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**3rd Session**

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Official Report

**DAY 18**

**Friday, February 26, 2016**

**Pages 860 – 903**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

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

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

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

**Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

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

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**David Joanasi**  
(South Baffin)

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs*

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqummiut)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Friday, February 26, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak,  
Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes,  
Mr. David Joanasi, Mr. Pauloosie  
Keyootak, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon.  
Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak,  
Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson,  
Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul  
Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr.  
Alexander Sammurtoq, Mr. Tom  
Sammurtoq, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr.  
Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 8:59*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good morning,  
my fellow Nunavummiut, members,  
ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier,  
(interpretation) and our visitors.  
Welcome to the House.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers'  
Statements. Hon. Member for...  
(interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation  
ends) Hon. Minister of Environment,  
Mr. Mike.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 060 – 4(3):**  
**Operations Manual for**  
**Enforcement Officers**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning,  
my colleagues and I would like to

welcome the members who have finally  
arrived. I am happy to see them again.  
Also, I say “good morning” to the people  
of Nunavut and Pangnirtung, as well as  
all of my grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the  
House that my department has recently  
issued a revised version of its operations  
manual for enforcement officers.

Members of my department conducted a  
thorough review of all the guidelines,  
standards, and procedures contained in  
the previous manual, and a copy of the  
new manual has now been issued to all  
enforcement officers. In keeping with  
the digital age in which we now live, all  
officers have also been provided with an  
electronic version of the manual.

This revised manual will help all  
Department of Environment  
enforcement officers provide a high-  
quality, consistent service across the  
territory, and I would like to extend my  
thanks to all those who have been  
involved in its creation. Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Ministers' Statements. Minister of  
Community and Government Services,  
Mr. Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 061 – 4(3):**  
**Nunavut Land Referendum**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. I rise today to provide my  
colleagues with an update on the  
progress of the Department of  
Community and Government Services  
for the upcoming territorial land

referendum which will be held on May 9, 2016.

The question that Nunavummiut will answer is, “Do you want your municipality to be able to sell municipal lands?” The results will be determined by a simple majority. A vote of 50 percent plus one would determine whether or not it will be possible for a municipal council to sell land to a person or organization in a community in Nunavut.

CGS began visiting communities in late January to share information with the general public. We have also launched a website, brochure, and poster in all official territorial languages, and the website is [landreferendum.gov.nu.ca](http://landreferendum.gov.nu.ca). The website is to inform people of the issues before they vote.

CGS believes that community decisions should be made at the community level. We are committed to implementing the results of the referendum in each community.

Anyone who is eligible to vote in a territorial election is also eligible to vote in the referendum; information is available at local hamlet offices or Elections Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Nunavummiut to actively participate in learning more about this issue and that every eligible voter in Nunavut exercise their democratic right to vote in this territorial wide land referendum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers’

Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister’s Statement 062 – 4(3):  
Arctic Inspiration Prize Winners**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning, (interpretation ends) colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues about Nunavut’s exciting recognition at the fourth annual Arctic Inspiration Prize awards ceremony that was held in Ottawa last January.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Inspiration Prize is a unique and prestigious award given to teams who have made a substantial, demonstrated, and distinguished contribution to arctic knowledge that benefits the people of the Canadian Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Inspiration Prize provides much-needed funding to projects that help improve our communities, our people, and our knowledge of how to better bring transformative change to areas of common concern.

This year, two Nunavut-based projects were recognized for their exceptional efforts. Mr. Speaker, the Better Hearing in Education for Northern Youth project was awarded \$300,000 for their work to improve the lives of Qikiqtani youth living with hearing loss. The Qaggiavuut Arts Society, which nurtures arctic performing arts, was awarded \$600,000 for their efforts to connect circumpolar artists, as well as to create mentorships,

collaborations, and teaching opportunities in the arts community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to please join me in congratulating Nunavut's recipients and in thanking the S. and A. Inspiration Foundation for their generous ongoing efforts to better the Canadian Arctic. They have given \$4.5 million since 2012, and their incredible financial contributions to improve important programming in our arctic regions have been tremendous. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Minister's Statement 063 – 4(3): Job Shadow Pilot Project at QGH**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Qikiqtani General Hospital has created a pilot project with Aulajaaqtut class at the Inuksuk High School to allow students the opportunity to receive mentorship in the form of job shadowing.

The Department of Health is committed to working with the Department of Education in providing opportunities for students to experience and train in various health fields.

This initiative is an example of Health encouraging young Nunavummiut to explore professional development in areas of:

- Diagnostic Imaging;
- Laboratory Services;
- Nursing;
- Health Records;
- Rehab; and
- Physician Services.

Thus far, as many as 34 students have participated in the project and have followed routine procedures and drills at the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that Health is working on engaging youth and encouraging them to explore educational training and professional development in the health fields. It is also relevant to note that students and administration at Inuksuk High School have expressed positive feedback and hope to make these types of experience-building programs available in other departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

#### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

##### **Member's Statement 135 – 4(3): Congratulations to Jane Glassco Northern Fellow Angela Nuliyuk Rudolph**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, (interpretation) my colleagues. I say (interpretation ends) "good morning" (interpretation) to the residents of Gjoa Haven.



(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Ms. Angela Nuliyuk Rudolph of Gjoa Haven, who is one of this year's Jane Glassco Northern Fellows.

Mr. Speaker, the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship was introduced in 2010 by the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, there are 10 participants in this year's program.

Angela Nuliyuk Rudolph received her undergraduate degree from the University of Lethbridge in 2013 and her Bachelor of Education Degree in 2014. She plans to undertake a Master's Degree program at the University of Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, Angela has taught high school in Gjoa Haven and has worked hard to integrate and teach modern Inuit history in her curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Angela Nuliyuk Rudolph on her selection as a Jane Glassco Northern Fellow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 136 – 4(3):  
Qujannamiik Iksivautaq**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you and good morning, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Naujaat, Coral Harbour, and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make a humorous statement this morning to draw out smiles, and obviously most of you will smile at this, both the audience listening to the proceedings as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, when we were meeting in [January] reviewing the airline codeshare issues, we were broadcast via television and obviously, many people in Nunavut were viewing the committee hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I happened to be the Chairman of that committee and it was my very first time acting in that capacity. Obviously, during our regular meetings, whenever a member is going to speak, they start off with "Thank you, Mr. Chairman." All the members use that procedural item whenever speaking.

During that committee hearing, in my role as the Chairman, as I am of the age where I have several grandchildren, they all happened to be watching the proceedings and realized I was the Chairman for the meeting. Obviously, members were using the phrase "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

One of my grandchildren who were watching the proceedings was listening and hearing the term "Thank you, Mr. Chairman" more than once. He started wondering and asked his father, "Is my grandfather being sat on?"

>> *Laughter*

This grandson of mine was very loveable with that remark during his viewing of the proceedings. I just wanted to convey that story to my colleagues so that we

can share a smile this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 137 – 4(3):  
Congratulations to Jane Glassco  
Northern Fellow Jessica Black**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today too, I rise to talk about my niece, just like my colleague, Mr. Akoak. I am delighted to have this opportunity to talk about my niece and to congratulate Ms. Jessica Black. She is also one of this year's Jane Glassco Northern Fellow program recipients.

Mr. Speaker, the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship was introduced in 2010, as what my colleague was saying, by the Duncan Gordon Foundation. It is, and I quote, "a policy and leadership development program that recognizes leadership potential among young northern Canadians who want to address the emerging policy challenges facing the North."

Mr. Speaker, Jessica was one of the ten recipients and she graduated from Iqaluit, the Inuksuk School here in 2004. She received her undergraduate degree in 2010 after attending Trent University and the University of Victoria. She was employed by the Department of Justice for a period of time and she went back to pursue her studies at the University of Victoria Law School.

