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Official Report

**DAY 19**

**Monday, February 29, 2016**

**Pages 904 – 962**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(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*

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(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)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, February 29, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, 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. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>House commenced at 13:29

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors, welcome.

Before we get started, I would like to recognize Minister Quassa, whom I wish to apologize for having improperly used his name at the end of our sitting on Friday.

Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Government House Leader, Mr. Quassa.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 064 – 4(3):**  
**Minister Absent from the House**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to advise members that the Hon. George Kuksuk will be absent from the House for the rest of the sitting due to medical reasons. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 065 – 4(3):**  
**March 2016 First Ministers'**  
**Meeting of Canada's Premiers**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell my colleagues about the upcoming meeting of Canada's Premiers in Vancouver on March 3 of this year.

At this meeting, I look forward to speaking with my provincial and territorial counterparts to establish a pan-Canadian framework for combatting climate change. We promised to meet within 90 days of the Paris Conference of the Parties 21 to do this and I am proud to fulfill this commitment.

Mr. Speaker, we must take steps to mitigate climate change in order to ensure future generations can enjoy the land as we have. I will be travelling to Vancouver to emphasize this and will stress that the effects of climate change disproportionately impact the north.

Mr. Speaker, my aim at the First Ministers' Meeting is to be clear that climate change mitigation and adaption needs to go hand in hand with responsible economic development, particularly in our territory of Nunavut.

As well, I will raise the issue of a pan-Canadian price on carbon. Right now, it does not factor in the challenges of living in northern and remote communities. Without flexibility, a blanket price on carbon will increase the costs of basic necessities throughout Nunavut and it will make it more difficult for people to do business in our territory.

At the First Ministers' Meeting, I will make it clear that flexibility in meeting our climate targets is essential to ensuring both the economic success of our territory, our ability to adapt to the changing environment, and our eventual transition to a green, carbon-neutral economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 066 – 4(3): Team Nunavut Headed to Arctic Winter Games 2016**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Team Nunavut is participating in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games (AWGs) to be held in Nuuk, Greenland, from March 6 to 11; with the bantam boys and junior female hockey competitions taking place in Iqaluit from March 7 to 10.

Team Nunavut is made up of 186 participants, including athletes, coaches, managers, mission staff, and cultural performers who will represent Nunavut on the world stage. Our athletes will participate in the cultural program and nine sports and these sports are Arctic Sports, badminton, basketball, Dene Games, hockey, futsal, which is soccer, table tennis, volleyball, and wrestling.

In their preparation for competition, our athletes have demonstrated the Inuit societal values of *Pijariuqsarniq* in the continuous development of skills through observation, mentoring, practise, and effort; and *Pijitsirniq* in their service and dedication to their families and communities. Of course, their success is due in a large part to the parents, coaches, volunteers, and staff of territorial sport organizations that continue to support them.

Mr. Speaker, I know all Nunavummiut will feel a great sense of pride when the Nunavut flag is raised at the opening ceremonies in Nuuk. This is the first time Arctic Winter Games competitions have been hosted here since 2002.

In Iqaluit, for hockey, we look forward to welcoming teams from Alaska, Northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. The hockey event is being hosted through cooperative agreements between the Greenlandic Host Society, the City of Iqaluit, the Government of Nunavut, the Iqaluit Amateur Hockey Association, and the Iqaluit District Education Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all Members of the House to join me in the foyer at break time to greet our Team Nunavut athletes



and take part in the uniform unveiling and pin presentation ceremony. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 067 – 4(3):  
Restorative Justice Training**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, have a good day.

The Department of Justice has provided training to community justice specialists and outreach workers and is now providing training to community justice committees to increase the capacity of the restorative justice program.

Restorative justice is a response to crime that seeks to include all those involved in efforts to meaningfully address the harm and repair trust. It focusses on teaching and healing rather than isolation and punishment. Restorative justice also promotes Inuit traditional values of justice by addressing the impacts of crime on communities as a whole.

The training includes role plays and open dialogues about how to bring a victim and offender together in a safe environment. This work is being done with justice committee members, members of the RCMP, social workers, and mental health workers.

To date, the department has completed training in Iqaluit, Arctic Bay, and Clyde

River. Coral Harbour and Gjoa Haven will be trained by the end of March 2016. Communities that have not been trained will be trained with the assistance of their community justice outreach worker and community justice specialist. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 068 – 4(3):  
Sivuliqtiksat Internship Graduates**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of three members of our public service. Today, Sarah Papatsie, Shane Papatsie, and Arsene Sivanertok will celebrate their graduation from the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah started her internship with the Department of Justice in Iqaluit in October 2014. Through the guidance and support of Sarah's trainer, Danielle Lepage, Nunavut Official Editor/Territorial Printer, Sarah successfully completed her internship as the manager, translator – Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun on October of 2015. Through hard work and dedication, she was placed into the intern position, which gave her the opportunity to grow as a manager.

Mr. Speaker, Shane began his internship with the Department of Community and Government Services in Iqaluit in December of 2013. Through the

guidance and support of Shawn Watchorn, Records Analyst, he successfully completed his internship as a records analyst in December of 2015. Records analyst is specialized to Community and Government Services, and Shane benefited from workshops and courses that are directly related to the field.

Mr. Speaker, Arsene started his internship with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in Cambridge Bay in February 2013. Through the guidance and support of Wiz Mohammed, Manager Transportation Programs for the Kitikmeot Region, Arsene successfully completed his internship as the transportation programs officer in February of this year. Transportation program officers are specialized and highly sensitive positions. Arsene will now provide functional and technical advice to Nunavut Airports headquarters staff to ensure safe, effective and efficient operation, maintenance, and management of airport facilities and services.

Mr. Speaker, the Sivuliqtiksatsat Internship Program is an excellent example of our government's work to increase Inuit employment in the territory's public service. Please join me in congratulating these new graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 069 – 4(3): Tell Me a Story Book Bags**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has made education our top priority. As we develop education programs and services, it is important to recognize that a child's learning begins at birth and parents and families are a child's first and most important teachers.

With funding support from the Department of Culture and Heritage, my department has developed the project, Tell Me a Story. We have purchased a series of 11 culturally relevant books in Nunavut's official languages, presented in a tote bag that will be given to parents who have infants.

Mr. Speaker, learning does not begin when a child starts attending school. Research shows that reading to your children more than once a day when they are young has a positive impact on their future academic success. We want to give parents the tools they need to help them develop a strong teaching and learning relationship with their children as early as possible.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health has helped us connect with Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program staff in the communities who will distribute the book bags to new parents. My department is also sending the Tell Me a Story book bags to all licensed early childhood facilities in Nunavut as well as the public libraries.

Mr. Speaker, we have distributed 995 Tell Me a Story book bags and the information sheets that go along with them. This represents over 10,000 books

to help us promote the importance of literacy to families and emphasize the benefits that reading brings to young children. That's the statement that I wanted to make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

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

#### **Member's Statement 142 – 4(3): House Fire in Arctic Bay**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Nunavut who are watching the proceedings, my fellow community members, and those who are listening. Welcome. My colleagues and ministers, welcome to the House this afternoon.

The reason why I rise today, which I believe you already are aware of this incident, is that I have to make a statement as the representative. Just this last weekend in our community, a house caught fire that housed a family. I believe some of the members may know the individual, especially those living in Igloolik. Levi Laisa, who has a physical disability, is currently in Igloolik receiving assistance there. His private home was being house-sat by his grandchild and the fire started accidentally causing the house fire. Nobody was injured, by that I mean there were no deaths resulting from the fire. The fact that it burned is secondary. It is unfortunate that the house caught fire.

Mr. Speaker, I went to see the individual who was house-sitting and he conveyed that as he was trying to extinguish the fire, his hands were badly burnt. He was emotional; perhaps he felt responsible and sorry for the loss of the home. He also has two small children. Just this winter, his spouse passed away. Perhaps he was worried about the loss of the unit to go to and that may have caused his grief. I felt a lot of compassion for my constituent.

He is fine other than his burns and nobody passed away due to that incident, so I am sharing that event with my colleagues, as this event occurred suddenly in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement 143 – 4(3): Congratulations to Laura Arngna'naaq**

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate another individual who has made Baker Lake proud.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the 2016 Indspire awards were presented at a gala event held in Vancouver.

Mr. Speaker, Indspire is an indigenous registered charity that invests in education of indigenous people for the long-term benefit of these individuals, their families, their communities, and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this year's recipient of the Indspire award for Inuit youth was Laura Arngna'naaq.

