Baker Lake, we have a child and youth outreach worker and a psychiatric nurse in the community. We have various levels of support for each community and as I said, every community now has a psychiatric nurse to assist those that may be in need. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 461 – 4(2): Support for Iqaluit's Toonik Tyme

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, in a couple of weeks' time from April 2 to 10, Iqaluit will be celebrating its 50th Toonik Tyme spring festival. For 50 years, the Toonik Tyme festival has been an event packed with games, feasts, and challenges which are not only fun for the community but showcase our traditions and culture for the world to see.

I would just like to make a correction. This is for the Minister of ED&T. Sorry. Can the minister clarify whether her department or Nunavut Tourism, which is funded by her department, provides support for such events as this and, if not, why not? 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 am unsure of any funds that they have accessed in the past for this festival, as it isn't included in my briefing notes in front of me.

We receive a lot of proposals from different people who submit them to the various programs under the economic development and transportation department, but I can't confirm that at this time. Once I have received the

information on whether there was an application, I will set up a meeting with her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government provides hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to companies which aren't even based in Nunavut to promote tourism. Can the minister indicate what kinds of funding and support are provided to local, Nunavut-based, organizations which hold events that bring tourists to Nunavut like, for example, the Toonik Tyme festival? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are several different funds under the department that provide contributions to various organizations or private bodies that require further funding for operational needs.

With respect to the tourism specific funding, they are funded from a different source. We have voiced our desire to increase funding for Nunavut Tourism as one of our priorities to incorporate *Tunngasaiji*, as these positions would serve to strengthen our tourism services. The funds we are looking at amount to about \$1,285,000 in increased funding for initiatives so that they can fulfill their mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that because that kind of leads right into my last question.

Mr. Speaker, even the northern airlines pitch in to support Toonik Tyme by giving discounts for the many travellers and tourists, hopefully, who will come to Iqaluit for the festival.

Will the minister commit to reviewing her departmental policies and those of Nunavut Tourism to ensure that local events which boost our tourism industry, such as Toonik Tyme, receive the support they need to be truly successful? 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. We had already committed to reviewing programs under the department and we will continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 462 – 4(2): Nunavut's Education Standards

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

Mr. Speaker, last year in the fall after the territorial elections, members were provided with correspondence outlining the issues related to problems in our educational system and the recommendations to resolve the problems. If I recall, it was related to not being able to implement the changes and this information was provided to us.

Does the minister now have the information as to the reason why our school curriculum is so far behind? I refer to the level of education our graduates have upon graduation from our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. Now, his question was kind of vague, so I am not sure exactly which area he is questioning and I am not sure of which subject.

Nonetheless, at this time, most members are aware that a new initiative was introduced in our schools, which is the new (interpretation ends) literacy (interpretation) program along with new mathematic programs. Further, we have added new initiatives designed to engage the parents in their children's education and attendance throughout our schools in Nunavut. Further, for Nunavut, all schools are now provided with a standardized curriculum and they don't have different courses offered in our schools. Those are the types of initiatives we have created ever since our portfolios were assigned to us.

However, I don't know which area my colleague was referring to and if I misunderstood, perhaps he can rephrase his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. If you can rephrase your question, please do so. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make it abundantly clear. Now, when our students graduate from (interpretation ends) high school (interpretation) with a diploma, if the term is the same for the students who graduate, but this is based on the information we heard that when students are tested for their level of education, the students' levels are far below national standards. That is what I am asking about here.

What is the reason for the level of education being so below our national standards? I was asking about this aspect of our students. What is the reason for their low levels of education? Is it due to poor attendance or due to the low number of school hours spent on certain subjects? That is my reasoning for asking about our graduates' abysmal levels when they are said to be graduates of high school. I'm asking about the nature of the problem. Is it because they're missing so many hours? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the clarification. Yes, we have seen by means of reports about our students that go to school that we have

the highest rate of dropouts in Canada, which is part of the problem. There are also other problems. As I stated earlier, we have been having some serious deliberations about this issue.

If our students are going to go to anywhere to further their education, for example, to the south or elsewhere, then the level of education has to be the same. The strength of their education has to be the same as everybody else no matter where that student moves when they finish grade 12.

If they consistently miss school during school years, for example, if they miss 75 percent, it would be like missing three whole years of school if you look at their whole school career. It is similar if they're always late. We're trying to deal with this serious issue with our approach. I would like my colleague to know that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for his clarification, which clears this up in my mind.

I have another concern I want to ask about as I have already voiced the earlier concern. Mr. Speaker, my other question is related to our unique culture here in Nunavut.

In some classes, students are taken out on the land for a whole week, either fishing at a lake or some other traditional activity practised by Inuit. The class is out on the land for the whole week.

The other concern I hold relates to this particular local practice. Once the month of May rolls around in our community, many residents put up tents at a close by camping area. The students take turns going for classes to this area for about a week, starting from the highest grades down to the lower levels. Is this part of the problem when the students aren't in actual classes, but are at the hunting camps where they aren't taking notes or tests? I wonder if this has something to do with their classroom instructions when students are out for a whole week of hunting. That is my question about possible impacts of these land activities.

My other question is when students are at the tents for their classes throughout the day at this camp, they spend pretty well that whole day not in classes, which can last up to a week. When students aren't forced to write reports for these trips, doesn't that affect their class work? I refer specifically for students set to graduate in that year. I hope that I made sense with my questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I believe there are two questions in that. Mr. Minister, you can respond to either of his questions if you prefer. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to education in Nunavut, we follow Inuit values as we are supposed to implement *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit* as well as Inuit societal values that form the foundation for our school system.

Furthermore, within our schools, elders are valued educators who receive

certificates for teaching *Inuit Qaujimanituqangat*. As well, we also try to encapsulate traditional knowledge and past practices related to hunting as this is an integral part of Inuit culture, and this practice is undertaken in the springtime.

When the weather warms up enough to allow people to live in a tent, up to two weeks can be set aside in the schools for land programs where they learn traditional Inuit skills. Even without any written systems, they are practising Inuit traditions, such as our beliefs. Oral traditions are another form of education. That is what they are learning.

They don't lose any classroom time based on the number of school days as the trips are built into the spring school days. This is an integral part of their overall education, so they aren't lagging behind by spending this week without reading and writing, but learning by observation. That is also part of our education system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 463 – 4(2): Departmental Positions

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Pond Inlet. You are in my thoughts as you endure this hardship. To the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, you are in our thoughts at this time.

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

There has been some confusion recently about the number of positions in the department that will be impacted by the decision to turn over responsibility for CARS services to NAV Canada and ATS Services, so I will be very clear in my questions today.

According to the government's staff directory, the Department of EDT has a total of four positions that have responsibility for aviation programs. Three of these positions are located in Rankin Inlet and Kugluktuk, and we have been told that the GN is trying to find new jobs for the employees.

The fourth position is called an "Aviation Programs Officer." This position is located in Pond Inlet. Let me first ask: can the minister assure me that this position will remain 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 also thank my colleague for that question. Based on the briefing I received, these positions were funded by federal funding. Even though that was the case, the (interpretation ends) decentralized (interpretation) communities, with that designation, have to follow a set of procedures to find another position if one is removed. This is ongoing and our officials are dealing with this issue.

Also, when any government employee wants to leave for another non-governmental position, we can't stop them, as everyone has freedom to chase employment elsewhere. They

occasionally move to other positions.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I was trying to be
absolutely clear in my question, so let
me rephrase the question.
The aviation programs officer position is
currently located in Pond Inlet. Let me
first ask: will this position remain
located in Pond Inlet and remain staffed?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. In English, these are
called (interpretation ends) aviation
programs officer. (interpretation) I had
already stated that these positions were
funded through the federal government.
At the end of the fiscal year in March, if
they haven't found alternative
employment, although assistance is
ongoing to find suitable replacement
positions, the funding is disappearing for
these positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. The reason for my
confusion is the fact that the minister has
stated previously that three positions
currently staffed in Rankin Inlet and
Kugluktuk will be lost due to the loss of
funding. I have looked for the reference,
but the position in Pond Inlet isn't even
mentioned. That is why the confusion
exists about this position and thusly why

I am asking questions about this
position.

