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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
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Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
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Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
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Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, May 29, 2015**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 8:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, members, ministers, and the (interpretation ends) Premier. (interpretation) Welcome, my fellow Nunavummiut.

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 154 – 4(2):
Aboriginal Educators' Symposium**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful that we are able to be here. Good

morning, residents of Igloolik and Nunavut and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the elder and the six Inuit educators who have been invited to participate in the Council for Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) Aboriginal Educators' Symposium in Yellowknife, June 29 to 30, 2015.

The elder, Ms. Sarah Takolik from Taloyoak, will be supported by six very effective educators: Doreen Hannak from Arviat, Jolene Itkilik from Repulse Bay, Mary Neeveacheak from Taloyoak, Marjorie Havioyak from Kugluktuk, Jefferson Uttak from Cape Dorset, and Mina Rumbolt from Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, the Aboriginal Educators' Symposium will focus mainly on how to attract more aboriginal people to the teaching profession, how to encourage existing educators to remain in their field, and how to support new as well as experienced educators with career development.

I would like to thank these dedicated individuals for representing us at this national symposium, as well as for all the hard work that they do on a daily basis for Nunavut students and families. As the school year is coming to a close, I would also like to thank all of our educators for their dedication and support to our students.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to hearing back from Sarah Takolik and our Inuit educators after the symposium ends. I am confident that our educators will bring back new ideas on how best to support and encourage Inuit educators within Nunavut. This will have a

positive impact on our students and their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 155 – 4(2):
Canada-Nunavut Job Grant**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to announce to the Assembly that the Canada-Nunavut Job Grant applications for 2015-16 have already surpassed the halfway mark. In October 2014, the Canada-Nunavut Job Grant launched a new program that provides small business owners across Nunavut with a grant of up to \$10,000 to train their employees.

Mr. Speaker, we have received numerous applications from all across Nunavut thus far. Ten employers have applied for the training funds for 43 trainees. Our commitment to date is \$149,384, which is over half of our funds designated to this program for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

This program allows for small business owners to apply for up to \$10,000 for each employee while contributing one-third of the training costs themselves. Applications can be found on the GN's Department of Family Services' website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 156 – 4(2):
Nunavut Food Price Survey**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: *Ullaakkut*, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to let my colleagues know about the most recent Nunavut Food Price Survey. Earlier this year, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, in collaboration with the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, completed the 2015 survey, for the third year in a row.

Mr. Speaker, our goal is to see all Nunavummiut have access to nutritious, affordable food and to ultimately reduce hunger in our territory. The Nunavut Food Price Survey collects information to help measure the difference in the cost of living between Nunavut communities. It also compares price differences with other jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, in 2014, government liaison officers in all Nunavut communities were trained to conduct the survey. This year was the largest Nunavut Food Price Survey yet, as government liaison officers collected prices on a total of 135 items from local retail stores. This was a combination of 118 food items and 17 non-food items. The data collected is currently being prepared for analysis and distribution and the results are expected to be released by mid-summer.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics plans to continue the Nunavut Food Price Survey on a regular basis, as it provides an awareness of the considerable price differences across Nunavut communities.

I invite all members to find publications and tables from past Nunavut Food Price Surveys on the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics website to learn more about this important endeavour.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 317 – 4(2): Concerns Regarding Martha Talirug Elders Centre

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Baker Lake, I was watching the proceedings of the House on television. Good morning, residents of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a growing number of concerns with the operation of the Martha Talirug elders facility in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I fully understand that the Martha Talirug Centre is managed by a board of directors. However, as a facility which provides residential care to elders, significant responsibility also lies with

the government, specifically the Department of Family Services, to ensure that the care is good.

Mr. Speaker, I have received a number of concerns regarding the management of the centre, the conditions at the facility, the planning, and the preparation of meals, as well as behaviours towards the residents. I understand as well that financial matters, such as staff pay and other bookkeeping issues, are getting into serious disarray.

Mr. Speaker, there must be oversight to ensure that elders centres such as the Martha Talirug Centre are properly managed and provide safe, comfortable, and healthy environments for our elders. It concerns me to hear that individuals visiting their parents end up cooking meals, doing laundry, and cleaning the kitchen.

While I greatly appreciate the spirit and intent of those individuals who volunteer their time to make life more enjoyable and comfortable for all residents at the centre, it worries me that when the volunteers are not there, conditions again deteriorate.

At the appropriate time, I will have questions on this issue. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 318 – 4(2): The Need for an Elders Care Facility in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to continue pressing our government to build an elders care facility in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have spoken on this issue a number of times. The residents of Rankin Inlet have spoken on this issue as well, with a petition that I was pleased to present in this House during our March sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the government for its response to the petition, which was tabled on May 26. However, I am disappointed that the response simply contained a promise to undertake a long-term care needs assessment.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand why we must wait for further studies. It is already clear that the need for an elders care facility is sufficient. Rankin Inlet's population is the second largest in Nunavut after Iqaluit, which not only has an elders facility but also has a designated elders residence.