Mr. Speaker, Laura is the daughter of Silas Arngna'naaq, who was a former MLA for Baker Lake prior to division, and Terri Thayer.

Mr. Speaker, Laura graduated from Trent University with a Bachelor of Business Administration. She subsequently graduated from the University of Toronto with a Masters of Management and Professional Accounting Program. Laura has served as secretary treasurer on Tungasuvvingat Inuit's board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not note that Laura's sister, Sarah, who is another role model for our youth, is also pursuing a challenging career as a lawyer for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Laura Arngna'naaq for being one of this year's Indspire award recipients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 144 – 4(3):  
Rankin Inlet Hockey Tournament**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners of the 2016 Challenge Cup, which was held in Rankin Inlet on February 25 to 27. The tournament against the Kivalliq Canucks and the Baffin Blizzards, both of the junior team program, the winner of this tournament were the Kivalliq Canucks. Congratulations! The following is the list of names:

Josh Tartak  
Conner Faulkner  
Joe Curley  
Shane Kuksuk  
Jimmy Ishalook  
Ethan Matoo  
Sidney Nichol  
K.J. Putulik  
Wesley Siutinar  
Kaelan Collier  
Lenny Emiktowt  
Sandy Jr. Saviakjuk  
Jon Maktar  
Craig Nanordluk  
Devon Siutinar  
Keegan Burton  
Ian Paniyuk  
Jacob Nakoolak  
Rueben Saviakjuk  
Stephane Nukapiak.

The coaches were Donald Clarke, Steven Faulkner, and David Clarke.

Last but not least, the tournament sponsors were Junior Team Program, Hockey Canada, Calm Air, and Hockey Nunavut.

Congratulations to the Kivalliq Canucks. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurток.

**Member's Statement 145 – 4(3):  
Tribute to the Late Paul Kanayok Sr.**

**Mr. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Kanayok Sr., who passed away earlier this month.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Paul Kanayok was born in the Chesterfield Inlet area in 1942. Paul began providing for his family at a very early age following the passing of his own father.

A lifelong hunter and trapper, Paul was well known throughout the Kivalliq as a tireless volunteer with his community's hunters and trappers organization and the search and rescue organization. He was also a volunteer firefighter and a member of the Canadian Rangers.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Kanayok's contributions to the community and region span a number of decades. Following a stint at the Rankin Inlet North nickel mine in the 1950s and the merchant marines in the 1960s, he returned to Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, people say that Rankin Inlet is what it is today because of Paul Kanayok's many years of work in helping to construct our community's infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Kanayok was also well known for hauling freight by sea between Churchill and Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the late Paul Kanayok Sr., who was a true giant in the Kivalliq. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 146 – 4(3):  
Igloodik Neighbourhood Watch**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "hello" to my fellow community members and Nunavummiut.

I rise today to speak of an initiative that was just recently started in Igloodik. Wherever we live in our communities, there are many activities locally. Some communities band together to create initiatives and by working together, they are able to successfully complete them.

Now, this initiative which is called (interpretation ends) neighbourhood watch (interpretation) in English is a neighbourhood getting together to form a watch in their area, keeping an eye out for any kind of illegal activities. This initiative was recently started in Igloodik.

I want to acknowledge this person, although there were quite a number of individuals involved. Nonetheless, the person who started this initiative was Buffy Angutirjuak. I wanted to acknowledge this person here in the House as it shows that when a community works as a singular unit, they can have very successful initiatives.

We have seen various success stories from other communities. I wanted to encourage our community and others to consider this (interpretation ends) neighbourhood watch (interpretation) as a program they can initiate for some of their neighbourhoods. This program watches out for the neighbourhood to ensure illegal activities do not occur. I urge other communities to consider that as this program has already provided benefits to our community.

I wanted to share this piece of good news with my colleagues about this event and I encourage our fellow communities to consider that type of program in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Okalik.

#### **Member's Statement 147 – 4(3): Black History Month in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I also wish to share some celebratory news. The month of February is ending. This month is Black History Month and they shared stories about their history.

As some members may recall from long ago, there used to be one black person living in Iqaluit and his name was Lionel Jones. From that beginning, the number of black citizens in Iqaluit has increased and I wanted to recognize them.

This is their third year celebrating this event. Although they have various times throughout the year to celebrate events,

this was only the third year here for commemorating Iqaluit's black citizens and they chose February as their month. They had festivities that were very engaging, as they had prepared an entire month's worth of activities, with different events taking place like storytelling and presentations on black cultural history in Canada.

I was just planning to peek in to the festivities and their shows, but I ended up staying the whole afternoon because I so enjoyed the atmosphere and it was very interesting to see their dances, singing, as well as their dietary offerings to the public.

I wanted to express my appreciation to the following organizers of Black History Month: Adrian Allder, Cedric Rusike, Lekan Thomas, Sharon Blades, Stephanie Bernard, Jude Lewis, Gillian Lewis, Alan Webb, Miali Coley, Teegee Akande, Shola Egbuna, and Stephan Willick. They worked very hard to prepare and set up the month recognition and it was very good to see. I urge everyone to attend these events next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Member's Statement 148 – 4(3): Constituents Attend Volleyball Tournament**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate individuals that came to play in a volleyball tournament.

Although they didn't win, I am very proud of them for participating.

Their names are: Rosemary Metuq, Pasha Kuniliusie, Karen Kuniliusie, Lucy Kuniliusie, Gina Aliqatuqtuq, Gina Iqqaalik, and Nicki Walkley. I would like to congratulate these individuals for taking part in the volleyball tournament in my community.

I am very proud of our athletes who play in tournaments. We should be proud of them because it encourages and helps support good, healthy living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 149 – 4(3):  
Constituency Meeting in  
Kugluktuk**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the most important roles as an MLA is to ensure that we keep in contact with our constituents and we meet with them on a regular basis. In many constituencies, it is done by hosting calls on programs on local radio. In some communities, it's a meeting; meetings held regularly with the hamlet council or with the constituencies themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I recently held a constituency meeting in Kugluktuk. Of course, as we all know as MLAs, it is important to listen and to hear from our constituents. Several excellent points and questions were raised, Mr. Speaker. It almost felt like it was question period

in the House at my meeting. Mr. Speaker, I have taken note of what was asked and the questions made and I will be raising many of these issues brought forward at the meeting in the coming days with my colleagues.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many Kuglukturmiut who attended the meeting and provided very good feedback to me as their MLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 150 – 4(3):  
Kugaaruk and Taloyoak Housing  
Authorities**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to say "good day" to the people of Kugaaruk and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the following statement: (interpretation ends) I rise today to acknowledge the important work that is done by the members of our local housing authorities and associations.

Mr. Speaker, both Kugaaruk and Taloyoak have housing authorities. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the individuals in both communities who were recently appointed to serve on these authorities.

The new members of the Taloyoak Housing Authority are: Jonah Johnson, Christine Kamingoak-Lyall, John Mannilaq, Becky Ugyuk, Deena

Pauloosie, Dora Uqaiyaut, and Iola Takolik.

The new members of the Kugaaruk Housing Authority are: Ilisiusi Alakannuark, Murray Anguti, Rachel Illuitok, Randy Inutuinaq, Barthelemy Nirlungayuk, Brenda Qarulaaq, and Katrina Qirngnuq.

Mr. Speaker, the members of our local housing authorities have important and challenging responsibilities with respect to ensuring that public housing allocation decisions are made fairly, ensuring that public housing rents are collected, and ensuring that the concerns of the community are communicated effectively to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent annual report, I note that strong improvements have been made in recent years in both communities with respect to collection rates.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in acknowledging the important work of the members of our local housing authorities and associations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 151 – 4(3):  
Funding Announcement for Cape  
Dorset**

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

of you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the significant announcement made this morning regarding the Cape Dorset Kenojuaq Cultural Centre.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for Parliament for Nunavut, Hunter Tootoo, for joining Hon. Premier Peter Taptuna and Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services Joe Savikataaq to announce funding for this important project.

Mr. Speaker, Cape Dorset's art is world-renowned. As such, it gives me great pleasure that our governments are helping to recognize the strength of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the \$2 million identified for the Kenojuaq Cultural Centre will go a long way to making the project a reality. I would also like to thank the wonderful support of the fundraising committee backed by the Cape Dorset municipal council who are pushing this project forward.