Mr. Speaker, the Duncan Foundation has a legacy of positive contributions in the

north and this program has been an important source of new leaders.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Jessica Black, my niece, on her selection as a Jane Glassco Northern Fellow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 138 – 4(3):  
Appreciation to Kakivak  
Association**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all of you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Kakivak Association for visiting the community of Cape Dorset last week to inform Kinngarmiut of the opportunities that Kakivak provides for community economic development.

Mr. Speaker, the information session that I attended was helpful for any person within the community to learn and possibly apply for funding through one of the Kakivak Association's programs. Furthermore, people were able to ask questions and gain better knowledge of their operations, as well as the process of submitting funding proposals.

I would like to further commend Kakivak Association for their continued support towards youth programs, such as Northern Youth Abroad, formerly Nunavut Youth Abroad, Nunavut

Sivuniksavut Program, and Students on Ice, which I have personally benefited from.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Kakivak Association for the different options and opportunities that they provide to Baffin Inuit. I encourage youth, especially in my constituency, to pursue the different initiatives that help with community development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 139 – 4(3): Inuit Qaujimanituqangit**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow Nunavummiut, community residents, my beloved grandchildren, as well as those who are named after my son, who watch the televised proceedings and they see me and say "Father." They are quite young. I wish them all a good day, along with my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a critical issue which is of extreme importance: *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit*. Inuit authority has been usurped by the government in this area for the last 48 years where Inuit have not been able to practise their traditional counselling and we have lost this ability. Due to this, our elders are becoming stressed out.

Mr. Speaker, our elders are weary and tired today of being protective of their children since the legislation we use is not a part of our traditional Inuit

practices and lifestyles. The traditional knowledge that endured for generations has been cut off since we now live with alien practices Inuit never grew up with.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, as the government in charge, we have to respect our constituents' wishes and needs. Let us respect their wishes. The reason is that in Nunavut, the choices Inuit want with respect to their traditional practices has largely disappeared.

Mr. Speaker, I am under extreme duress in trying to repatriate back to Nunavut and Nunavummiut their wishes to use traditional Inuit counselling practices and to reclaim our cultural skills.

Mr. Speaker, many Nunavummiut have voiced their support for my push to revive our traditional practices, numerous to be exact. I have heard from people from Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Naujaat, Resolute Bay, and Taloyoak. I have received support from these communities from residents who want to see changes as they are exhausted by the continual clashing.

Mr. Speaker, I tend to preface my comments by indicating my impatience with the slow process of incorporating changes in this area, but I also feel that this will eventually surface in our future after all this preparation.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude

his statement. Are there any nays?  
(interpretation) I didn't hear any nays.  
Mr. Shooyook, please proceed.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to conclude my statement.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, as the government, we have to respect our constituents' wishes to repatriate traditional counselling practices and other wishes related to their culture. Let us try to respect the wishes of our constituents by working together. Let's move forward together, as I alone cannot complete this task.

Members, I am now putting you on notice. Mr. Speaker, we have to collaborate on this issue and take the first step. The reasoning I use for this call is with respect to our correctional centres. As a government, we are lax since it is completely full. Many inmates are there due to their personal pain. There is a shelter. The RCMP charge people based on the Criminal Code, but again, these are alien practices to Inuit.

Due to these reasons, we the elders have to be respected in what we want to repatriate. Let us move to make changes while we are sitting as a legislature. I myself, as an elder, grew up using only dog teams and snow houses prior to any types of machines and I used to paddle around trying to harvest marine mammals. Since there were no shelters around, I had to start a fire to warm myself up. I have practised the traditional lifestyle and saw the traditional counselling and social interactions which can be very stressful.

With these factors in place and in trying to protect the legacy of our forefathers and with our current elders, the last generation who lived traditionally whose lives were arbitrarily changed, they are exhausted. This exhaustion is due to the loss of authority over their children. As a government, what will our priorities be? Do we follow the wishes of our constituents to enact changes or will this government never respect the wishes of their residents? Indubitably saddening!

As I sit in my seat, I realize that I am of the last generation of elders who survived in the traditional ways and who were intimately versed in traditional knowledge. Here I sit as the sole practitioner now. When the next legislature is elected, I imagine that this initiative will just be let go and if I saw that as the initiator, I would not be happy. Based on being one of the last generations of traditional Inuit, I now understand that if I hadn't been elected, this government wouldn't have the time of day to even deal with this issue today.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): I take pride in my own abilities. Ever since I sat down in this chair, I haven't given up, but now I realize that this issue would not have been at the forefront. I have forcibly pushed this agenda of traditional knowledge, so I want support from my colleagues. I urge members to speak about traditional knowledge, even if they hold just a smidgen. I also want this initiative enumerated as legislation to protect *Inuit Qaujimanituqangat*.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the end of our winter session, since this is becoming an urgent issue, as people have already

made preparations as Nunavummiut towards this goal, there will not be the challenges of starting anew. The traditional practices are already there and our esteemed elders have already prepared their submissions.

As soon as they are given the authority to deal with social healing and counselling practices and are authorized to work with the social workers, the Inuit way of life will become much smoother.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely passionate about this issue and I seek your support on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 140 – 4(3): 2016  
Kivalliq Cup**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today and I have been waiting for the other members to arrive before I make my statement.

Before I came to Iqaluit, there was a hockey tournament in the community of Baker Lake and I was very pleased with that event. We had tournament players who played for the Kivalliq Cup and I'm very sad that the Arviarmiut and Coral Harbour players weren't able to make it to our community, but it was a joyful event.

The Grey Wolves took first place and some of them aren't here, but I would like to recognize these individuals who opened the (interpretation ends) Kivalliq Cup 2016 (interpretation) in Baker Lake. When I was a child, I watched the players for the Grey Wolves. At the opening, we had the original Grey Wolves David Simailak, David Owingayak, Steven Niego, and their goalie, Mark Tunguaq.

At the last game, the Rankin Inlet Bears and the Qamani'tuaq Grey Wolves were the last two teams who played for the gold medal. At the very last minute, it was a tie and towards the very end of the game, the Qamani'tuaq Grey Wolves scored and won the gold medal. I congratulate them and I am very pleased that they won. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 141 – 4(3): In  
Praise of Pond Inlet's Pirurvik  
Preschool**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to my statement, I want to comment to Mr. Shooyook. Your dialogue is full of strong statements and we take pride in your passion. When you spoke about practising the traditional lifestyle, the language is very strong and we should remember from whence we came.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to some pleasurable news stemming from our community to my colleagues. I rise

today to express my pleasure and gratitude on behalf of Pond Inlet to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by some people related to our children and of the new Pirurvik Preschool that has become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, this facility just opened last month in our community. These people showed extreme dedication and commitment to complete this project. Although there are many people involved, I wanted to acknowledge these people who started working on this concept approximately four years ago.

Karen Nutarak and Tessa Lochhead worked on this project for four years to develop the framework and bring the project to fruition. On behalf of Pond Inlet residents, we are extremely grateful and proud of their dedication. There are other people who were involved as well.

Mr. Speaker, this preschool provides a foundation for the children using the Inuit language and culture, where the students practise the Inuktitut language, culture, and beliefs. As Inuit, we have a belief that when our children have a strong cultural foundation and a good start, their later years of education are much easier for them.

Furthermore, I want to extend our gratitude as a community to Minister Quassa, Minister of Education, as well as his officials, and if he can convey that thankfulness to them. The introduction of this facility means that when a community works together with various departments through cooperation, many initiatives are much easier to complete. For your involvement in this important

program, we profusely thank you and your staff.