Mr. Speaker, currently, six Rankin Inlet elders are in the care facility, but none in their own home town. They are sent away to Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, or Igloolik. Four more Rankin Inlet elders are reaching the stages where they require greater levels of assistance. Family members even go on radio asking for the community's help so that they can run errands and take care of the household needs.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers and the needs already make the case for an elders facility in Rankin Inlet. I would be happy to provide the data to the minister and his officials. We should not have to wait for another lengthy study. Our elders should not have to wait for long-drawn needs assessments to be completed. We should instead be focusing on building a new elders facility in Rankin Inlet so that our elders can be cared for in their home community near their families. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 319 – 4(2): Congratulations to 2015 Nunavut Quest Winners

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, first of all, to congratulate... . As I stated before during the last session, Clyde River residents were not able to listen to the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. The radio and TV did not work for a very long time in that community. Therefore, I am very pleased to announce that they are able to hear the proceedings through the radio and television in that community.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to congratulate, although we spoke about this during the spring, there was a dog team race. Although we don't use the dog teams for hunting anymore, they use the dogs for dog team races.

I am very proud of the mushers and I am very proud of Imoosie, who won the race. I would ask that all members

congratulate that individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Member's Statement 320 – 4(2): 2015
Winter Turbot Fishery**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry you didn't see me when I raised by hand.

I also have a statement to make in regard to Pangnirtung. Good morning to the people of Pangnirtung and to the rest of my family, especially my uncle, Seemee.

I rise today to talk about an issue I have been raising before. The turbot fishery is completed in Pangnirtung. The ice is all gone where they go turbot fishing. The ice went away very fast and if it was in the past, we would still be fishing for turbot. Today, the ice is all gone and the fiord is all water now. The ice fishery is not going to occur now.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that the fishermen, as I keep mentioning, this winter during the fishing season, they harvested over 600,000 lbs. of turbot. The fishermen made over \$700,000 from the fishery itself. This is very beneficial to the community and it's very good that the government spending on income support program is mitigated because of commercial fishery.

Even though the ice is gone at a very early stage, they had lost their cabins and their fishing equipment. This is the news

from Pangnirtung. That's the livelihood of Pangnirtung residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 491 – 4(2):
Status of Nursing in Nunavut**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize. When I answered an oral question from the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu in regard to how many nurses there are in Nunavut, I said 274 and I made a small mistake. It's 272. I apologize for that mistake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. My husband and grandchild are here in the gallery visiting. I would like to acknowledge them and I love them both because they are providing very good support to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Hon. Minister... . (interpretation) I'm sorry.

>> *Laughter*

Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 514 – 4(2): Conditions at Martha Talirug Centre

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am just a regular member.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I described in my Member's Statement, my constituents have brought forward a number of concerns about the operations at the Martha Talirug elders centre in Baker Lake.

First of all, can the minister tell this House if she is aware of the current conditions at the Martha Talirug Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my fellow member from Baker Lake for his question. At the beginning of this year, it

was visited by our employees and now we have some capital work projects on the table, but we are not the ones that make that request. It has to be with CGS support that we put a proposal together for improvements. The Martha Talirug Centre's board of directors runs the operation with funds we have to give them to operate the centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I appreciate that the Martha Talirug Centre is managed by a board of directors and not directly by the government. However, the government has a responsibility to ensure that the care for our elders is delivered in a safe, clean, and comfortable manner. Can the minister clarify whether her department undertakes any facility inspections to ensure that the conditions and service delivery meet the necessary standards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Our employees from the Department of Family Services did go to the centre and the meal plans were of concern. We agreed under a memorandum of understanding to improve them under the current agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the financial affairs of the Martha Talirug Centre are in some disarray. Staff are not getting paid on time and the Canada Revenue Agency is becoming involved. I am sure the minister appreciates that if the situation gets worse, the centre may no longer be able to operate and her department will have to ensure that alternative care is provided for the centre's current residents.

Will the minister commit to providing adequate support and assistance to the Martha Talirug Centre to get its financial affairs in order? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague from Baker Lake has a concern about the operations, as do I and I understand fully. My officials are listening to the proceeding as we speak and I ask that they look at this issue. We provide funding to the board and they receive funding if they are in good standing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 515 – 4(2): Airline Services and Rules

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank

you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my first question to the Minister of Transportation.

Just recently, I had difficulties in getting to Iqaluit due to bad weather and flight scheduling.

Can the Minister of Transportation confirm whether or not Canadian North and First Air, the airlines that come into our communities, have different policies? Canadian North and First Air's policies or rules seem to be different in regard to travelling to the communities. That's my first question. Perhaps the Minister of Transportation can provide a response to me in regard to First Air and Canadian North. Are their rules the same? 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. With regard to the member's question about transportation and airlines, the airlines are private companies and I'm not sure if he's talking about standardized rules. Is it for the airline's landing to the community or is he talking about scheduling the airline? Perhaps the member can elaborate further on his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please elaborate further on your question, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, when they're trying to land into our communities, I was wondering if the

rules are the same because the First Air and Canadian North seem to differ from each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. First Air goes through Pangnirtung and First Air has one type of airplane and Canadian North has a different type of airplane, so their landing methods are different. However, the regulations that are followed for flight plans and how they land at the airport are the same as the (interpretation ends) Canadian Aviation (interpretation) Regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is inconvenient not only for the people who are trying to leave but also Canadian North carries freight, especially for the Co-Op and the other retail outlet. Usually what happens is that the freight is sent back from its origin and usually by the time they bring the freight back to our community, it's spoiled.