I also give special recognition to Nunavut Senator Dennis Patterson for highlighting this important project in a statement last week in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, join me in celebrating the exciting news for the Kenojuaq Cultural Centre for which Cape Dorset and Nunavut are proud. 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.  
(interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to stand up twice in a row in recognizing some very special people here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Sarah Papatsie, the Sivuliqtiksavut graduate that I spoke about earlier. She's from Iqaluit. She has completed a one-year internship to become a manager in translations, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. She's with the Department of Justice. Sarah's trainer is Danielle Lepage. She just left.

>> *Laughter*

Of course, she's from Iqaluit.

Shane Papatsie, Sivuliqtiksavut graduate from Iqaluit, completed two years of internship to become a records analyst with the Department of Community and Government Services. Shane's trainer is Shawn Watchorn. I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing that right. She's from Iqaluit and is currently the records analyst for CGS.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize these folks who have put a lot of effort and hard work into succeeding in their internship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 178 – 4(3): High Arctic Transportation Strategy**

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

There are many challenges facing the residents of the High Arctic with respect to affordable and accessible air travel.

Can the minister indicate whether or not her department is currently working on an updated High Arctic Transportation Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. The past (interpretation ends) High Arctic Transportation Strategy, (interpretation) which is the proper title, was the study done for the High Arctic. The study was initiated many years ago, but it wasn't completed. The past studies of the flight schedules and communities were completed, but I have directed my departmental staff to focus on a new strategy for the High Arctic instead. The information is already outdated from these past studies,

so we have restarted that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for providing a response that I wanted to hear.

Mr. Speaker, it can cost over \$6,000 to fly between Arctic Bay and Ottawa.

Last week, the Premier publicly stated in this House that, and I quote, “we determined that the only way to bring the costs down was through subsidies from the federal government.” However, the *Canada Transportation Act Review Report*, which the federal Minister of Transport released late last week, did not specifically recommend that air service to the High Arctic be subsidized.

My position is that the High Arctic is in a unique situation which requires special consideration. Is my position shared by the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for being observant about this process.

Yes, we have met with our counterparts from various levels of government departments in Canada. We have discussed with both the federal minister

and our provincial colleagues about the fact that we face extreme costs in our territory, seeing as how we can only use aerial transportation since we have no interconnecting roads, especially when we want to go to other communities. We have no alternatives other than air transportation to travel between communities.

Part of your question related to the study, which we are currently reviewing by canvassing other jurisdictions, such as in Alaska or other northern countries, on how they deal with their northern transportation issues. We are aware that some northern regions have airline subsidies that they receive from their version of our federal government, as they are the only ones with nationwide authority if we wish to emulate other northern regions. The subsidy is for flying in remote regions and it applies only where no other alternative to air transport is available such as here.

With the lack of alternatives we face in Nunavut, we are also faced with an infrastructure deficit in that we have no ports or small craft harbours. During winter months, our citizens can only travel via air transportation. That is what we are conveying to our colleagues now and in the future.

We are looking at options to try to urge a federal subsidy to lower the costs we face or alternatively, to amend legislation if required. We are studying the various options that we may be able to review, as the list is quite long of issues we can request to be studied, and look at how we can reduce the costs of transportation. We would like to look at options from other jurisdictions and then modify 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 the response outlining the plan I wanted to hear about that is in the works. I am proud of that initiative.

When will the minister be next meeting with her federal counterpart to discuss the issue of air service and airport infrastructure in the north? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. On January 28, I had a meeting with the ministers of transportation in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 179 – 4(3): Design of Housing Units**

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent annual report indicates that the corporation's five-plex design was, and I quote, "...revised and resulted in a \$700,000 savings for each building. The NHC is continuing to review other

options for more energy efficient and economical solutions for the construction of housing."

Can the minister describe some of the specific changes that have been made to the design of its standard five-plex units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the member to the proceedings.

Basically in a nutshell, there have been some design changes to maximize the space and, in some cases, make the footprint a little bit smaller, which created a little bit more effective construction costs. In addition to that, there has been more standardization of the technology inside; the lighting, the fixtures, and that type of thing. It puts a little bit less strain on the LHO for maintenance in addition to warehousing.

In addition to that, there was a fairly recent decision with regard to a back porch that was part of the initial design and it was found that the small porch increased the cost of construction by nearly \$30,000, so that was removed.

We are trying to maximize the impact through the tender process to make sure that going forward, the housing designs are efficient, and every dollar that we can save in construction helps us build more units across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. One of the initiatives that the Nunavut Housing Corporation started as part of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy was to ensure that its new five-plex design included two exits. In fact, the Nunavut Housing Corporation itself stated that, and I quote, “The new 5-plex design has two exterior exits, a modification that community members have long emphasized as important.”

Mr. Speaker, I can certainly say from personal experience that this was a major concern in my community of Sanikiluaq. However, from what I have seen with my own eyes, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s new public housing multiplex units in Sanikiluaq only have one exit. Can the minister explain why the Nunavut Housing Corporation removed this safety feature without consulting the local housing organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I thank the member for bringing that to my attention. When we removed the back porch requirement, to be honest, I was not aware that the backdoor was removed from the design as well on the two-bedroom public housing units. It’s something I will look into immediately and get back to the member at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pretty sure that there is no backdoor in these five-plexes that were built. I know that the minister mentioned this a little bit earlier, but I will ask my question anyway for further information.

As the minister will recall, another one of the initiatives that the Nunavut Housing Corporation started a few years ago was to incorporate a country food storage and preparation area into the design of its five-plex units. Again, from what I have seen with those new units that have been recently constructed in Sanikiluaq, this feature is no longer a part of the design. Can the minister explain why this design feature was also removed? 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. With regard to the country food storage and preparation space, I would have to get a little bit more details from the corporation on why it was removed in all units. From what I understand, the cost associated with providing that space increased the construction cost fairly significantly and it wasn’t utilized by all tenants of all units. Therefore, I’m going to have to look into the actual for sure reasoning behind it in all of the units, but maybe it’s something we can look for in having it maybe in some units versus removing it in all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 180 – 4(3): Response to the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, as you aware, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report on December 15, 2015. On the very next day, December 16, 2015, the Premier issued a news release stating that he looks forward to reviewing the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in great detail and working with the federal government to move forward in a new commitment to healing and to become stronger than ever.

Can the Premier specify when he plans to complete a detailed review of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very excellent question. Mr. Speaker, the Truth and Reconciliation executive summary was released in June of 2015 and that encompassed 300 pages of that. Again, in December of 2015, the final six-volume report was released to the public. Within that report, there are 94 recommendations. I have indicated through my Minister's Statement that we're looking into this and Canada, the Prime Minister has committed to actioning all the 94 recommendations that came out of this commission.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, we all know

that residential schools have had a lot of impact on Nunavummiut who went through the system. Mr. Speaker, also, the Prime Minister has indicated that he's going to be looking to have some action items taken to the United Nations of Indigenous Rights and also asking for an apology from the Pope in some certain circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, we have gone through the report and we're looking at it. We're making some final revisions on our position on it. I can't say when that's going to be going through the cabinet, but we hope to do that some time in the short future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier for his response. Mr. Speaker, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report addresses a number of important areas of concern and calls to action directed at territorial and federal governments. As such, the Government of Nunavut's response should be provided from its highest level of office.

Can the Premier indicate if the Government of Nunavut's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action will be led by himself or will the response be led by another minister in cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be led by myself. Mr. Speaker, we already have initiatives out there that are ongoing. Last year, we already put the residential school history in the education curriculum. We do, in fact, lead the country in language preservation actions that are within the recommendations. We're quite proud of that and we intend to do more of this in collaboration with the federal government in ensuring that all action items are carried out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier for his response. Mr. Speaker, a greater knowledge and understanding of our history will guide us to wherever it is that we want to go in our future. The Premier has stated that, and I quote, "Nunavut will continue to ensure the history of residential schools is taught in our schools so that our students understand the full extent of this period in our territory's history."

Can the Premier indicate at what level in our schools do Nunavut students begin learning the history of residential schools in Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that very good question. Mr. Speaker, I can't speak on behalf of other jurisdictions within Canada, but in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories,

we put in this curriculum for understanding the past in residential schools and that starts at grade 10 and we intend to carry that forward.

Mr. Speaker, also in the past, I think all the residential school survivors that participated in this commission went through a lot of emotional stress. We made it quite clear to the Department of Health and we ensured that they got more resources to help out in this.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to ensure that the process is going to take place and we will be working on the 94 action items along with the federal government and ensuring most of these recommendations, if not all the recommendations, are carried forth within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 181 – 4(3): Long-term Care Needs for Elders**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have risen a number of times in this House to ask the government to consider establishing a long-term care facility in the community of Rankin Inlet so that our elders are not required to leave their home communities for long-term care. I have kept a close count of the numbers of elders who are currently placed outside of Rankin Inlet and it is clear that the need for long-term care for my

community alone continues to grow.