I urge all members and people here to join me in celebrating this accomplishment and to congratulate the people who successfully created this program through their hard work and dedication to the people of Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize a person from Kugluktuk, my hometown and constituency. He is well known in Iqaluit and of course, he sat here as a minister and an MLA in the Second Assembly and the First Assembly. He is well known throughout the Arctic and throughout Nunavut. He is here for a series of meetings, Mr. Donald Havioyak.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize, through my Minister's Statement, a group behind me, the Qaggiavuut Society. Of course, through the Arctic Inspiration Prize, they won \$600,000 for their efforts and good work in ensuring that the art world through the

north is continued on through their efforts.

I want to say their names. Ms. Ellen Hamilton. (interpretation) Please stand up when I call your name. Vinnie Karetak, Laakuluk Williamson Bathory, and Marie Belleau. (interpretation ends) Welcome to the House and congratulations for your hard work and efforts.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Good morning and thank you, Mr. Speaker. This visitor was just acknowledged now, but as she is one of my constituents and also my niece, I would like to recognize Marie Belleau again as I am extremely proud of her accomplishments. She is trilingual and can speak the main languages of Nunavut, which are English, French, and Inuktitut. Furthermore, she is a practising lawyer who has completed her education. She shows just how bright our future can be. We want to see more examples of this in our future, to have skilled and talented Inuit capable of taking over. I am very proud of her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

## Item 6: Oral Questions

### Question 168 – 4(3): Dust Control Initiatives

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Nunavut.

My question will be directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services. I take pride in the fact that this will be my first ever question and I am pleased to direct my question to the newest minister, so I am proud to set that precedence.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, when our roads are no longer covered by snow, we experience dusty conditions. This dust can be hazardous to one’s health, especially to lungs of our young children.

Mr. Minister, I am now asking you: since your department was going to conduct a study on the different substances to control dust or dust suppression, can you now identify which of these substances are best suited to suppress dust from our roads? Can you explain that for my information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for that question. I am very pleased to respond because the government is now doing a study to find out which suppression product is best to keep the dust down.

We use calcium chloride, I believe, though we have tried different products. They aren't as good as calcium chloride. I believe calcium chloride is the best one. When it's properly laid on the road, it suppresses the dust. The Municipal Training Organization does the training and they can do training on how to lay the calcium chloride on the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that in my mind, but I do have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker, I am now asking the minister if all the rock substances used in Nunavut have been tested for their ability to suppress dust and which substance would be most effective to control dust. I do understand they are using that salt since the study concentrated on that. Will there be another study on dust suppression and which substances are available locally? Has this study been completed on dust suppression with no alternatives available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister for Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are open to any suggestions in our department because new things are coming up in the world. I'm sure that some time in the future, a new product could come out. Our department is open to any new

suggestions. We would like to try different products, but at this time, calcium chloride is being used and it's the best suppressant. If we find out there is a better product, we would use it. However, at this time, there isn't a better suppressant for the dust. If a new dust suppressant is produced, then we would try it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for explaining this using my language. I will expect that shortly, but you are the minister for this department and I see your capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to Arctic Bay, I now ask the minister this question: did you conduct a study in Arctic Bay on which substance or rock is best able to suppress dust? There is a black gravel layer laid on the road in our community and after a while, it becomes really hard and shiny with no dust emitted. However, when we get bad weather, such as rain, the road surface does degenerate.

This black gravel used in our community would seem appropriate by adding another substance to suppress dust, at least in my layman's eyes. I wonder if this black gravel I am referring to, that is used as the top layer on our roads, has been studied as to its properties. Can the minister provide an answer to this question for my information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Arctic Bay, I don't know the rock that is black, so I'll look into what the community is using and get back to the member. At this time, I cannot respond to the member's question because I don't know what the black rock or substance is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 169 – 4(3): Diagnosing Cancer**

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

Mr. Speaker, it is always very sad and disheartening when a friend, family member, or fellow Nunavummiutaq suddenly passes away from cancer, leaving those left behind wondering why the disease hadn't been diagnosed at an earlier stage where maybe something could have been done.

Can the minister provide an update on what specific kinds of cancer screening and detection programs are currently in place for Nunavut? 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, we are committed to cancer screening and we continue to work on it. We are

constantly keeping an eye on what is happening outside the territory and what detection equipment is available.

Based on my knowledge, with respect to (interpretation ends) colon cancer (interpretation) in English, as I don't have the equivalent Inuktitut terminology, continues to be among the highest rates in Nunavut. This is truly regrettable. Diagnostic tools for lung cancer have still not been found for early detection. Lung cancer rates are also one of the highest incidents of cancer thanks to cigarette smoking.

There's no question we would acquire these tools for cancer detection as soon as we learn of them. That is the current status on the two forms of cancer as far as I know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's disheartening, really, when you say that you have tried so hard, yet we don't seem to be going too far with helping those that perhaps could have been treated.

I recognize that cancer can afflict us in many different ways and this is partly why it so difficult, I think, to detect. However, one hears of cases where individuals visit health centres or the hospital many times over because of an ongoing pain or complaint, only to be told it is nothing to worry about and then they're sent home. It is only after many repeated visits that it is finally discovered that they have a condition which is now so far advanced that their

hope of living much longer is severely limited.

Can the minister clarify what diagnostic procedures are followed when a patient consistently returns with an ongoing complaint? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's why we are starting to deal with this issue. We have submitted our request for positions that will conduct these tests, as well as the review of all diagnostic procedures and regulations to ensure that they are compliant in that regard. That is why we will be opening up an office that will conduct these studies to ensure that patients are being looked after properly.

It is obvious that the past practices we followed were unfortunately inadequate. Nonetheless, we want to move forward and incorporate new technology to have proper diagnoses and health care. This is something we are obviously trying to improve and will focus on once the winter session is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate that every individual's case is different and that our health professionals are doing the best they can to provide good and effective health care. However, even experts at our health centres and hospital need good guidance and direction in terms of

having an effective cancer detection strategy to follow.

Will the minister commit to bringing forward a Nunavut-wide cancer screening and detection policy in the near future and, if so, when does he anticipate it will be ready? 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. The staff at the community level is being trained continually on cancer screening. Once I am able to table a report on this, I will do so. I know that this is very important to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 170 – 4(3): Preparing for Wastewater and Sewage Removal Emergencies**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of CGS.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this winter, in Coral Harbour, the sewage truck broke down and they were unable to provide any sewage services for quite a while. When the sewage truck broke down, it caused some challenges for the community.

Mr. Speaker, this issue of service trucks is very important and we are aware that every hamlet oversees this aspect of municipal governance. Although that is

the case, hamlets singularly cannot fund replacements. Further, the water and sewage trucks providing service, including the road maintenance equipment as well as snow removal equipment, age rapidly and are in constant use throughout the year, particularly the water and sewage trucks.

Mr. Speaker, with that being the case, the officials are aware that hamlets cannot fund the replacement vehicles alone and the equipment is usually very expensive with no cheap alternatives. They are used non-stop daily in the communities. With that being the case, how often does the department conduct reviews on the age of the equipment, and do they notify communities about the useful lifecycle of the equipment? How does this process work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister for Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. With respect to water and sewage trucks, it stems from the (interpretation ends) water sewage funding reserve (interpretation) that I unfortunately cannot translate into Inuktitut and I don't know the terminology.

The hamlets are funded for the water and sewage trucks to replace the equipment, but the hamlets have the sole discretion to determine which trucks to replace as they manage their (interpretation ends) reserve funds (interpretation) to purchase water and sewage trucks. If the fund can support the purchase, the hamlet can

determine when to purchase their replacement equipment.

The CGS department doesn't notify the hamlets to indicate that a particular truck is past its useful life and needs replacement. The hamlets are independent in that regard, but as we all know, machines break down. Perhaps if the water truck was a new purchase but it broke down and the cost to repair it was too expensive, they would purchase a new truck. The hamlets have the sole discretion in that regard, but CGS maintains an open door policy to assist the hamlets. If a hamlet requests assistance on a matter, then our doors are always open.