The minister indicated that they use the Canadian Aviation Regulations. We can see the airplane going over our community, but they can't land. It's creating quite a problem in our community, not just for passengers but also for freight. Just this past week, it couldn't land into our community twice, even though the weather was clear. It creates a problem when you're trying to

leave and it also creates a problem with cargo being brought back to its origin and coming back spoiled. Why is it that they can't land into our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. He wasn't able to come down here for quite a while.

Usually safety is a priority. It is the airlines that make their own rules. Safety is a priority for the crew and passengers. From what I know, First Air flies through Pangnirtung. We could suggest they have meetings with the hamlet councils regarding their scheduled flights.

Our department has been working constantly, especially on the Pangnirtung Airport. Next week, I will be going up to Pangnirtung to have a meeting with the hamlet council and I look forward to hearing the concerns that they will be putting on the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that First Air is going to be having meetings with the hamlet council. Is it possible for Canadian North to also have meetings with the hamlet council? They do carry freight and goods destined to go to the retail outlets. Is it possible for Canadian North to also have meetings

with the hamlet council? 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 thank the member. When I have a meeting with the hamlet council, I will ask if the hamlet officials want to write to Canadian North and invite them to have a meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 516 – 4(2): Changes to the Department of Community and Government Services’ Organizational Structure

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

Mr. Speaker, during our recent winter sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved the department’s 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget. At that time, it was clear that the department’s organizational structure would change significantly from the 2014-15 fiscal year. The minister at that time indicated that no significant position changes or transfers would have taken place as a result of the department’s new organizational structure.

Can the minister indicate how many positions in his department have been or

will be removed or added as of April 1, 2015? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. This spring, the cabinet agreed to the organizational structure that was reorganized within our department. I can’t say at this time what kinds of changes there will be or if positions will be removed, but we are looking at the organizational structure of our department and we will also be realigning some of our programs so that we can better utilize our finances. I don’t know about any changes or removals at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He will probably provide a similar response, but I want to ask him another question.

Does the minister know how many positions in his department have been or will be transferred to different communities, such as Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say at this time that I haven’t seen any changes and should there be any changes, removals,

or transfers, it will first of all have to be discussed at the cabinet level. I'm not sure what's going to be happening. I don't know if there are going to be any changes, additions, or transfers. There have been no transfers to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually it affects the communities because they're the link to the hamlet councils. We usually turn to Community and Government Services at the hamlet level. If there are going to be any changes, I would like the minister to notify the hamlet councils, especially in the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, I will be able to do that if there is going to be any changes, additions, or transfers. We work closely with the hamlet councils and it's a necessity so that we can provide proper services and programs, be they financial or other concerns. We are looking at realigning our department and this was initiated by the previous minister. I'll make sure that the hamlet councils are notified should there be any changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 517 – 4(2): Update on Arviat's Water Pump Station

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the current water treatment system in my community of Arviat is operating only on one slow pumping station.

On October, 24, 2014, the minister of the day stated that his department has made plans to add a new pump station in the community and that this project would be undertaken during the summer of 2015, this coming summer.

Can the minister confirm that his department will be installing a new water pump station in Arviat this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. I will look into this issue and come back to you with a proper response. I can't answer at this point as to exactly what's going to be happening. I'm not saying this question is taken as notice, but I will notify the member once I have the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister that he will

get back to me. In the same token, the minister of the day also stated that they were looking at other communities' reservoirs and other systems so that they can come up with one that will be best suited for Arviat. Will the minister also commit to looking into that and see what kind of system will be installed in Arviat this coming summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to that. Thank you.

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

Question 518 – 4(2): Green Energy Sources for Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to go on like a broken record with alternative energy solutions for Nunavut. I have some questions today to the Minister of Finance.

A couple of days ago, I had asked the minister, wearing his other hat as the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, some questions regarding larger scale renewable energy projects. In one of his responses, he stated that proposals have to be submitted through the federal government for large-scale infrastructure for green energy. What I would like to focus on today is smaller scale green energy.

Like I stated in the last sitting, there has been some money saved by the Government of Nunavut on the fuel resupply.

When I look back at Nunavut's history, in the first year of Nunavut's separation 16 years ago, two small-scale renewable projects were launched. One by the Nunavut Power Corporation, now Qulliq Energy, installed five wind turbines in various locations across Nunavut. To date, none of those turbines are in operation, to the best of my research. Technology has changed substantially in the last 16 years, in addition to solar energy, whose costs have been reduced approximately 80 percent for solar panel infrastructure.