Can the minister clarify how many long-term placements for residents from a single community would be enough to justify establishing a long-term care facility in that community? 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 care of elders today is split and it is taken care of by more than one department. Once they have established more care facilities for elders, we would like to deal with it more. With it being divided up, it is challenging to make plans. We're going to have to look more closely into it. I cannot respond right now on exactly what we're going to do. Once the cabinet agrees on something, we will be better able to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Nunavut is not the only jurisdiction which is facing a growing need for long-term care.

I note that the minister of health in the Northwest Territories was recently quoted in the media as saying that the needs for long-term care beds for seniors in the NWT will grow fourfold over the next ten years. I am certain that Nunavut is facing a similar situation.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps have been taken to measure and anticipate the future growth in long-term care needs in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This program is divided. I envy the NWT because they have one office running the program and they can carefully plan for the future. As I said, we're working on this. Once it is controlled by one entity for elder care facilities and it's controlled from one place, we will be able to manage it better. I tabled a report on that. It doesn't really matter which office it is controlled from, but with so many departments dividing it up, it's almost impossible to make plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is a sad fact that some of our elders are even sent out of Nunavut for long-term care. Can the minister provide an update on the current shortage of long-term care beds in 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. I can state that there are 44 people to date and we are continuing to build care facilities in

Cambridge Bay. For those who have needed to go outside of Nunavut, I cannot respond today on the exact number. I'll look into it and then I can table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 182 – 4(3): High Costs of Pharmacy Products**

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

Mr. Speaker, one of the benefits that we share with other Canadians is access to universal health care coverage. Unfortunately, we also share the lack of access to universal coverage for pharmaceutical products. As residents of Nunavut, if we want to buy pharmacy products, it seems that the prices of those products suffer the same huge markups as other products do.

Can the minister clarify what efforts are being made to work with the independent pharmacies across Nunavut to ensure that the costs for necessary pharmacy products are kept as low as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I fully agree with my colleague that the cost of some pharmacy products is out of reach for a lot of our citizens. We're working with our colleagues from the rest of the country to try to find a

way to manage the cost of pharmaceuticals throughout our country so that we can reduce the cost for all our constituents throughout our country. This is an ongoing discussion we're having. It has reduced some costs for some pharmaceuticals so far and I look forward to more progress on this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It kind of leads me right into my next question. Mr. Speaker, during recent meetings with his federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts in January of this year, the Minister of Health addressed the need to improve the affordability and accessibility of prescription drugs.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of measures are being considered to reduce pharmaceutical prices in Nunavut and across Canada in some more detail? 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) A lot of the pharmaceutical needs of Nunavummiut are covered through NIHB, but for those who aren't covered by NIHB is where we are concerned primarily because that is a cost for Nunavut residents who are not covered.

We are participants with our colleagues in looking at ways to reduce costs. Some



have been done through bulk purchasing with other jurisdictions to reduce costs. We're continuing to work with our colleagues as to how we can reduce some of these costs. We can't do much about some, but we can reduce others through volume like purchasing with other jurisdictions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 183 – 4(3): Appointment Process for Senior Officials**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier.

(interpretation ends) Section 8 of Nunavut's *Public Service Act* is very clear: deputy ministers of our government's departments are appointed on the recommendation of the Premier. Mr. Speaker, this is consistent with how things are done throughout the country.

However, as we learned last week, the process by which the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation are appointed is not so clear. Mr. Speaker, the statutes which establish the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation both define a formal role for the corporations' boards of directors in recommending the appointments of the presidents of the corporations.

Can the Premier clarify how his role differs from that of the boards of directors when it comes to appointing

the presidents of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Every deputy head goes through the Premier's Office for contract signing. That's throughout every other jurisdiction in Canada. The corporation heads are considered deputy heads of the entity as the deputy minister is considered a head of a department. Every hiring does go through my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On November 27, 2015, the Premier announced the appointment of a new president of Nunavut Arctic College.

Section 19 of the *Nunavut Arctic College Act* provides that the president shall be appointed by the minister responsible for the college in consultation with the college's board of directors.

Can the Premier describe how the college's board of directors was involved in the most recent appointment process? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't personally get involved in the process of hiring deputy heads. They go through a process through the Senior Personnel Secretariat and eventually they do come up through my office for signing of the contract. Throughout the whole process, ministers and members of the Senior Personnel Secretariat are involved in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the Premier indicate whether or not the government will introduce amendments to the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act*, the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, and the *Nunavut Arctic College Act* to make the appointment processes for these entities' presidents more clearly consistent with the process for appointing deputy ministers that is currently provided for in the *Public Service Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue carrying out the process of hiring deputy heads and the signing of the contracts through my office. That will continue until we see a reason why that's got to be changed. Mr. Speaker, throughout the process, I am not directly involved in the interviews. That goes through the respective boards and the respective members of the Senior Personnel Secretariat and that will continue on for a bit. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 184 – 4(3): Airport Infrastructure**

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

Kugaaruk's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan, which was produced with the help of the Government of Nunavut, indicates that much of the airport's infrastructure is aging. Can the minister indicate when the airport terminal building in Kugaaruk is scheduled to be replaced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. With regard to the terminal building that is referenced in the question, which was built in 1975, there is quite a number of that type of infrastructure in Nunavut that need to be fixed. The 20-year capital needs assessment is going to be produced quite soon and it will explain how many of these will need to be worked on and will need to be put on a priority list.

I would like my colleague to be aware that the Kugaaruk terminal building was built in 1975-76. There is a plan to

upgrade the mechanical and electrical systems. There have been improvements made to the building. We know that the building needs replacement, but we know that other terminal buildings have priority because of safety reasons. We have many old terminal buildings that need replacement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The 2016-17 Capital Estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation include \$2 million in funding for the construction of a new airport terminal building in the community of Taloyoak. Can the minister indicate what local training and apprenticeship opportunities will be available for the residents of Taloyoak during the construction phase of the new airport terminal building?

As a newly elected MLA, I'm still catching up on my reading. However, I note that the business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicates that the department has completed a new 20-year capital needs assessment for Nunavut airports. Can the minister indicate when she will be able to table her department's 20-year capital needs assessment in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): You just asked two questions. You have to ask one question at a time. That was your third question. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. The 20-year capital needs assessment was approved by cabinet in December and I expect to present it to the House this session. However, it hasn't been completed quite yet. It just needs to be translated and as soon as that is done, I would like to table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I'm new to this, I'll be making mistakes and I appreciate that I will be corrected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 185 – 4(3): Appointments to Coral Harbour Housing Authority**

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

Mr. Speaker, from my constituents of Coral Harbour, it was explained to me that the minister appoints the housing board of directors. They have been missing two members for a very long time now. Can the minister explain to us when he will be able to appoint new board members so that they can have a full quorum in Coral Harbour? They have been missing two members for a long time now. 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 bringing that topic to the discussion here. It's one thing that I have undertaken since I was named Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to go through all the communities that are under authority basis and make sure that the boards are fully complemented.

I did sign off on some authorizations last week. I do not believe Coral Harbour was a part of that, but I will have to confirm with my records to check on that. It is something that I'm very aware of and it's something that the Nunavut Housing Corporation and I are working very hard on to make sure we get interested members of the communities to put their names forward to show interest on the board. If the member has some names he would wish to submit for me to consider, I would very much welcome so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was told that they have been missing two members for a very long time now. They are not able to hold meetings because of the lack of quorum. I understand the minister is saying he will look into it. I hope that you will take care of this as soon as possible so that the board will no longer be missing two members. I would appreciate it if you could appoint two new board members for the Coral

Harbour Housing Authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question in there. Like I mentioned earlier, I will state that if the member has interested community members who would like to sit on the local housing authority, I would be very welcome to receiving a list of names from the member or the community at large so that I can vet through their resumés and appoint them to sit on the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 186 – 4(3): Country Food Distribution and Food Security in Nunavut**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, (interpretation) residents of Gjoa Haven and all Nunavummiut. If my grandchild happens to be watching on television, I say (interpretation ends) "good afternoon."

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the minister acknowledged on social media on her own Twitter account the unbelievable costs of food in grocery stores across Nunavut.