Further, when the Coral Harbour sewage truck broke down, yes, our department was able to assist the hamlet to repair the truck. The water and sewage trucks are major purchases and it is impossible to ship up vehicles that size on airplanes, I believe, so they can only replace them in the summer sealift. Nonetheless, if the parts to repair the trucks are not too unwieldy, then we can ship up those parts via air cargo. The hamlets do run this fund themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, we are all aware that the hamlets manage those funds and they have to pay for these purchases themselves. Even though that is the situation, in cases where the hamlet no longer has any discretionary funds to purchase parts or vehicles, they are subject to difficulties in trying to maintain their fleet. When hamlets are in

that situation, the vehicles are quite costly and the purchase price can be exorbitant.

When hamlets are forced to pay for these purchases on their own, they can only use the water and sewage rates paid by residents for provision of services. If the hamlet was unable to fully purchase a vehicle due to the lack of funds, the hamlet would have no choice but to increase their rates, as that is the only way to raise funds to purchase vehicles.

What is the minister's response, if any, whether hamlets can access funds they are not rolling over and what would be the limit the department can assist the communities with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the hamlet does get funds under the (interpretation ends) water and sewage program (interpretation) through that fund which deposits payments for the purchases of water, whether individuals or the government who pay the hamlet to provide water and sewage services.

The hamlet, in conjunction with CGS, works together to set the water and sewage rates and these rates cannot be too expensive or too low. Further, within the setting of the rates, they also have to include a portion set aside for their (interpretation ends) mobile equipment reserve fund (interpretation) and this is for the purchase of these vehicles. The set ratio is deposited into this reserve

fund to allow for purchases of water and sewage vehicles.

Yes, the hamlets have to review the rates to determine if the water rates are too low and, if so, they can increase the rates after studying the parameters. Through CGS, the government works with the hamlets to ensure they don't end up in a deficit situation. The water rate and the water trucks depend on that. If the rate is too high and the hamlet doesn't have the necessary funds, they would look at lowering the rate.

I'm sorry, I was wrong there. It would be increased if their funds are inadequate. Some hamlets are in that situation. Our mandate is to support hamlets and to ensure they don't end up with deficits, to operate smoothly. Yes, the water rates are the responsibility of the hamlets, but that's in conjunction with CGS. Hopefully, my response was understandable to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we know that to be the case. Now, in situations where a hamlet has no options or resources available, they undergo difficult challenges trying to meet the needs of the community without having too high a rate. Obviously, many Nunavummiut have private homes and they have to pay for water and sewage services. The hamlets have to walk a fine line between raising the rates too high and enough to cover the expenses.

With that being the case, can the minister identify, in cases where the hamlets have too low a rate, whether they can consider (interpretation ends) water and sewer subsidies? (interpretation) I have no corresponding Inuktitut terminology for that wordage, but I believe the minister gets what I'm trying to say here. Can the rates be increased that assist the local governments? Can this issue be reviewed further? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, at this time, we are reviewing that issue as there are currently two issues under review. The (interpretation ends) water and sewage program (interpretation) related to water and sewage services and rates are being reviewed. The second part is the amount of funding that hamlets receive. These two items are currently under review. The (interpretation ends) water subsidy program (interpretation) is also part of this review and we were informed that the review will be completed by the end of March. At this time, the funds allocated for hamlets are all under review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 171 – 4(3): Tax Policy**

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

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I have now had the opportunity to review the government's annual set of *Fiscal and Economic Indicators* which accompanied yesterday's Budget Address.

One thing that jumped out at me was the section concerning income inequality in Nunavut. The document which the minister presented yesterday states that, and I quote, "...the top 10% of income earners in Nunavut reported earning close to \$121,341 each...in comparison, the lowest-earning 10% of tax filers reported total incomes of less than \$2,435 each."

Can the minister describe how his department's current review of the tax system in Nunavut is considering the issue of income inequality? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut only controls salaries for Government of Nunavut employees. That's usually through negotiations with the respective unions. They're negotiated salaries that way. The private sector sets their wages with their employees and non-government organizations set their wages. The taxes that are paid are collected by the Government of Canada. They set their federal taxes. We set our territorial taxes. We're not contemplating any new taxes for Nunavut that I'm aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, the minister informed the House that he had recently written a letter to the federal Minister of Finance concerning the issue of the Northern Residents Deduction that Nunavut tax filers are eligible to claim. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of his letter in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current winter sitting? 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. Mikkungwak for that question. As he knows, I don't like to make commitments. I won't make a commitment, but I will table the letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that document.

The government's annual set of *Fiscal and Economic Indicators* which accompanied yesterday's Budget Address indicates that, and I quote, "mining firms themselves do not pay much income tax in the short term, as Canadian law provides significant flexibility in terms of when and where mining companies pay taxes."

When I raised this issue with the minister during our sitting of October 26, 2015, he indicated that he did not have figures available at that time concerning how much corporate tax revenue has been raised by the Government of Nunavut from mining companies over the past five years. When will the minister be in a position to share this information with the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. I'm not sure I can table that kind of confidential information. There are only a few companies operating in Nunavut and I don't know if that would possibly breach some confidentiality issue.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Mikkungwak knows, for most mining companies, their corporate offices are located elsewhere in Canada or possibly other countries. They usually pay their corporate taxes in those jurisdictions. The benefit to Nunavut, however, is if those companies become operational in Nunavut, there are significant employment created and contracts and subcontracts. There are employment opportunities for Nunavummiut, and then, of course, the employees pay personal taxes and payroll taxes, so we benefit significantly through that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 172 – 4(3): Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the new Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation since the minister I have asked on Qulliq.

During my recent community meetings in Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, a number of my constituents raised the issue of alternative energy, including wind power and tidal power.

In November of last year, Qulliq issued a request for proposals to develop a feasibility study for potential wind energy in Nunavut. This RFP also included a copy of an evaluation concerning wind power in Cape Dorset, which concluded that “an in-depth feasibility study would be the next phase in developing a wind turbine or wind-diesel project” for the community.

Mr. Speaker, the draft report from the RFP was due to have been presented to QEC on Tuesday of last week.

Can the minister indicate what direction the wind is blowing, so to speak, with respect to QEC’s role in developing wind turbine or wind-diesel projects in Cape Dorset and Kimmirut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As I’m sure everyone is aware,

alternative energy has been a large focus of mine personally across the last couple of years. Bringing attention to any alternative energy projects, to me, is a very important step in Nunavut’s affordability of energy going forward.

That being said, with the wind feasibility study that was being done for wind turbines, it’s a territory-wide study. As the member stated, it closed last week and we have to wait until such time as the results come back. Right now, the consultants are developing the modelling with the final results and identifying which communities would be best suited to explore wind energy options to offset some of the fossil fuel costs that we have and continued costs that are incurred through the territory’s fuel resupply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. The Government of Nunavut’s Energy Secretariat has published information concerning tidal energy in Nunavut which indicates that “The cumulative mean potential tidal energy of Nunavut is estimated to be [the] highest in Canada.” Can the minister describe how the Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with its partners in the area of tidal energy development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we speak about tidal energy, a lot like hydro energy, it’s a

very cost-intensive capital cost. We have had presentations provided to the board and to senior engineering within the Qulliq Energy Corporation itself, including myself.

Previous to even being a minister, I have met with the proponents of the tidal energy projects to be offered here in Nunavut. At this time, it is something that we're seriously taking a look at, although the cost to be incurred from a capital standpoint is something that this territory and Qulliq Energy individually just can't undertake at this time. I'm open to any and all opportunities to explore sizeable infrastructure projects such as tidal and hydro development.