I'm just going to ask the Minister of Finance if the Government of Nunavut is looking at reinitiating some of these pilot programs using some of the savings that were incurred from the fuel resupply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Speaker, Cambridge Bay has been on the forefront of alternative energy. We had four wind turbines many years ago. Due to supply issues and mechanical issues, they are no longer in operation. We had a single wind turbine that is no longer in operation, again, for numerous reasons.

With respect to his question, at this time, I haven't discussed this with anyone. We have so many competing demands. Mr. Speaker, I just heard one of the members wants a seniors' home in Rankin Inlet.

There are many competing demands. If there are any savings, we will be looking at how to apply those savings that gives us the best value for money in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand the position that the Government of Nunavut is in with competing infrastructure demands. At the same time, we have an opportunity right now that hasn't occurred for a long time with lower fuel costs.

In addition to that, there are a number of programs available federally for green energy infrastructure. I'm sure the minister has had numerous conversations. Just even the recent federal/provincial/territorial meeting that the Minister of Environment attended speaks to green energy solutions and that the Government of Nunavut in general is in agreement with a lot of the strategies.

What I'm getting at is that the technology has changed dramatically in the last 16 years since some of these pilot projects were put forward. I think now is an opportune time to move forward. Just recently, in Northern Quebec, one of the mining companies installed a wind turbine that is designed to withstand arctic conditions, producing 3 megawatts of power, which is in excess of the demand of some of our smaller communities.

I think it's an opportune time right now to show the Government of Canada and the rest of the world that we are serious about green energy solutions and not just in Iqaluit with a large-scale hydro

project but with smaller scale programs and infrastructure across the territory to assist our smaller communities' energy needs and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

I know that the minister doesn't like commitments, but I would like to get a commitment that he will discuss this matter with his cabinet colleagues on trying to identify funds to initiate some pilot programs just to show that the technology has advanced to the stage where Nunavut can move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Speaker, I don't want Mr. Hickes or any members or any members of the public to get the wrong idea that the Government of Nunavut is not interested in energy savings or alternative energy or green energy, whatever you want to call it. There is an Energy Secretariat within the Government of Nunavut that looks at various things and ways to deliver energy savings in Nunavut, alternative energies.

Within the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and I'll put my other hat on for a moment, we have an alternative energy subcommittee that looks at what's out there. My colleagues are here. They're well aware of the issues with power and energy in Nunavut. As the Minister of Finance, again I have said for many days here, I have to balance the challenging needs of infrastructure in all departments

and all communities. We have limited resources.

I have called upon the Government of Canada to invest in our territory. I put a proposal together to upgrade our aging diesel power plants. That's what we're 100 percent reliant on, fossil fuels. That's the reality. The alternative energy, the hydro dam, as I have said before, could be in the range of \$250 million and \$500 million. We have already invested close to \$10 million in studies just to look at the hydro dam in this area. It's very expensive when we consider and look at these alternative energy options.

I'm not going to make a commitment. Mr. Hickes knows I don't make commitments, but I'll take your suggestion as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't sure if the minister had taken the whole question as notice, so I appreciate just a final supplementary question.

Numerous discussions related to housing and growth in some of our smaller communities has been very hampered due to the maximum power capacity of generation infrastructure available in some of our communities, very specifically to one of Mr. Joanasié's communities of Cape Dorset.

Right now, if we take a look at smaller scale alternative energy solutions of green energy in some of our smaller communities, it would be able to mitigate, maybe, some of the measures

of the infrastructure deficit that is in some of our communities that is hampering growth so that as our communities continue to grow, we can meet the demand in maybe a cheaper way than actually doing a full renovation of a power plant or building a new power plant in the immediate need.

I would just like to ask the minister to take that into consideration in his discussions with his colleagues and federal counterparts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes again. Yes, we will take that into consideration. I would just like to comment that in Cambridge Bay, in my home community, we have the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS), which should be opening in 2017. Some of the work they will be doing will be looking at alternative energy and how it can benefit our communities. We are quite excited by that. That's something our government and CHARS facility can look forward to working on in a collaborative manner, how we can use alternative energy in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 519 – 4(2): Status of the Revised NNI Policy

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

On December 4, 2014, the government announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with NTI concerning the process for amending the NNI Policy. This announcement indicated that the goal of the process was to have a revised NNI Policy “by the spring” of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the spring sitting ends next Tuesday. Can the minister provide a detailed update today on the status of bringing forward a new NNI Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We did say “spring”; we didn’t say “spring sitting.” (interpretation) It’s still spring and it will be spring for a while yet. As to this issue, it is a bit slower. (interpretation ends) I’m usually optimistic (interpretation) and the work is proceeding, but it is slow and we want to finish it as soon as possible this year. Some issues have to be agreed upon, but the work is proceeding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her response. Since I have been elected, there has been numerous times where I have recommended that the NNI Policy