Let me then ask this other question, Mr.
Speaker. At one point, the Department of
EDT also had the position of
"Transportation Programs Officer"
located in Pond Inlet. This position
became vacant last year unfortunately
when the employee who held the job
passed away. It is my understanding that
the position remains vacant today.

Can the minister assure me that her
department is making every effort to fill
this position as soon as possible and
keep the position located in Pond Inlet?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the
member for the concerns that exist in his
community, as every position is
important to the communities. Mr.
Speaker, I can state to my colleague that
this job has been advertised and the
position will remain in Pond Inlet.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 464 – 4(2): Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. My questions are for the
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation.

On Friday, the minister tabled QEC's 2013-14 annual report, which I had the opportunity to read over the weekend. Although the minister tabled the report on Friday, I note that the Auditor's report on QEC's financial statements, which was prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, was actually signed on June 25, 2014.

Can the minister explain why he waited for almost nine months to table QEC's annual report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very simple. I have only been the minister for four months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the minister did it in a timely manner of four months. QEC's 2013-14 annual report indicates that the corporation's board of directors has established a financial and audit committee. Can the minister indicate how frequently this committee meets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Mr. Savikataaq coming in on the weekend to read that report to ask me some questions today.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information. I don't know how many times they have met. I do know that, in conversation with our interim chair, that they have met and she is intending to be more active to make sure the subcommittees meet more regularly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General's report on the financial statements of QEC includes one reservation. It stated, and I quote, "Section 12(2) of the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* indicates that the Minister shall, on the recommendation of the Board, fix the remuneration and other terms and conditions of employment of the President...payments made to the former President exceeded those approved remuneration limits. The Board of Directors did not formally seek, nor receive the necessary approvals from the Minister for the former President's remuneration."

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the individual in question is no longer employed by the government. I also recognize that the current minister has only been the minister for four months, but can the minister indicate what controls have been put in place to assure that the situation does not happen again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that question. Mr. Chairman, I don't know about controls. The former chairman did write a letter to me. There was a board meeting in early December where they made a recommendation to increase the salary following the Act. They made a recommendation to me as the minister and as minister, I did not accept the recommendation, so there are your controls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 465 – 4(2): Tank Farm Maintenance

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

During the minister's recent appearance before the Committee of the Whole, questions were asked about the issue of tank farm maintenance.

As the minister is well aware, I have approached his office on a number of occasions with concerns about problems with Sanikiluaq's fuel supply. I believe that regular cleaning of tanks will help to prevent problems from occurring.

In response to questions that were asked in the House, we were informed that "tank cleans are supposed to be done every five years."

Can the minister inform me when the fuel tanks in Sanikiluaq were last cleaned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. I exactly don't have the timeline of when the tanks were last cleaned in Sanikiluaq. However, we do make a point of ensuring that, before every sealift, before every fuel delivery, these tanks are checked to ensure they are clean enough to be used for that year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the department track the frequency with which tank cleans take place in Nunavut's 25 communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again I don't have that level of information with me at this point. However, I do know that we do have contractors going to communities to do the inspections on our behalf. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I imagine that all Members of the Legislative Assembly would be interested in knowing how recently tank cleans took place in their communities.

Would the minister be willing to table a detailed report on this subject during the upcoming spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to provide that information to the House. Thank you.

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

Question 466 – 4(2): Medical Travel for Unilingual Elders

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday, I asked the minister about the department's definition of a unilingual elder. The response I got was not too forthcoming as this is what he said, and I'm quoting the unedited *Hansard*, "They do some planning with doctors and they identify if a person is unilingual..."

After reviewing the June 2013 version of the department's policy, I could find no definition of "unilingual elder." Can the minister confirm that the Department of Health has a clear definition of "unilingual elder"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Anybody over the age of 65 who wishes to have an escort, if they are unilingual, is entitled to an escort. That is pretty clear to me. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if any other provisions of the Medical Travel Policy were recently revised in addition to the recent announcement the minister made with respect to allowing unilingual elders to request an escort if they so choose? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) No, that is the only change to the policy that was made. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I want to see the revised Medical Travel Policy, I would like to ask the minister if he can commit to tabling the revised Medical Travel Policy before the end of our winter session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The announcement I made during this session was that anybody over the age of 65 who wishes to have an escort who is unilingual and does not speak English is entitled to one. That's the only change we made. The rest of the policy still remains the same and I believe it has been made available to the Assembly. I will gladly provide the information and table it when I get a chance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 467 – 4(2): Support for Students and Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day to my fellow residents of Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that some adult students who attend programs at Nunavut Arctic College are not receiving support from program staff and, in fact, are made to feel so unwelcome that they return home without finishing their course.

Can the minister describe what steps are taken to ensure that students are made to feel welcome at Nunavut Arctic College and what support is provided to students to ensure that they stay and finish their program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. For your information, Nunavut Arctic College has rules on how they should administer their programs and their students. Those same policies apply to date. We have policies on how the students should be treated and what type of support services should be provided. I know that all of the instructors know that there are rules that are applied in Nunavut Arctic College. We do have policies.

I haven't really heard anything about a student returning home without finishing their course because of their treatment. For your information, we do have policies that are applied right across the board in the institutions and how they should treat their students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has stated that education is its number one priority. However, if students are leaving their programs at Nunavut Arctic College because they feel harassed or mistreated by program staff, then the government's own mandate is being ignored. Is the minister aware of this problem and, if so, can he provide an update on what is being done to address this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, we are not notified about day-to-day operations of the college, but I am very pleased that we have very many students who go to Nunavut Arctic College and student enrolment is increasing every year. I just urge the older people or people of a mature age to continue their education.

As I indicated earlier, our instructors or our teachers all have policies that we adhere to and we make sure that our instructors are well aware of those policies. If any student has any problems with their instructor, they are told to immediately notify the senior management and they are taken care of right away. That's what I can say, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that it is not always clear why students leave their programs before completing the coursework. However, I believe that it is important that steps be taken to determine the underlying reasons that students quit before finishing. Will the minister commit to looking into this matter and providing me with an update at his earliest convenience? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very open to hearing any sort of concerns. If there are any concerns with regard to Nunavut Arctic College, we are always open to hearing any sort of complaint.

I want all to know that we have policies with regard to the instructors and they undertake orientation at Nunavut Arctic College prior to going to work. I can tell my colleague that if he knows of any case, then they can deal with them on a case-by-case basis at the headquarters. They can do investigative work at the headquarter level.

I would like to hear from anywhere about how we can provide more support and assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 468 – 4(2): Dust Control in Baker Lake

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as an inland community, Baker Lake experiences relatively high temperatures during the summer months and these increased temperatures often contribute to large amounts of dust that rise off the community's roads during traffic.

(interpretation ends) For safety reasons, the municipality cannot use the standard calcium chloride solution to control the rising dust on the community's airport road.

(interpretation) Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the Municipality of Baker Lake to address the issue of dust control for the community's airport road? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the member is aware, there was a report that was provided to all members and the same report is provided to all the municipalities on different types of dust suppressants that can be used. The Municipality of Baker Lake does have the opportunity to review that report and decide which chemicals they may want to use for that particular road that the member is talking about. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that alternative methods for dust control may be dismissed due to the cost-benefit of calcium chloride. However, given that this particular solution is not an option for the airport road in Baker Lake and given that it is important to ensure that this road is safe for travel, I believe that it is important that Baker Lake have the

opportunity to pursue new methods of dust control.

Will the minister commit to working with the Municipality of Baker Lake to determine alternative dust control solutions for the community's airport road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As previously mentioned, my department has committed to providing training to any municipality that requests training on dust control.