Going forward, if the money can be found and the technology can be proven, it's something that I'm sure myself and my cabinet colleagues will all take a serious look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister again for his response. We all recognize that while the development of alternative energy sources is an important goal, we cannot ignore the immediate need to ensure that our current power plants are adequate. I would like to ask the minister: can he provide an update to this House today on the replacement of the Cape Dorset power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickeys:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was anticipating that question from the member. It has been a frequent question that he has had to ask over the last couple of years.

There has been a lot of discussion around the location of the plant in Cape Dorset and as recently as last September-October, the hamlet had changed again the location of the site proposed for the construction of the power plant in Cape Dorset. I am happy to announce to the member that the site has been finalized in a general way. There is a patch of land that has been allocated to Qulliq Energy.

The geotechnical study has just been completed last week. The report was submitted to Qulliq Energy and our engineering and finance departments are going over the design plans to identify the exact footprint so that we can negotiate the land lease for the established site location with the Hamlet of Cape Dorset and initiate construction as soon as possible.

With the site instability, I guess it has delayed the project, as I am sure the member is aware, but I can assure the member that we will get started on construction at the very earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

#### **Question 173 – 4(3): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions



are also for the new Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Last week, the Senate of Canada's Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples announced that it will undertake a major examination of housing issues in Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and the Northwest Territories. The deputy chair of this committee is our own Nunavut Senator.

I believe that the committee's work has the potential of raising awareness in Ottawa of the need for new federal investments in housing in Nunavut. Can the minister confirm when he will be appearing before the Senate committee to present Nunavut's case for new housing investments? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As I'm sure we are all aware, the housing situation across the territory of Nunavut is a very serious issue going forward with a shortfall of over 3,000 units and getting worse every year. With the federal ask from the territory itself, we are looking at some stabilized funding to assist us with the long-term plan to deal with that issue.

That being said, specific to the Senate committee, I haven't personally been invited at this moment. It is something I have spoken to Senator Patterson about and I am exploring the timing to see if and when that would be a possibility of

me appearing before that Senate committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) An ongoing issue of concern to my constituents is the adequacy of funding available through the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs. Can the new minister indicate what direction he has given to his officials regarding homeownership programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the homeownership programs, I think the member is specifically asking about the down-payment assistance program. That budget hasn't been taxed fully in the past, so I'm not looking at making any immediate changes to it. Something that this government and the Nunavut Housing Corporation dramatically support is increased homeownership across the territory where feasible, not just infrastructure-wise but financially for our residents. We need to make sure that those who participate in homeownership programs can afford to maintain the home and continue living in a fiscally responsible manner. If those programs do get taxed to a point where demand is exceeding the funding requirements, it is definitely something I would take a look at. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In addition to having a new minister, the Nunavut Housing Corporation also has a new president, whose appointment was announced on November 27 of last year. Let me be clear: I am not questioning the choice of appointment, but I do want to confirm the process that was undertaken.

As the minister is aware, section 6 of the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* provides that the president is to be appointed by the minister on the recommendation of the board of directors. Can the minister describe what role he and the board of directors played in making this decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It's very similar to the one I got with regard to Qulliq Energy yesterday or the day before.

Like I mentioned with regard to Qulliq Energy, it's a similar process with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Candidates are screened and vetted through the Premier's Office, as it is very similar to a deputy minister position. That candidate is put forward to me and the board and the board goes through the process of making the recommendation to me. At that point, I

decide whether or not to put the individual into the position.

I know you're not asking from a personal matter, but I have to say on the record that I have been very impressed with Mr. Audla's performance to date. He has been an exceptional leader to start off his term as president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 174 – 4(3): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my question, I would like to say that I was so happy and proud of my fellow residents this morning that I forgot to say "good morning" to the people of Nunavut. I say "good morning" to the people of Nunavut and Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the new Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I have advocated strongly for the construction of much-needed new housing in Pond Inlet.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2015-16 capital estimates included funding for the construction of three new two-bedroom five-plexes in Pond Inlet.

Last fall, I was proud to have voted in favour of funding for ten new public housing units to be constructed in Pond

Inlet during the upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year.

Can the minister confirm where the Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently at with respect to the tendering process for Pond Inlet's new housing units? Let me first ask that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sincerely thank the member for that question. It gives me an opportunity to clarify a response that I made a couple of days ago to Mr. Qirngnuq and the Kugaaruk construction. He confused me a little bit with the re-tendering term that he used in his question and I had spoken to Mr. Qirngnuq a little bit earlier that the closing date for the tenders in that community is March 11.

I would just like to confirm to the member asking the question today with regard to Pond Inlet that two five-plexes have been put out to tender with a closing date of March 18. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will appreciate, some families are larger than others. Can the minister indicate whether or not the ten new public housing units for Pond Inlet will all be two-bedroom five-plexes or will there be a mixture of housing sizes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking for clarification on the size. With the staff housing program, all the five-plexes will be two bedrooms, but we recognize the need for larger units to address some of the size of families across the territory and the need specifically in Pond Inlet whereas each five-plex will contain two three-bedroom units and three two-bedroom units. There will be a total of four three-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units out of the ten units that are going to be constructed in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for clarifying that, Mr. Minister. However, you said staff housing units, but I think you meant to say social housing, not for staff. I don't think that we will be receiving any staff housing units in Pond Inlet. I understand that you are talking about social housing.

Mr. Speaker, when the Legislative Assembly approved the housing corporation's 2016-17 capital budget last fall, witnesses from the corporation stated that "Combining construction projects by community has been shown to help reduce the costs of construction." I would like to ask the minister: can you describe what specific actions you have been taking in such areas as housing design and tendering practices in order to reduce costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I just wanted to clarify that I realize that there's no staff housing being built in Pond Inlet, but across the board, the design that we're using for staff housing across the territory for the 2016-17 builds are all two bedrooms. I'm just generalizing it.

With regard to the member's question on the affordably and design modifications that have been made, in addition to looking at combining the community tenders to basically look at maximizing the effectiveness of any builds going on in the community to take advantage of cost savings, there has also been the use of a supply, ship, and erect model of tender, which has alleviated a lot of pressures of marshalling, construction, and the material provision to the contractor.

In addition to that, what I would like to make special note of is that there's a lot of efficiency design put into the construction as well. We are looking at LED lighting going forward with all new construction, including any major renovations to existing stock, recognizing that the power and fuel constitute over 35 percent of the annual cost to maintain a unit. We have some energy-efficiency ratings that have been in the design model that are very exceptional. Probably the only way to increase that would be to take the units completely off grid and be self-sufficient in power. The efficiency there is very encouraging to me.

We're also looking at the design itself. That will be a topic of discussion going forward with the blueprint for action. We're not stopping where we are right now with our design models on efficiency and assistance in alleviating the costs of construction using the tender models and design concepts. We're not stopping there. We're not happy yet. This will also be a topic going forward within the blueprint for action that we're currently taking a look at with stakeholders and there will be consultations out in the communities in the future on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 175 – 4(3): Mental Health Facility**

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok** (interpretation): Good morning, people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, this House approved capital funding to renovate the children's group home in Rankin Inlet into a mental health transition facility. To date, it is not clear that any work has progressed in this initiative. In the meantime, suggestions have been put forward to renovate this building into an elders facility instead.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the proposed renovation to the old children's group home 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. (interpretation ends) As I said before, plans have not changed. We need the mental health facilities wherever we can throughout Nunavut. The initial estimates for renovations for the mental health facility in Rankin Inlet were under what we needed. We have been working with CGS to come up with accurate figures so that we can start renovations for this very important project in Rankin Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January of this year, I received a letter from the Kivalliq Inuit Association acknowledging the need of a 24-hour palliative care and elders facility in Rankin Inlet and supporting the initiative to use the former children's group home for this purpose.