should include an independent appeals process that is broader and more effective than the current panel. Can the minister confirm that the new NNI Policy will address this issue? 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. (interpretation) Yes, the NNI Policy appeal board is not set, but it is part of the discussions. The set-up and layout is currently under negotiation. The government appoints a member, as do NTI and the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce, so there are three members. This set-up is currently being looked at. Whether it will be a more legal style board or whether they have to be lawyers is under discussion. The Nunavut Chambers of Commerce are also involved in these discussions and we do look if there are training needs or if they have to be lawyers. Right now, we are in the stages of negotiating on that right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An ongoing and unresolved issue has been the extent to which the NNI Policy should or should not apply to the procurement and contracting activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I’m not really interested in hearing the department’s views. I’m more interested in learning what the

elected minister's views are on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why she's always asking for a personal view of these issues, Mr. Speaker. I don't give a personal opinion on issues like this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 520 – 4(2): Activities of the Office of the Chief Coroner

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice, whose department is responsible for the administration of the *Coroners Act*. I'm going to be as clear and precise as I can be with my questions today.

Section 21 of the *Coroners Act* provides that one of the purposes of holding an inquest is to, and I quote, "inform the public of the circumstances of [a] death where it will serve some public purpose."

Two days ago, I tabled a printout of over 1,200 signatures of people who expressed concern regarding the death of baby Makibi in Cape Dorset.

Under section 24 of the *Coroners Act*, the Minister of Justice has the authority

to, and I quote, "direct any coroner or request a judge to hold an inquest...notwithstanding that a coroner has certified that an inquest is unnecessary."

Can the minister provide a clear explanation today as to whether or not he will exercise his authority under the legislation to direct that a coroner's inquest be held into this incident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have been working with the coroner's office. The coroner is an arm's-length body from our government and I respect that discretion. The coroner has determined that in this situation, the cause of death was determined and that the issue is still going through a review to make sure that what occurred is not repeated. That review is occurring now and we're expecting a report hopefully this fall. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Office of the Chief Coroner has previously announced that formal inquests will be held into a number of suicides that have taken place in our territory in recent years. Can the minister provide an update today to this House on when these inquests will be held? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) The coroner has advised that she will be holding in an inquest in September of this year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is clear to me that there has been a lot of public confusion about the role of the coroner's office and the purpose of holding coroner's inquests.

In light of the many questions that have been raised concerning the holding of coroner's inquests into different matters, can the minister indicate if he will consider bringing forward amendments to the *Coroners Act* to clarify this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, the coroner has been struggling to try and find families that will be agreeable to hold an inquest on suicides and that took a little longer. So far, as I understand it, she will be holding an inquest into three suicides this September. That issue hopefully will be dealt with and will assist us in determining the causes and trying to find solutions to the real issue of suicide in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 521 – 4(2): Air Service Issues in the High Arctic

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who live in the High Arctic are served by one airline and it's not working and it's very inconvenient and causes a lot of hardship.

Last year, I asked the then Minister of Transportation what direction you have given to get better airline service in the High Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can my colleague repeat the question, please? I thought the question was directed to somebody else at first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Shooyook, can you repeat your question, please.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm directing my question to the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who live in the High Arctic are served by one airline and it causes a lot of problems and hardships.

Last year, I posed some questions to the then Minister of Transportation as to how it can be improved. What direction have you made to improve air service in the High Arctic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. For the High Arctic, the airlines came to talk to us about their air services. They stated that it's expensive and difficult to operate an airline in the High Arctic. Right now, we don't operate the airlines; they operate as independent businesses. For the High Arctic, we're expecting and they said that they may start a route where they go from Iqaluit directly to Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I'll ask her another question. Mr. Speaker, travel in the High Arctic is not working. If we're trying to go to Igloolik or Pond Inlet, we have to go through Iqaluit. That's the hardship. The hardship is that whenever someone loses a family member and they want to go see their family members to grieve, they have to fly through Iqaluit.

People who aren't working and who need to go see their families, the communities are the ones who raise the money together for them to pay for the airline tickets. As residents of the High

Arctic, we agree that it's very expensive. It is incredibly expensive to travel in the High Arctic and we need to be able to travel. We need to have a direct flight from the High Arctic to other communities, especially when people lose loved ones.

We keep hearing that the High Arctic is the most expensive place to operate and live in. Because it is the most expensive place, can you talk to the airlines again in an effort to improve air service in the High Arctic? 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 the member for that question. The government enters into agreements with the airlines now and again. Very recently, all the MLAs were able to meet with the airlines. We are not the airline operators, but it became obvious that they have been trying to come up with more direct flights to the communities without doing the milk runs. Whenever we are able to have discussions with the airlines, we do so. Since we are not the operators, we cannot direct them as they are independent airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for giving me some positive news.

Mr. Speaker, I know ministers have the power to fix things and they are able to

talk to other people to improve things. I particularly know it can be very inconvenient for people who have to go through medical travel. When they are trying to get back home, especially in the springtime, the flights are always full and sometimes they have to wait an entire week while trying to get back home because the flights are fully booked.