There are proper ways to apply dust control. The key word here is proper application. We've had communities apply dust control. However, without proper application, the system doesn't work very well.

My department is open to coming into any community that would like to discuss their dust control problems. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the airport to the community, at a certain distance, there is a safety issue for dust suppressants on the airport road that cannot be applied.

Can the minister indicate if his department is currently undertaking research to determine more alternatives

for dust control in Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Yes, as I stated earlier, if my staff are invited to any of the communities in Nunavut, we will go. (interpretation ends) Once my staff is able to get into a community, they can have a dialogue with the municipality and then decide what would be the best method on certain parts of the road. However, again I stress that calcium chloride is still the most cost-effective method of dust control. (interpretation): Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 469 – 4(2): Outstanding Invoicing Issue with NHC

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, constituents have approached me regarding a longstanding and unresolved invoicing dispute they have had with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this issue has been ongoing for nearly five years and information has been provided to me to help them address it.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the minister may not have the detailed

information before him. However, I will provide it to him after the sitting.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister commit that he will direct his officials to look into this matter to resolve it once and for all? 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 say “good day” to my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I didn’t quite hear the member’s question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please rephrase your question, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my constituents has approached me regarding a longstanding and unresolved invoicing dispute that they have with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. This has been ongoing now for nearly five years and proper documentation has been provided. My question here is: once I provide that information to the minister, can he resolve the matter once and for all? 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 for that question. Mr. Speaker, yes, once I see it and find

out exactly what the question pertains to, I'll look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 470 – 4(2): Fuel Delivery in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to CGS.

I have a concern coming from our community where the fuel delivery is handled from a tanker to the tank in the community. What they do is the tanker comes in, but they don't go right to the shore. They have a really long hose that spans from the tanker into the tanks. In the past, they had problems with bad gas and they don't want to see that happening over in Gjoa Haven.

My question is: is there a procedure for the tanker on how to deliver gas or P50 from the tanker to the tanks, from the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question. The delivery of fuel from the tanker to the tank is the responsibility of the contractor. As a department, we don't have control of how they are going to do that delivery. That is their method of delivery and they use that in every community in Nunavut, using a hose from the tanker to the tanks. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. When does it become the GN's problem? Is it only when it becomes bad gas where gasoline and P50 are mixed together and dispensed from the tanks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I could answer a hypothetical question like that. However, we do try to ensure that fuel that is delivered, for example, P50s are not mixed with any gas. However, again, that is the responsibility of the contractor. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Ms. Angnakak.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 001 – 4(2): Ms. Pat Angnakak

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we approach the end of our current winter sitting, I am honoured to have this opportunity to rise today in order to provide a reply to the Opening Address.

Mr. Speaker, as the House will recall, the Commissioner's Opening Address to mark the beginning of the Second

Session of the current Assembly was delivered on March 20, 2014, almost a year ago.

As the House will also recall, one of the statements in the Commissioner's Opening Address noted that, and I quote, "Food security includes the promotion of community-focused solutions to enhance access to nutritious foods. It is essential for our government to continue advocating for adequate policy and legislative measures that support this access at affordable prices."

Mr. Speaker, I want to focus my remarks today on a specific issue that relates to food security: the Nutrition North Canada Program.

Mr. Speaker, in May of 2013, the members of the previous Legislative Assembly unanimously voted in favour of calling on the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a comprehensive performance audit of the Nutrition North Canada Program and to report his findings to Parliament.

This motion followed on work that was undertaken by members, including a number of members who are in this House today, to publicly examine the Nutrition North Canada Program and to hear directly from stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report was tabled in Parliament last fall and his findings have been the subject of extensive discussion here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Nutrition North Canada Program is one of the federal programs with the most significant impact on the day-to-day lives of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's recent report to Parliament pointed out that the average annual household expenditure on food in Nunavut is over 100 percent higher than the national average. Put simply, it costs our families twice as much to feed their children than it does in much of the rest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report does note that many factors contribute to food insecurity in the north, including "poverty, unemployment, limited infrastructure..." It also notes that while the Nutrition North Canada Program is "intended to make nutritious foods more accessible and affordable, it is not designed to address these factors or make the price of food in the North equal to the prices elsewhere."

Mr. Speaker, I have been a strong and vocal supporter of our government taking actions that fall within its jurisdiction to address food security and a number of its underlying causes.

However, it is important to emphasize that the Nutrition North Canada Program is administered by the federal government and can only be changed by the federal government. This is why it is so important that we who live in the north clearly and emphatically provide our perspective on the issues and problems that we see with the program.

Mr. Speaker, let me move on to commenting on two recent and positive developments.

As I noted earlier, the Auditor General's report on the Nutrition North Canada Program was tabled in Parliament last fall. It is my understanding that the House of Commons Public Accounts

Committee will be holding its hearings on the Auditor General's report within the next few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, these upcoming hearings, which will be held in public, will be critical in ensuring that our federal parliamentarians have a clear understanding of why it is so vital that action be taken to address the problems with this federal program. These hearings will be also be critical in ensuring that the federal department which is responsible for administering the program is held to its commitments to act on the Auditor General's five key recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I will be following the work of our federal counterparts with great care and attention, as do I hope will all Members of this House and our friends in the northern news media.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to publicly call on the members of the parliamentary committee who are undertaking this important work to do so in a cooperative spirit and to rise above partisanship. The challenge of improving food security in Nunavut and throughout the northern regions of Canada will not be met if opportunities such as these hearings simply become yet another occasion for name-calling and partisan accusations. Mr. Speaker, hungry children in Iqaluit, Grise Fiord, Repulse Bay, and Kugluktuk don't care about pre-election polls or political point-scoring, and neither should we.

Mr. Speaker, the second positive development that I want to speak about is the recent announcement that the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board will be holding a public meeting on

March 26 here in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to attending this meeting, and I encourage all of my colleagues who are available to join me. Mr. Speaker, this upcoming meeting will be the sixth such public event that the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board has held since its establishment in 2011.

As the House will be aware, the mandate of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board is to "provide advice to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to help guide the direction and activities of the program and to ensure that Northerners receive its full benefit."

I strongly encourage the board to significantly increase its visibility and activity in the months to come, and I strongly encourage the federal government to publicly release the board's outstanding annual reports on the activities and actions that it undertook in the years 2013 and 2014.

Sorry, I have a sore throat and it's coming through in all my reading.

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn now to some specific issues with the Nutrition North Canada Program that I want to see addressed.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most revealing observations in the Auditor General's report was that, and I quote, "The northern retailers have attested to the Department that they do pass on the full subsidy to consumers. If the Department was able to verify that this was the case, some of the public scepticism surrounding the Program could be lessened. This would benefit both the Department and northern retailers.

We found that the contribution agreements specified that the full subsidy be passed on to consumers. However, the Department did not specify in the agreements that data on profit margins must be provided. This data is necessary to determine whether the full subsidy is passed on.”

Mr. Speaker, in its response to the Auditor General’s report, the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development committed to addressing this issue through amendments to its compliance review process. It is essential that our federal parliamentarians closely monitor the department’s progress in this area.

Mr. Speaker, another revealing observation in the Auditor General’s report was that, and I quote, “When the [Nutrition North Canada] Program was introduced in 2011, subsidy rates for each eligible community were based on freight rates at that time. Under the contribution agreements, retailers are expected to use the most effective and cost-efficient supply chain arrangements and routes, in order to reduce the price of eligible items as much as possible and to provide the best quality for consumers. Some northern retailers publicly reported that they were able to lower their freight rates. The Department also told us that the subsidy rate is now higher than the freight rate in some communities.”

Mr. Speaker, I have heard it suggested that retailers have been able to negotiate cargo rates with the airlines that are sufficiently low as to result in the retailers actually making a profit on the difference between what they pay to ship food and what they receive from the

federal government through the Nutrition North Canada Program. This could result in the full value of the subsidy not being passed on to the consumer.