Can the minister confirm whether or not he has considered any alternative suggestions or proposals to renovate the old children's group home in Rankin Inlet into an elders facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We will continue to work on

elders' care and I look forward to tabling an assessment on elders' care later on during this day. I look forward to more discussions on the issue, but at the same time, we are tackling mental health and the decision that we made to convert the former group home into a mental health facility will not change. We will continue to tackle mental health and do whatever we can to support those in need. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noted that the children's group home in Rankin Inlet is being used by the local elementary school as the location for their mentorship program. Would the minister consider repurposing the children's group home so that elders living there could also provide mentorship to the children and grandchildren of their community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) All I can commit to at this time is that more work is being done on the actual cost of renovating the facility into a mental health facility. That is ongoing and I look forward to making more progress on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Question 176 – 4(3): Replacing Air Terminal Buildings**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my colleagues, ministers, and the people watching the proceedings in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. I say “good morning” to all of you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question regarding airport operations and airlines. The airstrips in the smaller communities are used for more than one year. The airport in Kugaaruk was built in the 1990s, but it was just a dirt airstrip before that.

With respect to operational issues, can I get information about the average lifecycle of an airstrip? What are the timeframes between improvements made to an airstrip? The airstrip requires maintenance, but it may need resurfacing. That is my question about airstrips. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Monica Ell, is not in the House at this time. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier Taptuna, (interpretation) can you respond to the question?

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As our Government House Leader has indicated, the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation is absent from this House. With the information we’re trying to provide to the Member for Netsilik, of course, that will be responded to as soon as the Minister of

Transportation is in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. As the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation is not here at this time, I’ll move on to the next member who would like to ask questions. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Question 177 – 4(3): Public Agencies Council**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance.

According to the information that is currently on the Department of Finance’s website, the work of the government’s Public Agencies Council is, and I quote, “critical to the development of the Government of Nunavut’s service delivery capacity,” as it provides our Crown agencies and territorial corporations with, and again I quote, “advice, information and support necessary to promote good governance, continuous improvement and accountability for results.”

Does the Public Agencies Council still exist and, if it does still exist, what are its priorities for the upcoming year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Mikkungwak for the question...

>> *Laughter*

...or Ms. Angnakak. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I have been battling a serious illness all week here, so I'm not quite my normal self, but I appreciate the questions.

As I think I have mentioned before somewhere, possibly in a standing committee meeting, we made a decision on this side to dissolve the Public Agencies Council. That was an internal organization or committee set up back in 2003 on the recommendation of the government of the day to address some concerns that the Auditor General of Canada had with our public agencies. We have determined that the public agencies we have in the Government of Nunavut have matured to the point where they can operate on their own without significant oversight from us.

Through the Department of Finance, we still provide advice and recommendations to the public agencies. The minister responsible for oversight with respect to public agencies will report to the Financial Management Board directly, and then as a cabinet, we would be able to question the appropriate ministers about their organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. One of the tools that the government has used to help ensure "good governance, continuous improvement and accountability for results" are its annual letters of expectation to the chairs of the boards of directors of our major Crown agencies and territorial corporations, which the

minister has tabled in the House on an annual basis. It is my understanding that the Public Agencies Council has coordinated this process. Now, will these letters of expectation continue to be produced and, if not, what will replace them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Speaker, yes, the letters of expectation will still be sent to the appropriate public agencies. We have people in the Department of Finance that work with the public agencies. They have been working in conjunction with me and the ministers. We will produce the letters of expectation. I believe they're currently under development right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the minister's Budget Address that he delivered yesterday, he stated that the NNI Policy will be "reworked." An ongoing question concerning Crown agency governance is whether or not the new NNI Policy will apply to the contracting and procurement activities of all Crown agencies and territorial corporations, including the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Can the minister clarify what position the government is taking on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware that QEC has been exempted from NNI for as long as I can remember. I was formerly the minister, in fact, and I did not direct them to follow NNI. The official government position on this at this point is that we don't have a position on QEC. We are waiting for the NNI Policy to be reviewed and approved and then we will take it from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

##### **Tabled Document 078 – 4(3): Continuing Care in Nunavut, 2015 to 2035**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As per my commitment yesterday, I would like to table the following document: Continuing Care in Nunavut 2015 to [2035]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Item 19: Second Reading of Bills**

##### **Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2015-2016 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2015-2016*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 10 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson

##### **Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2015- 2016 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2015-2016*, be read for the second



time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

**Speaker**: Question has been called. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 11 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 12 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
1, 2016-2017 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 12, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2016-2017*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 12 is referred to Committee of the Whole.

Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:40 and  
Committee resumed at 10:57*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good morning. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order.

First of all, those watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome to your committee.

We will proceed with our meeting today. We have the following items to deal with: Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2016-17 Main Estimates of the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Do members agree that we resume our review of the main estimates for the Department of Health?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Health – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to have the minister's officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you and good morning, Mr. Chairman. With me again to my right is my Deputy Minister, Colleen Stockley, and to my left is Assistant Deputy Minister Rosemary Keenainak.

Mr. Chairman, before we proceed, I would like to respond to questions that we couldn't answer. I will appreciate it if you can give me an opportunity to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Welcome to the House, Ms. Stockley and Ms. Keenainak.

Yesterday when we adjourned for the day, we were on page H-6. Ms. Angnakak was the last one to ask

questions, so I will give her the first opportunity.

However, I would like to give Minister Okalik an opportunity to answer some questions he received yesterday. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) you have the floor if you wish to respond to the earlier questions. Go ahead.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the tobacco legislation that was queried about yesterday, I was unable to respond forthwith, so I apologize. I can now respond to that question.

These are the particulars: anyone selling tobacco products to individuals under the age of 19 is punishable by a fine starting from \$4,000 up to \$100,000. Any retailer who is caught selling tobacco products to underage individuals can be fined anywhere from \$15,000 to \$150,000. These are the particulars listed in the tobacco legislation.

In trying to support the legislation, we provided inspectors to enforce the law through educating retailers and employees that they can sell tobacco products to anyone over 19 within Nunavut. Most retailers have been visited by our inspectors since this fall. They are provided with the legal obligations they must follow, as well as limiting infractions from sales to minors.

The inspectors will also be visiting the communities this spring to ensure that retailers are in compliance with this legislation. That is my response to one of yesterday's questions I promised to provide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Minister Okalik, for responding to that question. We will then proceed where we left off yesterday with Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, I asked a question of the department on how they are going to roll out their new program - let's see what it is called here - specifically to expand and standardize community-based mental health and addictions options. I asked how they were going to roll that out and if the schools were going to be involved. Looking at the *Blues* today, you did go into that you are going to be working with Education very closely on this matter.

I would like to just get a bit more information on how exactly you are going to be working with the schools. You say here that three PYs will be hired for child and youth outreach workers in Igloolik, Coral Harbour, and Kugluktuk. Are you saying that it's only in these communities that this program is going to be addressed or used, implemented, whatever the correct word is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a new program and it's going to be a pilot project. Once that is completed, we will work out the kinks. What we usually do when the program is set up properly is that we implement it in the other communities. We will use it as a pilot project, straighten out the problems, and then consider implementing it in the

other communities. (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note that you say, "social-emotional training program for children and youth." One of the things that we heard when we were doing the *Education Act* review, when the committee was hearing different presentations, we had somebody who had been a principal at the Cape Dorset school. He had some very interesting things to say about this area. They were doing some kind of special project or pilot project there.