I understand, but I wish more could be done to improve the situation for my constituents because they are not happy, especially the elders. They end up having to stay at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. There must be a way to improve the situation in terms of transportation into and out of the High Arctic. 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 his questions about the High Arctic. For carriers, it is obvious that they are interested in keeping open discussions with us. We know they also go through hardships and the member can write to the airlines independently to address his concerns because that will help convey the message that there are issues that need to be addressed. We will continue to address issues with the airlines as they are brought to our attention and as they arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 522 – 4(2): The Need for an Elders Care Facility in Rankin Inlet

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

Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2015, the government provided a response to a petition from the community of Rankin Inlet for an elders care facility. I would like to thank the government for its response, which simply indicated that a long-term care needs assessment would be undertaken.

Can the minister provide an update on when he anticipates the long-term care needs assessment will be finalized?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is under review and the work is ongoing. I can't say right now when it will be finalized, but it's being assessed properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's Statement, the statistics, the demands, and the number of Rankin Inlet elders who are already placed in elders care facilities should already prove that there is a need for an elders care facility in Rankin Inlet.

Can the minister clearly explain why another needs assessment is being conducted instead of getting right through to determine where to build Rankin Inlet's new elders care facility? 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. Yes, it would be good if we could address all of our needs, but we can only do so much. We will have to see how the facility will operate and how much staff it will need. We have to look into all of these things first. It's going to be an expensive matter, so we have to set it up properly so that it can operate well into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that Rankin Inlet is not only community which urgently needs long-term care solutions. Will the minister commit to tabling the long-term care needs assessment during the 2015 fall session? 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. Although I can't say when the assessment will be completed, I'll be able to table it in the House when it's done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 523 – 4(2): Status of Standing Offer Agreement for Government of Nunavut Medical and Duty Travel

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My fellow residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut, good morning.

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

On March 3, I asked the minister a number of questions concerning the government's administration of its contracts for medical and duty travel. At that time, the Assembly was informed that the current contract will expire on August 31, which is just three months from now.

I would like to ask the minister: as we were notified that Canadian North and First Air have signed an agreement, I would like to ask the minister: how will this affect the government's agreements about medical travel? 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. To date, we have been saving \$15 million a year. We will be extending our contract after looking into it properly. If we try to create a new agreement, it will just cost more. We spoke to the airlines and

decided that we will extend their contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand that the minister is saying that the agreement was going to lapse in August, but they have extended it for another year? This co-sharing agreement will be extended for another year. Did I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the time, I was asking a question. As the minister will recall, there has been ongoing confusion about which department of the government is responsible for administering the duty travel contract.

Earlier this year, the Legislative Assembly was informed by the Department of Community and Government Services that it is actually the Department of Health which is responsible for administering both the medical and duty travel elements of the contract. Can the minister clarify this matter once and for all as to who is responsible for administering that? 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. I can respond by saying that the Department of Health deals with the daily operations of medical travel with dedicated staff. We have an agreement with the airlines to cover both the medical and duty travel. We have the same airline, but according to my knowledge, each department has their own responsibilities for duty travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 524 – 4(2): Review of Extended Health Benefits Policy

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of... I have the wrong paper. Bear with me one minute. It's hiding. Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Department of Health's 2015-18 business plan, a new extended health benefits policy was to have been completed by March 31, 2015.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the review and the revision of the Extended Health Benefits Policy and clearly describe what changes or enhancements will be available under the newly revised policy? 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) From what I understand, that review is still being undertaken and the goal is to have a new policy by March 31 of 2016. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought maybe I would ask that and check to see how things are coming along with it.

Mr. Speaker, information provided in response to my written question about this program almost one year ago indicated that close to 400 Nunavut residents were active members under the Extended Health Benefits Program.

Can the minister clarify whether any of these active members of the Extended Health Benefits Program were consulted during his department's review of the policy and, if not, then who was actually consulted on the review of the policy? 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) As I mentioned in my reply, this policy is still being reviewed, so it's not complete. I hope that we will be able to have an exhaustive policy for all concerned by March 31 of next year.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have thought that the staff would have told him in his briefing how things are coming along with this and perhaps given him some ideas of who they have been speaking with.

Mr. Speaker, my last question then will be: once this policy is developed, would he commit to tabling the policy in the House? 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) Yes.

Speaker: Okay. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Motion 025 – 4(2): Extension of Question Period

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

(interpretation ends) Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour, raise your hand. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 525 – 4(2): Support for People with Disabilities

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I am very appreciative of the measures that can be taken to help improve the comfort and lifespan of people with long-term health conditions and disabilities. However, it seems that with one step forward, we often face a new unanticipated setback.

For example, some individuals need additional oxygen to help them breathe and stay alive, and they can now have the oxygen tanks in their homes. However, operating the oxygen tanks leads to a huge increase in their power costs which they cannot afford.