It is essential that the federal government’s compliance reviews and audits of the program require retailers to disclose their actual negotiated cargo rates with the airlines, and that this information clarify any differences between cargo rates for food and cargo rates for other goods.

Mr. Speaker, shortly after the Auditor General’s report was released, the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development posted a request for proposals on January 26, 2015. This RFP called for proposals to “develop subsidy models and support an engagement with communities for the Nutrition North Canada Program in 2015-2016.”

Mr. Speaker, when officials from the department appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts later this month to respond to the Auditor General’s report, it will be important that they be asked to clarify in detail whether the federal government is considering introducing an entirely different approach to addressing the issue of the cost of food in the north and other remote regions.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard it suggested that we would be better off going back to system of subsidization that was in place under the old Food Mail Program. As we know, that program was not without its problems and shortcomings, as was evidenced in the findings of the Auditor

General's 2002 report concerning entry points.

Mr. Speaker, although nobody wants to go back to the days of trucking food to Val-d'Or or subsidizing the flying into Iqaluit of truck tires, I think that the current Nutrition North Canada Program should re-examine at least two areas that I have been told were addressed better under the Food Mail Program.

Firstly, the federal government needs to re-examine the issue of essential non-food items that are eligible for subsidy under the program. As a mother and grandmother, the very first things that come to mind are diapers and wipes. I would also favour more support to ensure year-round, affordable access to items which contribute to health and wellness.

Mr. Speaker, it has also been suggested to me that another one of the problems with the Nutrition North Canada Program is that the volume of administrative requirements for retailers to register with the program are such that smaller retailers are unwilling or unable to register with the program. This, in turn, further entrenches the power of the larger retailers.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government itself acknowledges the benefits of flexibility and choice. Information published by the Nutrition North Canada Program states that, and I quote, "If a customer (in an eligible community) wishes to purchase perishable nutritious food directly from a Southern supplier instead of a Northern retailer, they can place a direct order. These are a useful option for individuals, schools, restaurants and even small retailers. This

option helps preserve competition among Northern retailers and provides consumers with flexibility related to special dietary needs."

However, the reality is that there is currently only one Ottawa-based registered southern supplier that takes direct or personal orders from Nunavummiut. This limits personal choice and does not contribute to a truly competitive environment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude on a hopeful and positive note by reflecting on the words in the Commissioner's Opening Address that called on us as MLAs to work together for a territory that no longer suffers from food insecurity. Mr. Speaker, the successful implementation of improvements to the Nutrition North Canada Program will help to achieve this goal, and I am pleased to have had the opportunity today to make small contribution to this important process.

I apologize for my throat kind of giving out on me. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 10. (interpretation) Petitions (interpretation ends) Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 126 – 4(2): F/P/T
Report - Ministers of Justice and
Public Safety October 17, 2014**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Report on the Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Justice and Public Safety in Banff, Alberta, October 17, 2014*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Tabled Document 127– 4(2): Nunavut
Housing Corporation Collection
Policy**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Collection Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Tabled Document 128 – 4(2): Contract
Activity Report Fiscal Year 2013-
2014**

**Tabled Document 129 – 4(2):
Procurement Activity Report
Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

**Tabled Document 130 – 4(2): Lease
Activity Report Fiscal Year 2013-
2014**

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have three documents that I want to table. I am pleased to table the contract, procurement, and lease activity reports for 2013-14. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Tabled Document 131 – 4(2):
Priorities of the Francophone
Community of Nunavut Regarding
French Services, March 2015**

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the *Priorities of the Francophone Community of Nunavut Regarding French Services*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 132 – 4(2): Nunavut
Suicide Prevention Strategy
Progress Report 2013-2014**

**Tabled Document 133 – 4(2): F/P/T
Report on the Second Global
Action Against Dementia,
September 11 to 12, 2014**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the following documents:

- The *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Progress Report 2013-2014*; and further
- The F/P/T Report on the Second Global Action Against Dementia Event held in Ottawa, September 11 to 12, 2014.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 134 – 4(2): Nunavut Economic Developers Association’s 2013-2014 Annual Report

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut [Economic] Developers Association’s 2013-14 annual report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Kuksuk.

Tabled Document 135 – 4(2): Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board Annual Report 2012-2013

Tabled Document 136 – 4(2): Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board Annual Report 2013-2014

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board’s 2012-13 as well as the 2013-14 annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 137 – 4(2): Towards a Representative Public Service, Statistics as of September 30, 2014

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table *Towards a Representative Public Service, Statistics as of September 30, 2014*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 138 – 4(2): Record of Members’ Absences - October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

(interpretation ends) I wish to table the recording of members’ absences from sittings of the House and meetings of the committee and caucuses for the period October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have no more left. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Shooyook.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 021 – 4(2): Establishment of Standing Committee on Inuit Societal Values and Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit – Notice

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Uqqummiut, that the Legislative Assembly establish a Standing Committee on Inuit Societal Values and *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit*.

Thank you.

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. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 18: Second Reading

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Second Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* to allow the Management and Service Board to establish policies and provide benefits to regular members.

This Act also amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* to limit elections related to the transfer of allowances payable under the Act.

This bill further amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* to provide for greater clarity in the division of benefits between members and former spouses following family breakdowns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried. Pursuant to Rule 67 (4), Bill 21 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 21 with Mr. Enook 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.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:13 and Committee resumed at 15:45*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): We can proceed with our committee meeting. First of all, I would like to welcome the people of Nunavut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast.

While I have the opportunity, as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, I would like to welcome the Mayor of Pond Inlet, Charlie Enuarak. Welcome to the Chamber.

>>Applause

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have quite a long wish list today and I'm not sure if we will get through them all or not. Nonetheless, we wish to review the following supplementary appropriation bills and budget documents: Bills 14, 15, and 18 and, if time permits, we will proceed to review the following in this order: Bill 12, Bill 17, Bill 19, Bill 11, Bill 13, and Bill 21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do we agree that we first deal with the supplementary appropriation, Bill 14?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson, welcome. Let me first ask if you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have a couple of witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Camilius Egeni, Director of Expenditure Management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome to the House, Mr. D'Arcy and Mr. Egeni. Minister Peterson, if you have opening comments, I will give you the opportunity at this time. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*.

Bill 14 is for capital supplementary appropriations for 2014-15 totalling \$20 million. The total capital appropriation can be broken down as follows:

- An interdepartmental transfer of \$210,000 from the Department of Health to the Department of Family

Services to complete renovations to the adult group home in Iqaluit; and

- \$20 million for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to fund the construction of additional staff housing.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to take questions on Bill 14. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are dealing with Bill 14. Go to page 4 in the Inuktitut and in the English, it's the same page.

As a reminder to my colleagues, everything that was covered in the opening comments is broken down in the various pages. Please make sure you ask your questions at the appropriate page. At this time, I would like to ask if anyone has any general comments. Are there any general comments?

Since there are none, we will then proceed to page 4. If anyone has questions, please raise your hand. I will read it. Family Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Corporate Management. \$210,000. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$210,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 5. Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. -\$210,000. Total Department. -\$210,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 6. Nunavut Housing

Corporation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I should thank the minister for getting the information that we previously requested regarding the \$20 million for additional staff housing units throughout Nunavut.

In the response that we got, it stated that staff housing would be going to non-decentralized communities like Kugaaruk, Kimmirut, Grise Fiord, Coral Harbour, Sanikiluaq, Hall Beach, Resolute Bay, and decentralized communities of Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Gjoa Haven. Again I thank you for recognizing that Sanikiluaq does need additional staff housing in the community.

However, I would like to draw your attention to Pond Inlet. I know, over the years, the member has brought up on numerous occasions that they have a lot of staff housing there that is not being used and now we see that they want to put more staff housing in Pond Inlet. It makes a person wonder if you are planning to put more government departments into Pond Inlet. I'm wondering if you can explain why there are additional staff housing units allocated to Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Are we getting another department in Pond Inlet?

>> *Laughter*

Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the praise for getting this information.