I'm wondering if the department has looked into that of what they were doing. I don't know if it's currently being done, but I know it did and it had a great impact on violence in the school with the children. There was a very positive impact. Is that something that you would look at as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education is responsible for school operations with their own independent boards and we worked with the organizations to launch these future programs. We have to collaborate with the Department of Education as they are responsible for education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is: has that happened in regard to the program they have at the Cape Dorset school, if it still exists? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): At this time, I cannot respond immediately on this matter. However, we work closely with the Department of Education on various initiatives that cross our paths. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go on to something else. We're talking about mental health clients at the Qikiqtani General Hospital and the current practice. I'm reading from your opening statement on page 2, "The current practice of using contracted security guards to observe mental health clients..." You're going on about how you want to change that where you will be replacing the contracted security guards with life skills workers. What is the timeframe for implementing this change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The timeline will be determined once we pass the budget, and then we can initiate staffing with Human Resources and hopefully we can provide those employees with proper training and get that going as soon as we can.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister maybe describe a little bit about what a life skills worker is? What does that mean? Is that like an attendant? What kind of training would they have to have to do this work? I guess it would be 24/7 because I think that if there's a client in the hospital that needs that service, it's also during the night. So if you can explain that a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The life skills workers provide all kinds of assistance to those in need. They educate the client of any day-to-day challenges that they may face in their current capacity and assist them in gaining the confidence to survive and thrive on their own. That's their main task. They provide basic training, such as skills that we take for granted that the client may not have. It creates skills for those who need them and provide them with an opportunity to become productive members of our communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm thinking that these clients are there because of serious mental

challenges in whatever way like mental stress or any other way. Would these life skills workers also be trained to address mental health issues? What does that mean in terms of training? I think the Mental Health Worker Program was a two-year course. I'm just wondering how you're going to work around that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There will be support staff for the mental health workers. They provide support and make sure that they identify the signs and provide the clients with the proper support mentally. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go onto something different again. You talk about an increased risk of vandalism and break-ins in health centres across Nunavut. You're looking for approval of \$2.24 million for improving security measures in 10 communities and you want to contract out these services. Why only 10? Why isn't it going to all communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As always, this is a start and we will see how the work

progresses. These 10 communities have been identified for past vandalism and break-ins, so that's where we're starting from. Once this program is in place, we will monitor how it's progressing and see if we need to expand it. Hopefully not, but we will be ready for any potential. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you talking about security measures meaning video or somebody there 24/7? What do you mean by providing these kinds of securities? What kind of measures are you putting in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It will be 24-hour security. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is seeking approval to create a continuous quality improvement program. You want to improve the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care and you want to do it by improving service access and patient experience. When we think and talk about that, how will this program address the improvements in the areas that you say that you want to improve by hiring these three PYs? What exactly are they going to be doing so that these

improvements are actually achieved and where will the PYs be placed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I said yesterday, there was an external review that took place and it identified gaps on the checks and balances needed to make sure that we're delivering the best health care in our communities. We are implementing that recommendation to make sure that these communities are monitored properly and that the services they are providing are up to standard. There will be three PYs out of this and they will be here in Iqaluit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us where the three PYs are going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Angnakak, I believe the minister responded that these three PYs will be in Iqaluit.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Oh, sorry.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Was that your response, Minister Okalik?

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Angnakak, please move on.

**Ms. Angnakak**: I apologize for that.

I'm just going on to where my next question is going to be in the business plan. Well, it looks like I have gone down to my last question. I thought I had a few more. That's it for me for this section.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are you done for now? I wish to remind members that we are currently on page H-6. Please note that when you pose your questions, try to remain on the page we are reviewing to ensure we proceed smoothly, both in my role as the Chair as well as to the minister when he is trying to respond. Please keep that in mind. Let us move onwards. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question will be, according to your business plan, your department has completed a residential long-term care needs assessment. As the minister is well aware, some colleagues of mine have been asking for this. Can you provide a brief overview of the findings of the report and which communities, if any, were identified as needing a new residential care facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The overall assessment, I would say, was that currently, the care of elders is separated between departments, so it creates a real challenge for providing the proper support for elder care in our territory. I

would say that the primary recommendation is to consolidate the care of elders under one department. It does not identify any particular community as to where they may be needed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It seems obvious that with respect to elders, many of us are very passionate about them and it is noticeable in Baker Lake that we have one of the highest per capita numbers of elders in our community.

With that being the case, when the minister was making his statements earlier about care for elders and whether to have a single caretaker, I wanted further clarification on this matter as the Department of Family Services also has elders' care programs. I wondered if these separate programs could be amalgamated into one program and whether this concept of consolidation has been discussed with members of the cabinet, particularly with the Minister of Family Services. Have you been in discussions with their minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with respect to his question, I am in constant dialogue with the Minister of Family Services on how to best work together on this and other issues.

At this time, we cannot amalgamate them immediately without a legislative review and discussions with my cabinet colleagues. I can't respond to the question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your 2016-19 business plan includes a future priority for the 2018-19 fiscal year to address the need for dementia care. Can you describe the current need for dementia care across Nunavut and provide further detail on how it is currently being provided to Nunavut residents who need it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently as of today, we are aware of six cases of patients with dementia. Five of them are situated in Ottawa and one patient is housed in Edmonton. These are Nunavut residents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. With regard to that, the minister indicated earlier that there were five patients housed outside of Nunavut. Has there been any consideration given to planning a facility? We all know that our population is aging. What kinds of future plans have been discussed for Nunavut to plan for dealing with dementia? Are there plans for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not alone in Nunavut. Other provinces are now trying to deal with this issue. It's quite confusing. They need good care and the caretakers need to be fully trained. Therefore, we can't take on that responsibility and we are requesting a budget proposal for dementia care. We need to get support from outside of the territories because we aren't ready to take on this responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to another topic. I have asked the minister on several occasions about the health centre in Baker Lake. It's getting too small because the population of our community is increasing. I would like to ask a question with regard to this issue. Looking at your proposal for the community health centre, it's projected to increase by \$4 million in 2016-17. What accounts for the \$4 million increase, Mr. Minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't deal with capital items right now. I will be dealing with that at a later date when we are dealing with capital. I can't respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I thought that would have been your first response as I wanted you to respond personally to the question. We are not dealing with any capital items at this point. Mr. Mikkungwak, anything further?

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I believe we are on page H-6. In looking at the particulars, I would like clarification under Contract Services, 2015-16. The figure listed, I believe, is \$34,675.

**Chairman**: It is \$34 million.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): So the figure is \$34,675,000 and in reviewing that amount for 2015-16, it looks like an increase occurred for 2016-17 where it now states a figure of \$100,735,000, which is a substantial increase. Can the minister explain what the reasoning is for the large increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mikkungwak. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These figures were readjusted based on the parameters of the project. These are expenses that have to be paid. If you look at the figures, it averaged around \$62 million and for this year, the amount left is \$1,333,000 for contract services when the funds were moved. That is why it seems like a substantial increase as the figure seemingly went from \$30 million upwards to \$100 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak.



**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that indicate that there are more contract services across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** No, it's just moving the item to a different column, so there is no change. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll move on to another area here. The proposed budget for the Medical Transportation Division will be increased by almost \$4 million in 2016-17. Do you feel that the proposed funding will be adequate and, if not, what factors will add to the cost of providing transportation for Nunavut's medical clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The major increase that's in place is to reflect the increasing population for our territory. We do not know if there will be a need for more at this time, as you know. You never know when people may need medevacs at any given time in our territory. In some areas, we make a guesstimate and hope that it will meet the target, but you never know and it's beyond our control in a lot of cases. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we're well aware, the contract for medical travel is going to be up soon. Do we foresee adjustments that will be made in this particular Medical Transportation Division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I cannot answer that at this time because an RFP will have to be issued. The amounts will then be determined once the proponents have filed their requests to us to enter into a contract for medical travel in our territory. We will see at that time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess this next question is associated with medical travel. As we all know, according to your business plan, funding for out-of-territory hospitals and reciprocal physician billings is now projected to increase in 2016-17. Is it your prediction that costs for services provided to Nunavutmiut in other jurisdictions will remain stable in 2016-17? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

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

(interpretation ends) Like anything, costs increase and we're projecting a 7 percent increase in that sector. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page H-6. Moving on, Mr. T. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) I just have a few questions here. Over the years, the Nunavut government has considered a number of different options for addressing addictions issues in the territory. Can you describe your department's current focus for mental health and addictions care services?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) As reflected in our budget proposal, we are trying to strengthen community support for addictions and mental health. That's where we are starting from to strengthen our base.