According to the department's Country Food Distribution Program Policy, the Country Food Distribution Program is intended to promote and support the use of harvesting skills and community-based solutions to enhance access to nutritious food throughout the territory.

On November 3, 2015, the minister stated that this policy had been amended in August of 2015 "because not enough money was being used from that program." Can the minister indicate how many communities have applied for funding under her department's Country Food Distribution Program Policy since August of 2015? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking that question. The funding for the Country Food Distribution Program has been set since August 2015. To date, for the 2015-16 fiscal year, close to \$452,000 was expended. At the end of next fiscal year, we expect \$1.2 million to be expended. Ever since this program was established, the communities are more aware of the program and are now utilizing it a lot better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is a member of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, which released its 2014-15

annual report on October 16, 2015. In this report, the coalition indicates that it has established a "Commercialization of Country Food Working Group."

Can the minister indicate if her department is represented on this working group and, if so, can she describe what specific initiatives this working group is currently undertaking? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. The Department of Economic Development staff and the family services department are working together. They did a consultation tour of the communities to hear residents' position regarding this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In its 2014-15 annual report, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition also indicates that the "Guidelines for serving country food in government-funded facilities and community-based programs were finalized on March 31, 2015. These guidelines are currently a draft for internal review. The Coalition will determine next steps for the project in 2015-16." Can the minister indicate if these guidelines have been completed and can she indicate when they will be made publicly available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate to my colleague that the family services department is responsible for this and I'm sure that that department can respond to those questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 187 – 4(3): Infrastructure Funding Announcement**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question of the day is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Earlier today, the minister participated in a joint infrastructure funding announcement with our Member of Parliament. This announcement indicated that the Department of Community and Government Services will receive funding from the New Building Canada Plan's Small Communities Fund to upgrade community arenas across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement indicated that a total of \$19,918,400 will be spent on upgrading community arenas. Can the minister clarify how much of this total will be provided by the federal government and how much will be provided by the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Small Communities Fund project is funded 75 percent by the federal government and 25 percent by the GN. The federal government's share for the arena upgrades will be just short of \$15 million. It will be \$14,938,800. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his answer. Mr. Speaker, upgrades could mean anything from installing thermosiphon technology to repainting the bleachers. Can the minister clarify what specific types of upgrades will be eligible under this announcement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct in saying those two upgrades that he mentioned. It could be any number of upgrades. One I would think that would be used quite a bit would be to put LED lighting in the arenas because they get brighter. The light is softer on the eyes. The main benefit is it's cheaper to operate the lights in the arena. We all know that of the operating costs of the arena, the power bill is high, so that's one of the upgrades that would probably be there. It's whatever upgrades each community would put in there. It doesn't

mean that they will get it, but any and all submissions will be looked at to see if they qualify for the upgrades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify how the government will determine which specific arenas will receive the upgrades? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be different criteria to determine which projects will go ahead. The biggest criteria would be safety. If there are any safety issues within that arena, then that would be addressed first, and then there would be efficiencies and aesthetics. It would roughly be in that order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 188 – 4(3): Canada Transportation Act Review Report**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Late last week, the federal Minister of Transport released the government's long-awaited final report on the *Canada Transportation Act* review. One of the

recommendations in the report was that the federal government should, and I quote, provide "targeted financial support for runway extensions and surfacing...as well as for 24-hour automated weather systems and modern landing and approach systems in applicable communities in the territories."

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, I have been pushing for exactly these improvements to be made to Baker Lake's airport. Will she commit to formally requesting the federal department of transportation to include Baker Lake in its list of airports that will receive these improvements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The *Canada Transportation Act* review was just recently tabled on February 25 and initial action is to move forward on new and modern visions for transportation in Canada and addressing specific northern transportation issues. Definitely, we will be relaying to the minister the priorities and potential actions that we require for many northern and Nunavut issues such as that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. Another one of the recommendations in the *Canada*

*Transportation Act* review report was that the federal government should either augment its existing Airports Capital Assistance Program or create a new “Northern Airports Capital Assistance Program.”

Mr. Speaker, this issue was addressed during our recent televised hearings with the three airlines on their codeshare agreements.

Can the minister confirm what the Government of Nunavut’s position is on the issue of establishing a new and northern-specific airports capital assistance program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We are looking into a formal response back to the federal Minister of Transportation on the findings that we have currently of the recommendations and we will be submitting that in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The final report on the *Canada Transportation Act* review indicates that the economic development and transportation department made a presentation to the federal review on June 23 of last year. This presentation noted that, and I quote, “Many of Nunavut’s airports could benefit from

the installation of GPS systems to reduce flight cancellations or missed approaches that have significant cost [impacts] to both passengers and airlines.”

Will the minister commit to tabling a copy in the Legislative Assembly of the full presentation that her department made concerning the *Canada Transportation Act* review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the Northern Airports Usability Study 2014 found that a majority of the published instrument approach procedures used by pilots to arrive at airports in Nunavut are substandard compared to those in southern Canada. Substandard instrument approach procedures result in a negative impact to Nunavut’s economy and safety.

Mr. Speaker, the report that he is referring to is probably technical in nature and I’m not sure if it would be useful at this time to table that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 189 – 4(3): Response to the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

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



one of my questions to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report on December 15, 2015. In volume 6 of this report, the commission made a total of 94 calls to action that were directed at a number of governments and organizations, including Canada's territorial governments. These calls to action were made in order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation. Calls to action were made in a number of areas, including child welfare, education, health, and justice.

Will the minister commit to providing a formal response to those calls to action that are related to justice and that have been addressed to the territorial governments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As our Premier indicated earlier, we will be making a response. There are various directions given to our government. With the departments of Health and Education, we're working together as ministers and we will be providing responses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, on January 21, 2016, the federal Department of Justice issued a news release with information

on the most recent federal provincial/territorial meeting of ministers of justice and public safety. The news release indicates that "Ministers discussed the issue of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, informed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Address and agreed on the need to address related issues, such as First Nations Policing."

I would like to ask the minister if he can confirm that he took part in those discussions and, if so, what were the specific outcomes of these discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government is primarily responsible in this area and I was pleased to see that they took the initiative. We are going to be working very closely wherever we can with the federal government in the issues that we discussed. There was strong consensus among my fellow ministers. We're looking at how we can resolve past wrongs, especially the issue of reconciliation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) One of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action is the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to "ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training..." that "...will require skills-based training in

intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.”

Can the minister indicate if individuals that are hired to work in the Government of Nunavut’s legal services currently receive any cultural competency training and, if so, what specific training do these individuals receive? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it involves not only the lawyers, but various positions serving as frontline workers with residents. Based on the information I have, we will provide training to them specific to learning about Inuit culture and cultural practices that can be incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Addresses. 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. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

**Item 13: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters\***

**Committee Report 010 – 4(3): Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and the 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 Annual Reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2013-14 annual report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and the 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 annual reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

The 2013-14 annual report of the Languages Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 9, 2015. The 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 annual reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5, 2015.

In June of 2015, the standing committee announced its plans to hold televised hearings in the fall of 2015 on the most recent annual reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and the Languages Commissioner.

The November 24 to 25, 2015 appearances of witnesses from the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and the Office of the Languages Commissioner before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

\*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 10 – 4(3).

The standing committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitor's Gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearings will be available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the thematic areas that the standing committee has addressed in this report:

- The extent to which the Languages Commissioner has monitored municipal and territorial programs and policies concerning the implementation of the territory's language legislation.
- The adequacy and transparency of the government's plans and procedures to coordinate the implementation, monitoring, management, and evaluation of language obligations, policies, programs, and services by its departments and public agencies.
- The extent to which the current reporting practices of the government, Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, and the Languages Commissioner meet each entity's statutory requirements under the territory's language legislation.
- The extent to which the government, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, and the Languages Commissioner coordinate and publicize their respective roles and areas of shared responsibility concerning the implementation of Nunavut's language legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** It is agreed. Item 14. Mr. Mikkungwak.

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

##### **Tabled Document 079 – 4(3): Excerpts from the Canada Transportation Act Review Report**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today excerpts from the *Canada Transportation Act* review report, which was released late last week by the federal Minister of Transport. These excerpts concern transportation in Canada's North and I encourage all members to review them with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Alexander Sammurto.