Just to clarify, NHC anticipates being able to fund new staff housing in some or all of the following communities, so I don't think there is any final conclusion on that. The Nunavut Housing Corporation does have a process for determining how to allocate staff housing and they have indicated in their report that Pond Inlet has that demand. You would have to ask them how they arrived at that calculation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that this list is not finalized, but to even have Pond Inlet on the list, considering the questions over the years by the member on the abundance of staff housing in Pond Inlet, I wonder if you could redirect the question to the Minister of Housing and if he can explain why they are putting additional staff housing into Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Again, I have to express caution that this is just preliminary information. There is no final determination that Pond Inlet will get housing. It's just based on a formula of need as a percentage of stock and that Pond Inlet ranked number four out of ten in decentralized communities. Based on

the formula, that's the ranking they got. Again, it is not final.

The standing committee asked us to provide some information. With the Nunavut Housing Corporation, it is only very recently that we made the determination that we could take \$20 million out of our year-end surplus and allocate it to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to carry over to develop staff housing in 2015-16. It is still very early and there are a lot of other factors that are at stake. The availability of land is a very important one, actually, and some communities don't have the land that may be required to develop the houses.

As members will remember, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently in the process of constructing a lot of houses under the \$100 million that we received from the federal government. Again, it is early yet. We still have to look at all the occupancy rates in the positions across Nunavut and the houses in the communities, plus jobs that are staffed or remain vacant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that this listing is not carved in stone, as they would say.

In the briefing, the Nunavut Housing Corporation states exactly how many units they know they need throughout Nunavut. We asked exactly where they were going and they don't seem to have the detail of exactly where they want to put them.

I guess it's just a comment and if the member wants to question this further at another time, I would just leave it at that. I will just leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation) Page 6. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman I know he is not the Minister of Housing and that they just got the money, but does he know if he can get this stuff in on sealift on time? Sealift is not that far around the corner in terms of going to tender, purchasing equipment, and figuring out which community it is going to. It will be part of the bid process for the package. It seems like they don't even know how many houses they are going get out of it, so I don't know if the minister can elaborate on it or not. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in my earlier answer, we just made a decision very recently within the last month or so to transfer \$20 million out of our surplus to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to specifically direct towards staff housing.

2015 would be the year where we would anticipate that the Nunavut Housing Corporation do a lot of planning to determine if they have the land in the different communities. There are all those other factors that go into determining where the houses go, and then they would develop an RFP to award for the contractors to supply and

build the houses. I anticipate that that would start in 2016.

There would be plenty of lead time to take into consideration the shipping seasons. Of course, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has got a lot of experience in that area now because of the work they are doing on delivering the houses under the \$100 million funding from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) We are on page 6. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$20 million. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$20 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 2. 2014-15 Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$20 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to your legislation binder. Bill 14 is in your white legislation binder. I believe you all have Bill 14 in front of you. We're going to be reviewing clause by clause. Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Go to the Schedule on page 3. It reads, Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2015. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$20 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to page 1. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree to Bill 14 as whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do you agree that Bill 14 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, we are done with this bill. If you have any closing remarks, you now have the floor. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you and your committee for your good questions during the standing committee and today during Committee of the Whole. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I want to move on to the next bill, Bill 15. I believe you all have a copy of Bill 15. We will move on. Minister Peterson, I now give you the opportunity to make your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 15 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-
2015 – Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-2015*.

Bill 15 is for operations and maintenance supplementary appropriations for 2014-15 totalling \$28,417,000. It consists of the following items:

- \$1,200,000 to the Department of Family Services to fund a shortfall in

their compensation and benefits budget;

- \$1,538,000 to the Department of Education to fund a shortfall in compensation and benefits due to year-end accruals;
- An additional \$21,300,000 to the Department of Health to fund budget shortfalls in the following programs:
 - \$2,400,000 in compensation and benefits;
 - \$8 million in medical travel;
 - \$8,200,000 in agency nurse contracts; and
 - \$2,700,000 in mental health contracts;
- \$375,000 to the Department of Environment to address a budget shortfall in the operation of the research vessel, the Nuliajuk;
- \$180,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services to fund the office space lease for *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*;
- \$1,600,000 for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to address a shortfall in the operating budget of the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project; and
- \$2,224,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to cover budget shortfalls in utilities as a result of increases in water and electrical rates.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to take questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there any general comments? Please note that all the information on the opening comments are in supplementary pages. Go to page 4 of Bill 15. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question on his last comment there, the last bullet in the business plan. It says, “In order to address compensation and benefit shortfalls resulting from insignificant staffing, additional supplementary funding is required.” Does that mean they are short money because they are short-staffed? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Chairman, what it means is that there are more expenses than they anticipated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it that if we read between the lines, to see if I’m clear on this, it means there was more overtime or more staff hired on a casual basis. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. When you say, “Read between

the lines,” no, it’s not reading between the lines. There is overtime. There are more casuals.

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada recommended in one of their reports a few years ago that we do have to provide levels of service. There are issues that happen after hours that require the social workers to come out to deal with them. In some instances, they do have to hire casual social workers when there are vacancies in the indeterminate positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that you’re not the Minister of Family Services, but you are privy to the briefing notes, I would think, for stuff like this. Are they planning to hire more workers so that they won’t be short-staffed? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services received an appropriation under Bill 16, which received third reading the other day, on Friday.

With that, we expect the departments to operate within their appropriated amounts. If, at some point during the year, they require additional resources, they would have to come back to the Financial Management Board, but before that happens, we would expect them to manage their funds internally to address

any overtime or other compensation and benefits issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are on Bill 15, page 4. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question about the mental health facilities and contracts. In the briefing note, it says that costs have gone up over the last couple of years. Are we talking about mental health facilities and contracts here in Nunavut or are we talking about out of territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, if Ms. Angnakak could clarify where she is reading that information. We are dealing with compensation and benefits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: I’m ahead of the game. Sorry. I’ll wait until we get to that portion.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. I’m glad you decided to wait. That way, I don’t have to tell you to wait.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) We are on page 4. Family Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Children and Family Services. Total Children and Family Services. \$1.2 million. Total

Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,200,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 5, both in Inuktitut and in English. It reads, Education. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$1,538,000. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the benefit of the viewing audience, because they can't see what we are working with, can you explain to them that this is just an accounting practice, if I am correct? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. These are year-end actuarial adjustments that deal with pensions and sick leave, removal severance, maternity and parental leave, and grievances. It tallies up to the surplus they have in sick leave.

It balances out to \$1,538,000. We have to approve that amount for them for their year-end because they are not allowed to over-expend their budget. It's more or less an accounting entry, but it's based on actuarial numbers, evaluations, and funding that has not previously occurred. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson, for clarifying it. We're on page 5. It reads, Education. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate.

Total Directorate. \$1,538,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,538,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 6 in Inuktitut and English. Health. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Health Care Service Delivery. Total Health Care Service Delivery. \$21,300,000. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I guess I'm in the right place now; I was a little ahead. I'll just ask my question again to the minister. The mental health facilities and contracts that you talk of here, is that within territory or out of territory where the costs have gone up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I may defer this to my colleague, the Minister of Health, but I am reading the information and they're referring to shorter term contracts for out-of-territory treatment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that there's actually going to be a shortage of a little over \$3.9 million, but this appropriation is \$2.7 million and the remainder of \$1.2 million will be funded by surpluses and other programs. Do you have any idea

which other programs have surpluses that are going to be able to cover the remainder of the shortfall? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Health will take this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) On the first question, the over-expenditures are for outside-the-territory services, so they are for costs we can't control. We need patients to be treated, so they are shipped out.

In terms of other expenditures that we are using to cover some of the over-expenditures is \$405,000 on staff travel, other expenses that we budgeted for at \$469,000, and pharmacy at \$339,000.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. We are on page 6 in Inuktitut and English. It reads, Health. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Health Care Service Delivery. Total Health Care Service Delivery. \$21,300,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$21,300,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 7 in both Inuktitut and English. It reads, Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions on the Baffin boat, I mean the Nuliajuk boat.