Hopefully, in the future, we will look at facilities at the appropriate time. What we need to do is make sure that those that are in need of support for addictions or mental health get the support in their community when they need it. From there, we will provide additional support if they need treatment.

Currently, there are 11 contracts we have with outside providers for addictions treatment. We look forward to the day

when we can provide those services in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) Yesterday, during my Member's Statement, I referenced the closing of the Mamisarvik [Healing] Centre in Ottawa. Can the minister indicate whether he has had any conversations with his federal counterpart to discuss the possibility of ensuring that funding is provided to have the centre operating rather than being closed at the end of March? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) The Mamisarvik had been operating with federal funds until they were cut by the previous government. We did our best to provide more support to the facility. I had meetings with the managers in November and they also identified that the Province of Ontario was not providing much support. I met with the provincial minister in support of the group and the Ontario minister was very open to providing more support.

Unfortunately, from that point on to today, the group managing the facility felt that they had to close the facility. We were there to provide more support, but unfortunately that wasn't enough. I hope that we can find something with the new government in the future. We

haven't had time to talk to the federal government at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your business plan indicates that the *Mental Health Act* will be updated in the near future and your department recently conducted community consultations on this topic. Can you provide an overview of what types of issues are being considered with respect to amending the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Act is quite old and it needs to be updated. There was also a very strong recommendation from the coroner's inquest looking into suicide to provide more information to family members and disclosing them to family members where the person may be at risk for suicide. That's one particular area that we're working on. We're working with the Information and Privacy Commissioner on this matter and I look forward to providing a bill to this House hopefully in the very near future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, suicide is one issue that touches all of us and your business plan indicates that your

department will continue to implement plans or implement actions aimed at reducing suicide in Nunavut. Can you provide an overview of what kinds of suicide prevention activities will be conducted by your department in 2016-17? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I became the Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention in November, so we didn't have time to submit a budget during this cycle. I will be providing a supplementary appropriation in the spring session. I look forward to more discussions on it at that time. We're working on it and we will come forward with a submission. I look forward to your support on this very important matter in due time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question here: have all the mental health workers across Nunavut received ASIST training and how many of them are certified to train others in the ASIST program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) These employees are trained in their line of work, so ASIST training is a very specific type of

training for everyone. We only have two certified trainers at this time, so it's one area that we're working on as well and increasing training for ASIST in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister. Good morning, Minister Okalik and your officials.

First of all, I would like clarification on medical travel. For the year 2015-16, you spent \$58,915,000. Can you break that down, for example, on medevacs and regular medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we spent last year was \$32,200,000. That's for the day-to-day medical travel. For emergency travel for 2014-15, it was \$32,500,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You stated yesterday that the travel costs have been increasing. We were informed last month by the airlines that they don't really increase the prices they have you pay even though it's under a contract. If the airlines increased their rates, would that affect the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated yesterday, we have an increasing population in Nunavut. Medical travel has been increasing as well and that's why we're requesting more than \$2 million for medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move on to a different topic. (interpretation ends) The GN receives Vote 4/5 funding for the Nunavut Family Physician Residents program. I would like to find out how many family physicians are currently practising in Nunavut that are supported through this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We call it "NunaFam." It is funded by the federal government and we have used two doctors under this program and that was it. It helped. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have you been negotiating with the federal government to try to get more doctors like that in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was like on a trial basis, but the federal government has told us that they will not be continuing with this program, which is regrettable. It really helped us where we could get these doctors up here to help with the medical care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not good.

Let me move on to a different question. In your business plan on page 116 of the English copy, some people require home care and you have increased the funding for this by about \$1 million compared to last year. How many people do you help in home care under this funding? I'm sure there are not that many that need home care. I'm sure there are some people who can't go outside and they need to have the help come to them instead. I'm just trying to see how many of those people there are in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): That money helps the communities a great deal. The programs help the elders especially. Medical people come to their homes and help them. There are quite a number of them. In 2014-15, the number of people who had medical people come and help them was 872. That helped the communities a great deal. It's good that

we have the service available in the communities because it's very helpful. We use it to go and take care of people who can't go outside on their own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Would you like to continue, Mr. Joanasie? Go ahead.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. I convey my support to that because I know we have this program in my constituency and people do get helped by this program. Some people need extra help, especially feeble people.

To move on to a different question about insurance, the funding has not been changed since last year, which is \$2,702,000. Does the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program include the money that is used for pharmacy as well? Is that included in this budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They mainly do support under an agreement with the federal government to provide pharmaceuticals to Inuit. We get the money from the federal government and then we monitor it to make sure that it is run properly, but the actual budget amount will not be changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm mainly talking about people who do not have their own health insurance and it's called the Non-Insured Health Benefits and that's how people get helped while other people have health insurance through their jobs, but I would like to know if all of this money is spent every year. I want to make sure that the money is used properly for the insured and non-insured patients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those issues and pharmaceuticals for Inuit in particular are under (interpretation ends) the Non-Insured Health Benefits (interpretation) Program funded by the federal government. We do not operate this program and the funds are not specific to that purpose currently, but our employees that provide support to this program are listed here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that now. Thank you. In your business plan 2016-19, one of your priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to expand the use of telehealth. Can you provide an update on how often telehealth is currently used to provide health care delivery? As we all know, it decreases the necessity to travel to medical centres when communities are very far from each other. How do you plan to expand it for the future? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program has been growing steadily and we have been using Internet or computer diagnoses as well. There were 4,784 hours used under telehealth. Those people would've had to travel if we didn't have telehealth. It decreases the number of patients who need to travel for medical purposes, so it's very helpful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell us how much money you have saved through the telehealth program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been extremely helpful. We don't know how many people would have travelled if we didn't have telehealth. It really helps us to have quicker diagnoses of people who need help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At some point in the future, I hope the number of people who would have travelled and those who didn't have to travel will be documented the same way that you gave us the

number of hours that were used for telehealth. It would be good to see how much money the government is saving because of the telehealth program.

Let me move on to a different question. In the same business plan from 2016-19, you have indicated that you are planning amendments to the *Medical Profession Act*. Which professions will be affected by changes to the legislation? Which jobs will this affect and when do you anticipate introducing this legislation in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: I answered this yesterday. I'll answer it again maybe in English and people will understand. Occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech-language pathologists, chiropractors, pharmacy technicians, dental technicians, and dental technologists will be covered under this legislation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry if I didn't hear that the other day. I will try harder to make sure I hear everything. I might have been out of the room when this was answered.

This will be my last question. With respect to the three positions that you mentioned, when do you plan to hire people to fill them? This was in response to the pilot project. I will be reviewing the progress of this pilot project and I would like to know when you are

planning to hire people to work underneath that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, after this budget has been approved, we will have to work on the hiring of these positions. This will be after the main estimates have been approved for the department. Therefore, I cannot really respond to your question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Mr. T. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move to a report progress.

**Chairman** (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

We will continue the review of the Department of Health the next time we meet. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker**: Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for meetings for this afternoon, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Oversight at half past one in the Nanuq Boardroom, followed immediately by the meeting of the Striking Committee in Tuktu, and finally, at 3:45 p.m., a meeting of the Management and Services Board in the Tuktu Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for February 29:

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

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 10
  - Bill 11
  - Bill 12
  - Bill 13
  - Tabled Document 73 – 4(2)
  - Tabled Document 116 – 4(2)
  - Tabled Document 140 – 4(2)
  - Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)
  - Tabled Document 70 – 4(3)
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole



22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) This House stands  
adjourned until Monday, February 29, at  
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:57*