**Tabled Document 080 – 4(3): Support Letter for a 24-Hour Palliative Care Facility and Elders Facility**

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a copy of the letter which I have received from the Kivalliq Inuit Association supporting the establishment of a 24-hour palliative care elders facility in the community of Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have no more names. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – Notice**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I have no more names. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole on 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 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:22 and Committee resumed at 15:48*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Nunavummiut watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome to your committee.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, 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. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2016-17 Main Estimates of the Department of Health, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we continue with 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 let 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 afternoon, Mr. Chairman. With me again today to my right is someone you know, my Deputy Minister, Colleen Stockley, and to my left is Assistant Deputy Minister Rosemary Keenainak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome to the House, Ms. Stockley and Ms. Keenainak. We will proceed. We're on page H-6. I'll follow the list of names I had when we last met. If you have questions on the page we're on, please raise your hand ahead of time and your names will be written down. Following my list of names, Mr. Shooyook, you had a question and you can now ask it.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I basically grasped the response and I don't want to reiterate a previous question. Nevertheless, I want clarification on this item. On the

Inuktitut version, is the page we are on Si-6?

Yes, I have a concern on this matter related to added amendments. I am now asking the minister: is that for strengthening the legislation? I believe your department is referring to the Act in the language as to lower the numbers. Is that the purpose for the language related to additions of tobacco? Is that why the language says that it is being strengthened, as worded in your report? Is that the purpose? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Minister Okalik, (interpretation) if you want to respond to that, we're not on that page yet, but we want to hear the response and if you wanted to respond to that now as it will be asked anyway, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposed bill is still not under review as it isn't tabled yet. It is almost completed and I expect to table it during this session. Once the bill is tabled, what our purposes are will become much clearer. However, the general purpose is no longer relevant to our current practices and operations, so we will try to realign the language to that. That is all I can respond with at this time, as the details or innards are what we will see once it is tabled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for that response, but I do want it clarified in my mind. As well,

within your business plan, there is language about training counsellors as part of this. To me, that is good to hear, as many people today live with addictions and mental health issues.

Within your business plan, is there language related to including *Inuit Qaujimanirijangat* or traditional counselling practices that would be incorporated into the counsellor training? Will this be included when they start dealing with counselling issues? Are they included in your plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have mentioned that before and this is the path that we want to take. I visited the Clyde River counselling centre that provides training in Inuktitut and they are trying to use Inuit traditional knowledge. We would like to make use of them more to provide different types of training and we will be using them to train our new employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister once again on H-6 under Fees and Payments. It's \$1.3 million. Can you explain exactly what those fees and payments are for again, please, for me? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, we moved \$60 million from that item from last year to Contract Services as a budgeting requirement. We moved those to there and that's the only change that occurred. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm certainly not a money person. Since we're going to be approving this, can you just explain to me what you mean by that, from where to where? The revised estimates for that line item was \$62,109 and now it's \$1,335,000. I would just like you to explain in further detail what that money is going to be used for and why the difference. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. You were truthful when you said that you're not a money person. It is \$62 million. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, Mr. Chairman, you are perfectly correct in saying it is \$62 million from last year. It is now just over \$1 million. These are various contracts that we have with various operators like from the continuing care centres, services from the Stanton [Territorial] Hospital down to agency nurses to eye contracts. These are various contracts that we have for health services and we moved those to Contract Services, which was \$34 million last year. It's now at \$100 million. Those are the various contracts that we have.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. See? You proved me right. I'm not a numbers person. I guess that makes it a lot clearer as to exactly where the money is being spent. You had some contract stuff going into the Fees and Payments.

I wanted to go on a little bit to something else, but sort of relates to payments and contract services, which is the Extended Health Benefits Program. The department was going to go in and do some revising of the program and I haven't heard anything as to what's going on with that. Maybe the minister can tell us an update. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) We are in the process of finalizing a new policy and I can commit to a new policy by July 1, as various requirements have to be put in place and will be in place by July 1 of this year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing that. I'm just wondering how much consultation was done in regard to the changes to the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) The cluster of those affected are here and Rankin Inlet. There was extensive consultation in those two communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just going on to something else I spoke of earlier in the House during question period about pharmaceutical costs. I thought I would save some questions for now.

One of them is in regard to NIHB. How often do you guys meet? I know NIHB is a federal program, but what kind of interaction does your department and the federal part of NIHB have when you discuss Nunavut pharmaceutical products? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) We do have to work with the federal government on this matter for NIHB and we meet quarterly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand there are products that go off and on the approved

list. How do you communicate those changes to Nunavummiut that sometimes think that their medication will be covered and then they find out it's not? How do you go about doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That has been an ongoing issue for some time. We have been able to convince Health Canada to provide us with a navigator to assist us in making sure that we are doing the proper procedures and delivering the best products for our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What happens when NIHB informs you that a certain drug is off the list? What do you do? Do you just accept it? What's the process? What kind of processes do you go through? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) They usually communicate that to those patients. They don't communicate with us. We just make sure that our clients are getting the proper support. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite sure how you can represent the client if you don't even know what's on or what's off. If something has been taken off and you don't know about it, how do you ensure that the Nunavummiutaq is being supported? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) NIHB is a federal program and pharmacy is one area that the federal government determines, so we have no control over that. They communicate that to the beneficiaries and to those impacted. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would seem to me that you would be the voice of Nunavummiutait. It's very hard for one person to fight against NIHB if something has been taken off. That's the way I would look at it. That's the way I would look at your role being that. Is something that you can look at doing going into the future is to be the voice of Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is why we



convinced the federal government that there should be a navigator assisting us and the clients on how to communicate these better. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I can get a better understanding because I'm not familiar about the navigator, can you explain to me how that works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: Yes, this is a role that we were able to convince with NTI that we need this to assist our clients, primarily Inuit, on how the list is adjusted unilaterally by the feds and then we have to communicate that to the beneficiaries. This is something that has been tried elsewhere and we're going to roll it out this year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister confirm then that this is not in place currently, that you're not using the navigator now because you're going to still roll it out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go on to something else not totally different, but generic drugs versus brand-name drugs, what kind of oversight do you have with the [pharmacies] when they fill prescriptions? How do you know what kind of pills they're filling? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I said, pharmaceuticals for NIHB are federal and it's their responsibility. Whether it's generic or not, it's up to NIHB to determine what will be covered by the program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I'm no expert in this area, but I have heard that sometimes generic drugs are provided, but they might be billed at the brand-name level or however you say it. I'm just wondering: has anything ever been communicated to you by either NIHB or anybody at all about this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I

understand, NIHB audits all the drugs on the list and makes sure that they are being billed properly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Minister, and staff. In your business plan on page 115, second last bullet, it says, "To build health care service capacity in Nunavut and ensure access to high quality clinical services to all Nunavummiut." I'm just wondering what that means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier and in my opening comments, we are putting in place three PYs to assist us in managing and monitoring health care throughout Nunavut. If there are any shortcomings or gaps anywhere in our territory, we will be addressing them and we will be monitoring all our facilities through this office. I hope that we can pass this budget so that we can get more controls in place for our clients throughout the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I came in late last week, but can you tell us how many transient nurses you have in all of Nunavut and how many you have living in the communities, such as

are they renting a house? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We don't have an up-to-date list on all the agency nurses in the territory today. I can say that we're doing okay in Iqaluit in terms of long-term nurses, but in the Kitikmeot, we are struggling. We have far too many agency nurses in the Kitikmeot currently, so we look forward to addressing that. I'm still waiting for nursing students from the Kitikmeot. If you could help me there, I would greatly appreciate it too. We're looking for local nurses and to train them ourselves. That's where we're at currently. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean that there is no incentive to stay in the community or is there anything like that? Do you want to keep nurses in the community as opposed to only four weeks at a time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We do have various incentive programs in place for our nurses. We have bonuses in place. I look at the statistics from a month ago. For example, the vacancy rate in the Baffin

is at 58 percent for nursing, 34 percent in Iqaluit, 87 percent in the Kitikmeot, and 42 percent in the Kivalliq. We need some help in recruiting more nursing in the Kitikmeot in particular right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Using my authority as the Chair, perhaps I can ask the minister to table the statistics at some point so that those numbers will be available to all Nunavummiut as to how many permanent nurses and agency nurses there are in the communities. Will you be able to provide those numbers? Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can provide them once we have the numbers available. These are the numbers that we have available right now on the vacancies. We use agency nurses or contract nurses from outside of Nunavut. We especially use them over in that region. That's where we stand right now. It's obvious that we need to work on it more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. We will expect those statistics for all the communities. Mr. Mapsalak, you're next.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can talk about boarding homes on page H-6. Please tell me if this is the appropriate page, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are you asking me? Yes, go ahead and ask your question. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked this question before, perhaps last year, when we had the witnesses and one of his officials here. In Churchill, Manitoba, are they still using the medical boarding home? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The boarding home is temporarily used; it is not used full time. It is mainly for Nunavummiut who go there for dental services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He said that it is not used full time. How much money is spent for operations and maintenance and the staff that need to be paid in that facility? Can he give us those numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at last year's figures, it was around \$1,168,000. The federal government repaid us \$914,000 and we paid \$253,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that being the case, \$200,000 is quite a bit of money.