Can the minister clarify what financial support is available to individuals with long-term health conditions or disabilities who need to operate expensive machinery to stay alive? 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. I would like to look into how it becomes expensive. I

will look into it and provide a response because I can't provide a response at this time in regard to the question of people having to use oxygen tanks in their homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It does not seem right that individuals should face increasing financial burdens just so that they can stay alive. Can the minister clarify how his department evaluates the needs and resources available to individuals with long-term health conditions or disabilities? 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. For any patient that goes to the clinics, they have to review the patient's needs and if they need support, whether the patient requires support from the doctors and nurses, they provide a plan. Therefore, I need to look into how this was planned. I need to look into this and provide a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) To make matters worse for individuals with long-term health conditions or disabilities who require expensive equipment to keep them alive, the cost of the power to

operate these machines recently increased. Will the minister commit to working with his counterparts at the Qulliq Energy Corporation to look into subsidies for the power costs of individuals with long-term health conditions or disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, I want to look into the details in regard to how we can provide the support required for the patient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 526 – 4(2): Government of Nunavut Program Review

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Premier.

Last year, there was an RFP that came out to review all the programs and services from across the government to identify what's happening to either improve or eliminate some of the programs that are not beneficial to both the government and the people of Nunavut.

Earlier in my discussions with the Minister of Finance, we all recognized that we need to accomplish a lot with the limited funds we have.

I would like to get an update from the Premier on the status of the program review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I did make a ministerial statement on that yesterday to update all the members and the House, including the Nunavut public, on where we stand with the operational audit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. I attended an event with the Minister of Justice yesterday and I neglected to follow up with that ministerial statement.

If the Premier could maybe just give me an anticipated deadline of when that review will be concluded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, we are hoping that we could complete the first phase of the audit by the fall. Continuing on, as I indicated, there are 258 programs that we've got to look at, including the 68 corporate programs. I have indicated that it's a huge task and we want to complete the first phase by the fall time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): The minister I would like to question is not at his seat. Mr. Speaker, I'll allow another member to ask a question.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister I would like to question is also not at his seat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 527 – 4(2): Seafood Expo North America

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment.

Yesterday, he tabled the ministerial trip report to Boston there and earlier today, the finance minister talked about value for our money when he was answering one of the questions. I would just like to question the minister on the value for the money on this trip.

According to his tabled document, it took five people for this report and it appears that he had a one-hour meeting with the DFO minister. There were also no Nunavut exhibitors at the event. I just want to know the reasoning for the trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding that trip, it's an annual event where the Nunavut government officials attend the show in Boston. At that time, it was approximately for an hour that I had a meeting with the minister, but we attend because it is regarding fisheries and there's networking with the people involved. We attend the show in Boston so that we can showcase Nunavut and what we do regarding fisheries. We have private companies that do fishing up here. We attend to showcase our industry and Nunavut. There are also other meetings held and networking at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As noted, he stated earlier that there were no Nunavut exhibitors. Does his department have any plans to maybe put a Nunavut exhibitor on there to promote fisheries and the products of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we did have a booth in later years and I don't know why they stopped having their display. I will look into it and while we're on this subject, he was concerned about Nunavut not having a display or a booth. We will look into it and see what we can do and find out why they stopped having a booth at the Boston expo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 528 – 4(2): Status of Piqqusilirivvik

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

We know there is a school in Nunavut called Piqqusilirivvik, which is dedicated to teaching our culture. Can the minister tell us whether Piqqusilirivvik is fully staffed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question and I welcome him to Iqaluit. At Piqqusilirivvik, the staffing positions are filled this year and we had about 25 students. Yes, as far as I know, the teaching positions are all filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was in Clyde River for a constituency visit and went for a visit to the school. Not all staffing positions were filled. The manager of the facility needs more assistance and said he could use more employees. Can the minister tell us if he is aware that they need more employees at the higher administrative levels of Piqqusilirivvik? 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. Thank you to the member for the question. I'm saying that this year, we've had 25 students and they had the appropriate number of teachers, but in terms of the Piqqusilirivvik manager, I have not heard about this issue. I do know that the teaching component is well set and the 25 students did go through all their learning requirements. I, too, was recently in Clyde River and visited the school. This issue was not brought up to me. I'm hearing this for the first time and we will check into this and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us if Piqqusilirivvik will run on its own or if it will be run under the adult education program or whether you have thought it might be run as its own category? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date and since it was moved, it is part of Nunavut Arctic College and there has been no change to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 529 – 4(2): Baffin Island
Caribou Moratorium**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, the minister made an announcement earlier this year about the moratorium on caribou harvesting. What is happening with that situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Regarding caribou on Baffin Island, we will have to do a count of the polar bear population. They are currently underway and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is also making decisions on the harvesting of caribou. They have held hearings in the communities, but we haven't received any correspondence yet. NWMB held hearings and once that's completed, our department will be notified and at that time, we will decide on the Baffin Island caribou. I'll be able to make an announcement then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, as was mentioned, when you said that there's going to be a population count, does that mean that the review is not completed yet? You indicated earlier that you would make an announcement

some time in June of this year. Have the survey and the population count not been completed to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's not completed yet. We haven't had any correspondence from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on the Baffin Island caribou. We're just waiting patiently to date. I'm referring to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board holding hearings in the Baffin communities. Once we have that information, we will make an announcement, but under my department, we are looking at doing a population count. NTI and NWMB will have to finalize their report. We will get back to you. Once we have that information, I'll be sure to do a follow-up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. I would like further clarification from the minister about the caribou survey. I look forward to having that moratorium lifted some time in the future or next year. Is that going to be the goal of your department regarding harvesting of caribou on Baffin Island? Can the minister assure us that he will make an announcement some time in the future or in the fall about the lifting of the moratorium on caribou harvesting?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. NWMB held hearings in March of this year. After the conclusion of the hearing and once the NWMB board of directors have concluded their report and made a decision, they will make a recommendation to me as the Minister of Environment. They will make recommendations to our department.