>>*Laughter*

They're asking for \$375,000 and I don't know if you can answer this and I know the minister is on travel. One of the bullets says, to date, they have relocated \$483,000 from other programs to cover the vessel's expense. I just wanted to know what programs they have either cancelled or delayed or scaled down. It's too bad that the Minister of Environment is on duty travel. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. I know Minister Mike was hoping he could be here to answer that question. He was sitting beside me all last week showing me the briefing notes on this particular area. I'll just take a crack at it. Hopefully I can fill in for him here.

The funding of \$483,000, one of the programs is \$270,000 from salaries, \$13,000 from the ADM's budget, and \$200,000 from the Fisheries Development and Diversification Fund, which I believe is grants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister that he had that information. Just on the same topic there, he has put other projects on hold, but they're still committed to completing them this year. Would he also have that information on what those projects are? At the very bottom, it says, Detail: the department is currently putting other projects on hold that we still have commitments to complete this year." If he knows them, if he can share that information with us. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, if you have the information, please.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. They indicated that the projects that are put on hold were winter projects that could wait for funding from other sources. I can use CanNor as an example. The projects that are on hold are now going ahead, including:

- The Amadjuak Lake exploratory fishery;
- Completion of the Qikiqtarjuaq clam research project done in the summer, a sample analysis;
- Additional inshore winter turbot research;
- Exploratory fisheries work in other regions;
- Something called the Fish of Nunavut book production;
- There's a fisheries cookbook project to promote char, seal, and turbot use;

- Making shipping shrimp pots for HTOs in Qikiqtarjuaq and Grise Fiord for winter test fishing;
- Whale meat traditional knowledge study out of Naujaat; and
- The Inuit knowledge seal research project.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Page 7. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering: with all those projects you just mentioned, is there any projects towards the Kitikmeot area planned at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't see anything on the briefing note that would say that anything from the Kitikmeot was put on hold. If you are interested on anything in the Kitikmeot, it might be a suggestion that in the spring sitting, you could ask Minister Mike when he's here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Page 7. Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Program Management. Total Program Management. \$375,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$375,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 8 in both Inuktitut and English. It

reads, Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Government Services. Total Government Services. \$180,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$180,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 9 in both Inuktitut and English. It reads, Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked before about this as it states, and I quote in English, (interpretation ends) "\$1,600,000 to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to address the shortfall in the operating budget of the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project." (interpretation) I seem to understand that they are looking for more money due to a shortfall. I asked about the \$30 million cap and if that's staying. I was told yes. I want to know exactly what is being requested for that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mapsalak for the question. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to have my deputy minister answer this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project itself is not over budget. However, there are operating expenses

that have to be paid to the Project Co, who is running the airport, and there are also some expenses that the department itself continues to have for airport operations. It was all part and parcel of the approval for the airport project.

Previously, the department had hoped to be able to fund these increased costs that have built up over time from their original appropriation. However, they weren't able to do so, so they have had to increase the appropriation for this year for \$1.6 million in round numbers.

As members will remember, for 2015-16, that number has gone up slightly to about \$2.6 million. It includes payments to Project Co, some small salary dollars, utilities that Economic Development and Transportation remains responsible for, some other contract services, and then about \$35,000 for other general objects.

These are all just O&M expenses that have increased over time and don't affect the total cost of the airport project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy, for clarifying that. Let us proceed. Page 9. It reads, Economic Development and Transportation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Transportation. Total Transportation. \$1,600,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,600,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 10. It reads, Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing

Corporation. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$2,224,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,224,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: *Qujannamiuk...*
Qujannamiik.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) We will go back to page 2. Do you agree? *Angiqpisiuk?*
Qujannamiuk.

>>*Laughter*

It reads, 2014-15 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$28,417,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, let us turn to the white legislation binder and please go to Bill 15.

Mr. Mikkungwak, you don't have a copy? Bill 15. Are there any other members who don't have a copy of Bill 15? Does everybody have a copy of Bill 15? Mr. Mikkungwak, did you get your copy?

Okay, we can proceed. Let's work on the bill. Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-2015*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): While we are on this item, please turn to the summary on page 3. It reads, Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2015. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$28, 417,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree to Bill 15 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 15 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Now let us proceed with Bill 18. Minister Peterson, if you have opening comments, I now give you the opportunity.

**Bill 18 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2015-2016 – Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016*.

Bill 18 is for capital supplementary appropriations for 2015-16 and has no associated cost. The total capital appropriation can be broken down as follows:

- An interdepartmental transfer of \$2,819,000 from the Department of Health to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to build a five-plex of two-bedroom units in Arctic Bay.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Colleagues, you will have an opportunity to ask detailed questions in the appropriate pages. Are there any general comments? If there are none, let us proceed to Bill 18 on page 4 in the

Inuktitut and English. It reads, Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. - \$2,819,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. -\$2,819,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 5. It reads, Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$2,819,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,819,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let us go back to page 2. It reads, Schedule 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Look at your legislation binder. We will deal with Bill 18 clause by clause.

Do you all have your copy? It reads, Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2015-2016*. Hold on, please.

The documents I have in front of me are apparently different from everybody else's. Let's take a five-minute break. Don't go too far while we fix this up.

>> *Committee recessed at 16:41 and resumed at 16:53*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. As Chairman, I apologize for making you wait. I must

have the right documents in front of me and because they are bills, they have to be set up perfectly. My pile wasn't perfect. I should have a perfect pile now. Let's proceed.

I believe you all have Bill 18 in front of you. It reads, Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): While we are here, let's look at the Schedule on page 3. It reads, Summary of Appropriation. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016. Capital. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let us go back to page 1. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, do you agree to Bill 18 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 18 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We just had a break. I believe we can proceed. I would like to proceed to Bill 12.

Minister Peterson, if you are ready to proceed with Bill 12. If you have any opening comments, you may now proceed. Minister Peterson.

Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak to Bill 12, which will amend the Nunavut *Tobacco Tax Act* to help improve the efficiency and transparency of our tax system.

The first proposed amendment adds certainty for tobacco wholesalers when completing their Nunavut tobacco tax return. Because cigar taxes are collected and remitted at the wholesale level, this

amendment will change the calculation of cigar taxes to be based on the known wholesale price rather than the unknown retail price.

The second proposed amendment will divide the category of other tobacco into other smoked tobacco and other non-smoked tobacco groups. These new categories define tobacco products based on their use, which will improve data received from wholesalers so that the GN can make better, informed decisions when setting rates and policies related to tobacco taxes. This improved data will allow the Government of Nunavut to monitor tobacco use by Nunavummiut more accurately.

These are technical amendments and will not significantly change the amount of taxes paid by consumers of tobacco products.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to answer questions from the committee. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to present some opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the most recent bill to amend the *Tobacco Tax Act* was Bill 35, which received assent in February of 2012. Bill 35 increased the tax on tobacco “by 4 cents per cigarette, or \$1 per pack of 25” and “the tax on loose

tobacco from 14 cents per [gram] to 20 cents per [gram].”

The 2015-16 main estimates indicate that the government raised \$16,133,000 in 2013-14 from tobacco taxes. Nunavut’s tobacco taxes are among the highest in the country.

Mr. Chairman, during the Legislative Assembly’s consideration of Bill 35 in 2012, the minister indicated that “The main goal of this tax increase is to reduce tobacco use among Nunavummiut.” He also stated that “The government intends to utilize some of these funds to contribute to smoking prevention and cessation programs across the territory.” In addition, the minister indicated that officials from his department would “continue to monitor the tobacco consumption in Nunavut to determine the effectiveness of this strategy.”

Mr. Chairman, as the minister will recall, during the Committee of the Whole’s recent review of the Department of Finance’s 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts urged the minister to “table information in the Legislative Assembly concerning the actual amounts that have been allocated for smoking prevention and [cessation] programs.”