You said that it is not used full time. Is it not going to be used anymore? Not many people go there other than for dental services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, because it's there and it's convenient, that's why we still use it today. The facility is already there. We're always looking for more appropriate ways of making use of that money and we will keep looking into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Department of Health, their operational funds are over budget. As most of us know, there are always people dealing with health issues in the communities. Irrespective of whether it is a small or large community, some residents deal with health issues.

Now, I will use this example of a patient who is a unilingual Inuk with no English-speaking ability and the nurse informs the patient that due to lack of space during the weekend, they will need to return once the weekend is over. If that patient can't speak in English, what options do they have? That is my question to the Minister of Health. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, we approved the interpreter clerks to become full-time employees, so we have interpreters in health care facilities. They're supposed to be on 24-hour call in case a unilingual patient goes there after hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some cases, interpreters aren't available after hours. Although an interpreter is available during the day, there are no interpreters available after hours. If that is the case, a unilingual Inuktitut-speaking person can't communicate in English. I return to the example where the person isn't able to be seen immediately. What can that person do if they are told to return later? I am asking the Minister of Health. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a policy in place that we use Nunavut-wide for having an interpreter for all patients, even if it is after hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you. All patients need to understand what's going on. The nurses will tell the patient if they need to make an appointment. There are department heads in the regions that look after that. If a complaint is made to the department

head in a region and they refuse the complaint, where does the patient go?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually through meetings, we will ask for presentations from the complaints office. Furthermore, I have asked members to forward complaints to me and when I am apprised of one, I usually deal with it. I am always grateful when information is provided to me, as it shows problems operationally in your communities and I want this to continue, as it provides direction on what needs improvement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do you have any more questions? Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am done.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The first question that I have to the Minister of Health is under the business plan on page 118, second bullet at the top, (interpretation ends) "Proceed with the legislative process to propose amendments to the Medical Profession Act." In your business plan 2016-19, you're proposing amendments. What amendments are you considering? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the third time during my appearance, I repeat once again that we are trying to cover those professions that aren't currently covered by legislation to make sure they're regulated. Maybe I should say this in French this time. These are occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech-language pathologists, chiropractors, pharmacy technicians, dental technicians, and dental technologists that will be covered by this legislation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: *Qujannamiik*, Minister, for volunteering to say it for the third time. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. However, some of the foundational policies and procedures exist for them, but some communities don't have the complete policy and procedural resources. As Nunavummiut, we have to be cognizant of some of the items mentioned earlier as some communities don't have that information.

With that being the case, I would like clarification since it was stated that documents will be sent out, which will be beneficial to the communities, to ensure our residents have healthy lifestyles. That seems to be the purpose of the Department of Health. What about your operational requirements? That seems obvious when it comes to some communities and when the positions you referenced are not available. What is the case for these communities? Will these issues be reconsidered when reviewing

the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): As per my earlier statements, this process is just commencing and these two items are our focus. After these two issues are completed, we will turn to that consideration. Currently, we haven't made concrete plans to that effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, his response is understandable. Nonetheless, in the communities, not all communication is possible in Inuktitut as some of us are bilingual. However, some people want to understand, which is why I am asking about this matter so that it will be clear to them.

I will use Baker Lake as an example. The nurses rotate with replacements arriving to replace the nurses, with specialists as well, such as bone specialists or dermatologists, including nurses that stay for a while, as there are different reasons for the arrivals and it's obvious that those reasons are valid.

For the other cases related to physiotherapy, for example, a patient who underwent surgery requires exercises and physiotherapy. Has this already been reviewed? It seems obvious that with more specialists visiting the communities, that benefit would accrue to the communities. Are you looking at

more specialists' visits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Perhaps the (interpretation ends) hon. minister (interpretation) understood the question, but I would ask you if you are trying to ask for clarification since you referenced legislation at first. Was your question related to creating these positions or if they are available, you feel improvements would be made? Minister Okalik, if you understood the question.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the legislation has to be completed as the process is just starting up, so we can't answer them immediately without more work. However, with respect to the training courses in Baker Lake, they will have a big benefit as physiotherapy is used for physically disabled people or patients healing from surgery. It is clear that once these six positions are located in Baker Lake, they will be providing that service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on page H-6. Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) No? (interpretation) We are on Health. Branch Summary. Health Care Service Delivery. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$289,562,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to H-3. It reads, Department Summary. Health. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$338,217,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we have concluded the review of the main estimates for the Department of Health?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister, if you have any closing remarks, you now have the opportunity to make them. Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my colleagues. I also thank you for the comments and questions. I appreciate them. You have given me due direction. I'm glad that you were able to approve this. I hope that it will take us to a better place. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Meanwhile, the Department of Community and Government Services will be the next department and we will take a five-minute break as they are setting up.

*>>Committee recessed at 16:32 and resumed at 16:40*

**Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Welcome back, MLAs/*maligaliuqtiit*. We're dealing with Community and Government

Services. Branch Summary. Page J-4. I would now like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

*>>Laughter*

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister, please introduce your officials. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, I have Deputy Minister Lori Kimball and to my left is Christian Stumpf. He's the director of financial services. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Proceed with your opening comments, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to appear before you today to review the Department of Community and Government Services' 2016-17 main estimates and business plan.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services continues to manage programs and services for local government,

government services, petroleum products, procurement, protection services, informatics, property and asset management, and sport and recreation.

When the Petroleum Products Division Revolving Fund and the management oversight of GN infrastructure projects valued at about \$200 million per year is included, CG&S is responsible for an overall annual budget of approximately \$656 million with 411 positions. Our projected budget includes a net increase of \$8.2 million over last year's main estimates.

The Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the fuel provision mandate for the GN. As a direct result of efforts made by my department's use of the early purchase of petroleum products in the face of volatile global fuel prices, we have been able to reduce the price of diesel and gasoline by 10 cents per litre effective January 1, 2016.

CG&S is undertaking a comprehensive program review of the municipal funding and water and sewer programs to ensure the stability of the funding for these two programs. The review is expected to be completed in the fiscal year 2016-17.

CGS continues to strongly support the activities of the Municipal Training Organization. MTO has been providing much-needed training for municipal employees for over ten years now. The training provided by MTO allows municipal employees to gain skills and assist them in delivering services to residents with training costs that are low and affordable to municipalities. CGS remains MTO's largest funding partner

and we are pleased to continue our funding levels to MTO.

Our Sport and Recreation Division is finalizing its support activities for Team Nunavut's participation at the 2016 Arctic Winter Games, which will be hosted in Nuuk, Greenland.

Mr. Chairman, we continue our work on the development of a regulatory framework for the Nunavut *Building Code Act*. The department is undertaking the development of the regulations, which are expected to be completed by fiscal year-end.

Our Property and Asset Management Division continues to pursue process improvements to ensure that the GN's preventative maintenance and lifecycle renewal initiatives will support higher performing and longer lasting buildings.

We are currently undertaking a program review to update our maintenance management standards and to examine gaps in existing delivery standards, which will be completed in fiscal year 2016-17.

Our Energy Management Pilot Project in Iqaluit has been completed and we are currently in the measurement and verification stage. First year data does show energy savings and we have now received funding from our federal partners to expand the energy management project in the Kivalliq region. These initiatives include energy-efficient lighting products, occupancy sensors, building controls, and solar panels among other initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, CGS continues to invest in government operations by increasing



funding to support our IT infrastructure. The number of people on the government network continues to expand due to decentralization and other factors. In addition, the number and types of devices that users need to work and communicate continues to increase and evolve with new technology.

CGS is committed and continues to strive to improve telecommunications for the government as a whole. This commitment has allowed the government to build a telecommunication infrastructure capable of managing over three times the amount of bandwidth to improve program and service delivery. With forward-thinking and new technologies, CGS will be ready to deliver a new network to provide even better government services to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the department's Protection Services Division has been working hard to improve search and rescue response programs available to the public. We continue to train community SAR organizations, hamlets, and individuals in assisting the RCMP and military in responding to searches.