I know that I'm the minister responsible for this issue, but there are agreements that we have to follow. I will have to receive a report and the recommendation from NWMB before making the final decision as the Minister of Environment. Once I have the information, it will be up to this government to make a final decision on how we will proceed with the Baffin Island caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 530 – 4(2): Support for People with Limited Mobility

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

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the minister will recall that on March 5, 2015, I asked him about the transportation support for individuals with limited mobility for Rankin Inlet. The minister replied that he would look into this issue further and see where his

department stands on this.

Over the last three months, I'm sure that the minister has had an opportunity to look into this issue, and I would like to ask him to provide an update on where his department stands on this issue. 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. We have looked into how it would be the best to service each community in regard to people with disabilities in each of the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in March, there's a handicap van in the community of Rankin Inlet which could be used to transport individuals with limited mobility. At that time, the minister indicated that he would look into the availability of the van and pass on the information. I have not received any information from the minister to date. I would like to ask if he is prepared to pass on the information to me now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Local transportation services will be discussed. The federal government's agreement is

expiring soon. I think we will have to come up with a new agreement next year and I'm sure there will be discussions on local transportation services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March, I asked the minister to commit to setting up a contract or MUI with the appropriate agents to provide transportation to those with limited mobility. Can the minister provide an update on whether he has a commitment or is willing to commit to making the necessary arrangements for transportation services in Rankin Inlet? 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. As we are the government for all of Nunavut, we have to treat all the communities equally and we have to carefully go through them if we will be setting up new transportation for the handicap. We are looking at of how it would be the best to set a new system. It is still in the process at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 531 – 4(2): Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to

direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, we had the highest numbers of suicide in 2013, a shambled signal of the state of our society in Nunavut. I hope that the number has stopped since. Can the minister tell us how many Nunavummiut have died in the 2014 calendar year with the cause of death classified as suicide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we all know that the suicide rate is very high here and we are still working on this issue and this will be because it is a very difficult issue. As I said, there will be a coroner's inquest, but to date in 2015, there are 16 individuals who have taken their own lives. That's the response I can provide at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2014 numbers should not be forgotten, so I will want to find out how many there were.

I would like to ask the minister what the Nunavut Task Force on Suicide Prevention and its partner organization have been doing to help address the alarming issue of suicide in our territory. 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. I was looking through the information and last year in 2014, 27 individuals took their own lives. The Embrace Life Council is not within the government and they operate on their own, so I can't respond immediately. I will have to find out what they have been doing and their staff and director are working on it right now, from what I know. I can't answer that question right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for providing those numbers.

Mr. Speaker, ASIST training can play an important role in preparing people to recognize the signs of suicidal behaviour and to provide support to individuals who are suffering from suicidal thoughts. However, our society would also benefit from programs which encourage people to develop self-confidence, self-esteem, and the ability to deal with emotional trauma.

Can the minister clarify what programs are available to promote and support healthy emotional development and mental well-being? 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. We know that the issue of suicide will not go away and we will keep pressing to address it. Just

recently in March here in Iqaluit, we held a major conference with respect to mental health. A number of experts facilitated the conference and I am still awaiting their report. Their work is of great value even as we await their report.

I wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues once again for agreeing to allow our mental health professionals to participate in the conference and play a very large role there. We will continue to seek solutions and offer more programs to the homes of those in need of mental health intervention. We are also in the middle of planning another meeting in Rankin Inlet to continue spreading the word to the outside world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, I would like to inform you that the time for question period has expired. We will move on with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 156 – 4(2): 2015
Report of Annual Activities under
the Environmental Protection Act**

**Tabled Document 157 – 4(2): F/P/T
Ministerial Report on United
Nations' Framework Convention
on Climate Change Conference of
the Parties of COP20 in Lima,
Peru, December 1 to 12, 2014**

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2015 *Report of Annual Activities under the Environmental Protection Act* and the *F/P/T Ministerial Report on United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties of COP20 in Lima, Peru, December 1 to 12, 2014*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 158 – 4(2): Nunavut
Business Credit Corporation's
2012-2014 Procurement and
Leasing Report**

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2012-14 Procurement and Leasing Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. 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. Item

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members are welcome to attend a round-table discussion with the visiting parliamentarian from Australia at 1:30 in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 1:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Petitions
10. Responses to Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motions
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
 - Motion 24 – 4(2)

16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters
19. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:00*