I would like to take this opportunity to echo that recommendation. The standing committee continues to emphasize the importance of the Department of Finance working with the Department of Health to evaluate the impact that increases in tobacco taxes actually have on reducing consumption of the product.

The standing committee recognizes that the intent of Bill 12 is to clarify the definition between “smoked” and “non-smoked” tobacco and to modify the methodology by which taxes on cigar sales are calculated.

Given that the amendments to the *Tobacco Tax Act* will provide for a more precise distinction between smoked tobacco and non-smoked tobacco, it is important for the government to include awareness of the dangers of non-smoked tobacco in its anti-smoking and cessation campaigns.

The standing committee recognizes that the amendments to the *Tobacco Tax Act* will allow the Department of Finance to better administer and monitor tobacco sales in Nunavut. Consequently, the standing committee recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report on the administration of the *Tobacco Tax Act* that includes detailed information concerning sales of tobacco by product type and community.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 12 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. We’re dealing with Bill 12 that is in your legislation binders. Please go to Bill 12 if you don’t already have it in front of you. We will review the bill clause by clause. Do you all have a copy? We will deal with Bill 12.

Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Tobacco... . Some of the Inuktitut doesn’t make any sense at all. I do apologize. Some of them don’t make any

sense at all. I’ll translate it into Inuktitut myself.

An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act.
Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree to Bill 12 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 12 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, we have to do some preparation work. Please take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:05 and resumed at 17:15*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We will now deal with Bill 17. You can find it in your white legislation binders. I’m sure you all have it now.

As we will be dealing with Bill 17, Minister Peterson, if you have any opening comments to make, I now give you the opportunity at this time.

Bill 17 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-2013 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 17, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2012-2013*.

Bill 17 is for the write-off of government assets for 2012-13 totalling \$468,162.74. The total write-off relates to the evaporation and shrinkage of the Petroleum Product Division's fuel inventory in the amount of \$468,162.74.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to take questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. If the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation has opening comments to make, you have the opportunity at this time. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 17, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2012-2013*.

The standing committee has no objections to the purpose of the proposed legislation, which is to write off petroleum products inventory lost due to evaporation and shrinkage.

Mr. Chairman, the most recent bill of this nature to have been considered and

passed by the Legislative Assembly was Bill 5, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2013-2014*, which received assent in November of 2014. However, the standing committee notes that Bill 17 addresses the write-off of petroleum products inventory in the previous 2012-13 year fiscal year. The standing committee recommends that the consideration of bills to write off annual losses of petroleum products inventory be done by consecutive fiscal years.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that Bill 17 refers specifically to the "evaporation and shrinkage" of petroleum products while Bill 5 only made reference to "shrinkage" to encompass all petroleum products losses. The standing committee encourages the government to be consistent in this regard.

Information provided by the government to the standing committee indicates that the volume of petroleum products inventory lost due to evaporation, shrinkage, and other factors has decreased in recent years. This is a positive development, and the standing committee continues to encourage the Minister of Community and Government Services to provide an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on the operations of the Petroleum Products Division of the department and that this report include detailed information concerning evaporation, shrinkage, and spillage rates in different communities.

The standing committee also recommends that the reporting include detailed information for different classes of petroleum products lost, as well as information concerning the department's inventory management practices. This

information would be of use to all members in noting any abnormal trends with respect to fuel losses due to evaporation, shrinkage, spillage, theft, or other causes.

The standing committee is also mindful that the 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services include \$1.5 million in funding for a new electronic point-of-sale system and fuel management software for the Petroleum Products Division.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 17 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. We will now deal with Bill 17. I'm sure you all have a copy of it. It reads, Bill 17, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-2013*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to the Schedule on page 2. Assets Written-off. Total. \$468,162.74. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 17 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 17 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, we will deal with Bill 19, again, in your legislation binders. You can refer to Bill 19 in your legislation binders. Do you all have a copy of the bill? Bill 19. Minister Peterson, if you have opening comments on Bill 19, you can now proceed. Minister Peterson.

Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues. Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, proposes to add five additional forms of cancer that have been identified as occupational diseases for firefighters to the list of occupational diseases for firefighters that are now set out in section 14.1 of the *Workers' Compensation Act*.

The five additional forms of cancer are primary site bladder cancer, primary site kidney cancer, primary site ureter cancer, primary site esophageal cancer, and primary site breast cancer. These forms of cancer have been identified by science as a risk to full-time, part-time, and volunteer members of fire departments.

The International Association of Fire Fighters for Canada lobbied the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission to recognize these additional forms of cancer as listed diseases. The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission researched this issue and found that most Canadian provinces and the Yukon now recognize these five forms of cancer in legislation as risks to firefighters.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation may have about Bill 19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. If the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation has any comments, you may now proceed. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*.

The standing committee fully supports the purpose of the proposed legislation, which is to add five types of cancer to the list of diseases that have been identified as occupational diseases for firefighters.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the five types of cancer to be added to our *Workers' Compensation Act* are also recognized in most Canadian jurisdictions' legislation.

The standing committee also notes that a similar bill is currently under consideration by the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Although the bills are substantially the same, the coming-into-force provisions differ between them.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 19 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Let us deal with the contents of Bill 19. It reads, *Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree to Bill 19 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 19 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, I will allow you to make your closing remarks to either one of the bills we just considered. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you and the committee for your support on all the bills today.

I would like to thank all the departments and their officials for preparation on the sup bills, also for the briefing notes for our binders, and also for preparing the briefing binders for MLAs. That was one of the commitments that we made last sitting. I hope that was informative. I think it was and if there is any way we can improve it, let us know. This is all

good for transparency and accountability.

I would like to thank my officials, of course, Mr. D'Arcy and Mr. Egeni, and all the other finance officials who prepare all the sup bills, the write-off bills, and the tax bills for us to consider. I would like to thank them for keeping me company here as witnesses on the workers' compensation side of things.

Just on Bill 19, I appreciate your support during standing committee and today. I think we have to recognize that our firefighters in Nunavut are unpaid firefighters or volunteers. They are very brave women and men who risk their lives every day to protect our communities. Adding these five new cancers to the nine cancers that are already identified is something that is going to be... . We have to keep in mind that they may need this coverage in the future.

Many of us don't realize the great sacrifices that firefighters make on our behalf. Making these amendments today is recognition of their services to our communities. If people out there think it's an easy job being a firefighter, they should take a moment just to appreciate our firefighters and other people who protect us in our communities.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the committee for your good questions today, and I thank my colleagues for being here to help me answer questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson and your officials.

As we move on, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Bill 11 – An Act to Amend the Corrections Act – Consideration in Committee

We will move on. If you can find Bill 11 in your legislation binder, we will now be dealing with it. Bill 11 is in your legislation binder. If you don't have a copy, you can let us know. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

(interpretation) Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Okalik, I believe you are ready. I would first like to ask, before you make your opening comments, if you have officials that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that Minister Okalik's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Okalik, for the record, please introduce your officials. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me this afternoon to my right is my Deputy Minister, Elizabeth Sanderson, and to my left is our Legislative Counsel, Philip Grassie. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Welcome to the Chamber, Ms. Sanderson and Mr. Grassie. Minister Okalik, if you have any opening comments to make, I give you the opportunity. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This bill is to amend the *Corrections Act*.

Nunavut's *Corrections Act* is out of date. The Northwest Territories' 1973 legislation was adopted in 1999 and no substantial changes have occurred. However, many changes have occurred in the field of corrections in this timeframe. While the Nunavut Corrections Directive and Standing Orders have kept up to date with modern corrections practice, the legislative framework is lacking in many areas.

The Department of Justice is currently completing a more comprehensive review of the Act with the intent of overhauling it over the long term. While this work is in progress, it is necessary to amend certain problematic sections of the Act in the short term. These amendments will ensure our inmates are treated in a more fair and humane way by increasing oversight and controls on the way in which we use physical restraints in prison.

This bill will also affirm an inmate's rights while in segregation to communication and visitation with certain essential persons, such as legal counsel, a member of the clergy, or a Member of the Legislative Assembly in order to ensure fair treatment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. If the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation has any comments to make, I now give you the opportunity. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to provide opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Corrections Act*.

The standing committee has no objections to the purpose of the proposed legislation, which is to amend the *Corrections Act* and align it with modern corrections practices and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 11 includes proposed amendments to sections 24, 26, 27, and 53 of the current *Corrections Act*. These sections include provisions concerning the use of physical restraints, segregated confinement, visitation, and regulations. Bill 11 also includes a proposed amendment to remove section 25 from the current legislation, which provides a medical practitioner with the authority to restrain an inmate through the administration of drugs.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of the bill, members took the opportunity to raise a number of observations and concerns.

The standing committee is concerned that the proposed amendments in Bill 11 provide a maximum time restriction for the physical restraint of an inmate, but do not address situations where an

inmate has been physically restrained for the maximum time and the circumstances are such that continued restraint is necessary.

Mr. Chairman, clause 2 of Bill 11 proposes to repeal section 24 of the legislation and substitute new wording, including subsection 24(10), which provides that “no inmate shall be kept under physical restraint for longer than is necessary or longer than 16 hours.” Members are concerned that this provision is not sufficiently clear on what actions may be taken in circumstances where an inmate has already been kept under physical restraint for 16 continuous hours, but the inmate continues to be a risk to his or her safety, or the safety of others.

The standing committee strongly believes that provisions concerning the physical restraint of inmates must be clear and comprehensive. The standing committee recommends that the minister revisit this issue and be prepared to introduce appropriate amendments in the Legislative Assembly during its upcoming spring sitting.

Mr. Chairman, on March 10, 2015, the Speaker of the House tabled the Auditor General of Canada’s 2015 report on corrections in Nunavut, which focused on whether the Department of Justice was meeting its key responsibilities for inmates within the corrections system. The standing committee looks forward to the upcoming hearing on this report, which is scheduled to take place in spring of 2015 and will be televised across Nunavut.

The standing committee recognizes the importance of bringing Nunavut’s

legislation in alignment with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on the department’s comprehensive review of the *Corrections Act*.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 11 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Let us now go to the clause-by-clause review of Bill 11. I think you all have a copy of the bill. It reads, Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Corrections Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposed provisions in Bill 11 include restrictions on the length of time that an inmate can be kept under physical restraint.

In his opening comments, Mr. Savikataaq made reference to clause 2 of Bill 11. This clause will remove section 24 of the current *Corrections Act* and substitute it with a new section. This new section includes restrictions on a series of timeframes in which physical restraint can be used on an inmate and the corresponding authorizations that will be required for each timeframe.

The first timeframe allows an authorized person to use physical restraint on an inmate for up to four hours. The use of

physical restraint on an inmate beyond four hours and up to 12 hours must be authorized by the warden or the inmate must be on escorted absence from the correctional facility. The use of physical restraint beyond 12 hours and up to 16 hours must be authorized by the warden and approved by the director of corrections.

The new section also includes a provision that no inmate shall be kept under physical restraint for longer than necessary or for longer than 16 hours.

Mr. Chairman, our concern is that Bill 11 does not include a provision that defines what actions may be authorized if an inmate has been kept under physical restraint for 16 hours, but continues to be a risk to the safety of themselves or others.

During the minister's recent appearance before the Standing Committee on Legislation, testimony provided to members indicated that an inmate would not be kept under physical restraint for 16 continuous hours, except in extreme conditions or situations. However, if such an extreme situation does arise, the proposed amendments provide no legally mandated actions that may be taken to address the situation. Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that this will put the safety and security of both staff and inmates at risk.

Will the minister commit to introducing appropriate amendments to section 24 of the *Corrections Act* to address the concerns that I have outlined during the Legislative Assembly's upcoming spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What I am committed to doing as well is doing an overall review of the Act to make sure that it meets our standards as Nunavummiut. That review will start shortly. I would like to do that while we follow the Canadian standards in terms of restraints for the time being. I'm willing to consider that while we are considering all the other amendments to make sure it meets Nunavut's standards. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. (interpretation ends) Somebody's cellphone, I think. A reminder, turn off your tablets or electronics while in the House. (interpretation) Ms. Angnakak, are you done?

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I agree that it's good that you are going to do a review, but I think I want to also ensure that that one point that I bring up about restraint after 16 hours definitely has to be addressed. Right now., the way that the proposed legislation is written, if somebody gets to that point where they have to restrain somebody after 16 hours, it doesn't tell you what... . The legislation is kind of blank on that if somebody is at that situation. I think it is really something that is going to have to be addressed, and I'm hoping that the minister will take that into consideration. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak. The minister did say that he will check these things for us, but Mr. Minister, if you want to add more, you may do so.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) We are reducing the amount from 24 to 16 with this amendment. As I said, at the same time, we are doing a compressive review of the Act in the coming year. We are going to make sure it's more directed towards Nunavut citizens. Through that process, we will make sure that we also consider this and how it's being implemented for the coming year
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We will go back to clause 2. Do you agree?

Some members: agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members Agreed.

Chairman: (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 11 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62 (2), that Bill 11 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That's done. Minister Okalik, I give you the opportunity make closing comments. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. We are not done, as there is still work that needs to be done. I look forward to working with you all as we move forward for the betterment of those facing incarcerations. Thank you very much. I also thank my staff. Have a good day.

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

We still have more work to do, Bill 21. Before we go there, we will take a 15-minute break. When we return, we will deal with Bill 21. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:48 and resumed at 18:04

Chairman (interpretation): We will continue. Thank you for returning. Bill 21 was put into your legislation binder. I think everyone has a copy. Please let me know right now if anyone is missing a copy. I think all of you have a copy.

As we proceed with the bill, I think the Speaker is ready. Let me first ask if you have officials that you would like to bring to the table. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I do.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the witnesses join the Speaker at the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Consideration in Committee

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Speaker, for the record, please introduce your official. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is John Quirke, (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk, (interpretation) welcome to the Chambers. If you would like to begin, Mr. Speaker, you may now you're your opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will read my statements in English.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

At present, sections 25 to 33 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* prescribe certain indemnities and allowances for all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

As members are aware, section 70.01 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* allows the Executive Council to establish formal policies for the payment and recovery of allowances, reimbursement of expenses, and provision of benefits to members of the Executive Council.

Bill 21 amends the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* to enable the Management and Services Board to establish policies in this area with respect to Members of the Legislative Assembly who are not members of the Executive Council.

I would note that the bill provides that both the Premier and I will be required to table annual reports in the Legislative Assembly concerning the administration of these provisions.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 21 also amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* to limit elections related

to lump sum transfer of allowances payable under the legislation.

Bill 21 also provides for a formal mechanism respecting the division of a member's retiring allowance in the event of a breakdown of a marriage or common-law relationship. At present, our legislation does not address this issue with sufficient clarity.

Consequently, the Management and Services Board has worked closely with our plan administrators to ensure that our legislation conforms with modern trends across the country in pension legislation. Bill 21 contains a number of highly technical provisions to accomplish this objective.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let us deal with Bill 21. If any of you have any questions, please raise your hand. It reads, Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to Bill 21 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 21 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, that bill is done. If you have any closing remarks, I now give you the opportunity. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I will just say “thank you” to everyone.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Speaker’s official out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. Abstentions. The

motion is carried. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 21 and we would like to report that Bills 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 21 are immediately ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 11 – An Act to Amend the Corrections Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Corrections Act*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 12 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The

motion is carried and Bill 14 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 15 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-2015 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-2015*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 15 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 17 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-2013 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 17, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 17 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 18 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 18 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation and Safety Services, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 19 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Third Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 21 is now ready for assent.

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. *Orders of the Day* for March 17:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions >>*House adjourned at 18:25*
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 1
 - Bill 13
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 Tuesday, March 17,
2015, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