The number of search and rescue incidents is on the rise in Nunavut. In 2015, there were 251 searches, 82 of which were triggered by SPOT devices. We continue to promote the use of SPOT devices and increase awareness of safety preparedness measures for all individuals going out on the land or water.

The Territorial Emergency Plan, along with the Department of Community and Government Services emergency plans, has been completed and will be tabled in

the Legislative Assembly this year. The department has also completed a guidance document to assist others in developing their own emergency plans.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my comments give an appreciation of the progress that my department is making in addressing the goals of this government. CGS is a service-based department and we strive to improve our service to all our clients. We will work collaboratively with all departments and our municipal government partners to meet the goals of *Sivumut Abluqta* as we step forward together in building Nunavut.

I would now be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget of \$239,143,000 has increased by approximately 3.5 percent since the introduction of the department's 2015-16 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 411. This is an increase of 36 positions from the 2015-16 main estimates.

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

Amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* concerning prohibited debt collection practices were passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2012. The department's 2015-18 business plan indicated that a draft legislative proposal to introduce amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* had been completed. The issue of amending this legislation to provide for the regulation of cheque-cashing fees, money transfer fees, and payday loans has been raised in the Legislative Assembly on a number of occasions and the standing committee looks forward to the timely introduction of these amendments.

The Department of Community and Government Services has the lead responsibility for the Government of Nunavut's procurement function and is responsible for preparing its annual reports on contracting, procurement and leasing activities. The Minister of Community and Government Services is responsible for ensuring that these important annual reports are tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner.

The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for the government's primary municipal funding programs, including the Municipal Funding Program, the Water and Sewage Funding Program, and the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program. However, the standing committee notes that a number of the department's policies, including its Water and Sewage Services Subsidy

Policy and its Municipal Mobile Equipment Policy, have expired.

The Nunavut Emergency Management office is responsible for a number of initiatives, including the development of emergency response plans, coordinating the government's emergency operations, and providing support to community search and rescue volunteer organizations. The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for preparing an annual report on the activities of this office under section 32 of the *Emergency Measures Act*. However, the 2014-15 annual report under this section of the legislation has not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for the administration of the government's Community Search and Rescue Organization Support Policy and the Community-Based Search and Rescue Contributions Policy. However, the standing committee notes that both of these policies expired.

The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed 2016-17 budget of \$500,000 for contributions to community search and rescue organizations has not changed in over a decade. The standing committee encourages the department to review the adequacy of this amount.

On May 9 of 2014, the department issued a request for proposals titled "Asset Management Program Review." Information provided by the department indicates that a contract was awarded for this project on July 10 of 2014. The standing committee continues to

encourage the minister to table a copy of its new facilities inventory and condition ratings report in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity. This information will be of benefit to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and will serve to complement and update information that has been previously published in the integrated community sustainability plans that have been produced for Nunavut's municipalities.

On February 28 of 2014, the department issued a *Request for Information for Potential Planning for Solid Waste Management Methods for Nunavut Territory*. The RFI closed on March 28 of 2014. Testimony provided to the House on May 30, 2014 during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the department's 2014-15 main estimates indicated that a final report on this initiative had been provided and that the department was in the process of evaluating that report.

One of the department's ongoing priorities has been to "Develop strategies to address upgrades to core municipal infrastructure (water, wastewater, and solid waste) to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and municipal water licenses." The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it has "established a Water Compliance Working Group, tasked with developing a work plan to address the short, medium, and long term goals for solid waste management in Nunavut, to ensure that the conditions of municipal water licenses are met."

One of the department's goals for the 2015-16 fiscal year was to "Propose appropriate effluent quality standards for Nunavut to the Canadian Council of

Ministers of the Environment." The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that "Environment Canada recognizes that research is ongoing in Nunavut and that this research is critical for developing appropriate wastewater regulations... There is no defined timeline for establishing Northern Wastewater Regulations."

The standing committee encourages the minister to update the Legislative Assembly on a regular basis concerning the status of these initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, MLAs have spoken on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly about the importance of drinking water safety and quality in Nunavut. The standing committee continues to recommend that the department prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive annual report on water quality in all Nunavut communities. The standing committee also notes that there are a number of water testing requirements currently provided for in the *Public Water Supply Regulations* made under the *Public Health Act*.

Mr. Chairman, a new *Building Code Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2012. The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "continue to work on development of draft regulations for the... *Building Code Act*." Sections 23 and 24 of the *Building Code Act* came into force in September of 2013. These sections provide for the establishment of a Nunavut Building Advisory Committee. A number of individuals were appointed to this committee in March of 2014. The standing committee continues to recommend that the

minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the *Building Code Act* and the activities of the Nunavut Building Advisory Committee.

Mr. Chairman, in April of 2014, Members of the Legislative Assembly held televised hearings on the *Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Safety of Schools and Childcare Facilities in Nunavut*. The Department of Community and Government Services has previously indicated that it would “Work with the Department of Education to finalize and implement the Fire Safety Planning Guidelines for School Facilities” and “Begin to develop an implementation plan to broaden the Fire Safety Planning Guidelines to include other facilities in other departments.”

The department’s 2015-18 business plan indicated that “Fire Safety Guidelines for School Facilities have been developed and will be implemented in the new fiscal year.” The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to table these guidelines in the Legislative Assembly.

The department’s draft 2016-17 main estimates indicate that the department plans to expand its Informatics Planning and Services Division by adding 21 new positions and increasing its budget by \$2,594,000. Although the standing committee supports reducing dependence on external consultants for the provision of essential services in the areas of information technology and telecommunications, a detailed substantiation for these positions is required.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan for the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. The floor is now open for general comments. I want to remind members that the contents of the minister’s opening comments are covered in the different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the proper branches.

I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page J-4. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister and your officials. Since Ms. Kimball has been with the Nunavut Housing Corporation for such a long time, I still expect to see her with the housing corporation when I look at her down there at the witness table.

Mr. Minister, in your opening comments on page 3, I just want to get clarification, although it’s not explained in there. I’ll try to translate the second paragraph. “CG&S is undertaking a comprehensive program review of the municipal funding and water and sewer programs.” Can you explain further what you’re going to be reviewing for those programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program review is being done to make sure that it is run efficiently and properly and to make sure that the hamlets or the municipalities aren't overburdened that they have to go into debt in order to deliver the water and sewer program. There is a need to review them because there has been no review or increases in some of the municipalities since 1996 and we all know that the price of everything has gone up substantially since then.

We just want to make sure that this program is run efficiently for the government's sake and also for the municipalities' sake. The GN is here to help the municipalities to make sure that it's run well so that the municipalities don't suffer either in providing essential services of water and sewer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me to ask another question on the same topic, since there's going to be a review of municipal funding to make sure that they have efficient municipal programs, how many communities, if any, have over-expended their program or budget for municipal services? Are there any communities that have gone over their funding for municipal programs? I hope I'm clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, we currently have some hamlets that have financial difficulties. There are three in the Kivalliq, three in the Kitikmeot, and five

in Qikiqtaaluk. It's not only to do with the water and sewer program. That may be a part of it, but that's what we have to study.

The hamlets have many different services that they have to provide and they have to collect the money for these services that they provide. It's not as simple as whether they get enough funding or not. It's quite a complicated process to figure out why a hamlet is not doing good financially. We work with the hamlets to figure out what the problem is and to help them get out of deficit, if they are in deficit. If the problem is with the water/sewer and they are just not charging enough for the delivery, then they put in for an increase into the water/sewer rate.

In terms of the municipalities that are financially struggling, there are many reasons for them and each municipality has different reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am out of line, please stop me. I'm going to ask a question with regard to the same topic on municipal funding. I will probably be asking a question under page J-5. So if I'm wrong, please correct me. Let me ask my question. You are going to be doing a comprehensive program review of municipal funding and you stated that some communities are facing financial difficulties in the three regions of Qikiqtaaluk, Kitikmeot, and Kivalliq.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask this question. Since your department provides assistance and services to

municipalities, do you see their monthly financial accounts? I cannot really understand. I know that they have financial accountants in each community, but don't you see their monthly statements? I just want to ask how this is connected to that, if you will allow me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not an accountant, but I'll do my best to answer this question.

The hamlets have many different funding arrangements and different accounts for different things, such as the water/sewer program, mobile equipment, they get block funding, and it's all broken up into different accounts. They also have reserves for many different areas.

How can I put this? The hamlets sometimes move funds from one area to another to make up for funds that are insufficient in other areas. Sometimes it doesn't show up immediately. That's why sometimes hamlets go way into deficit before we realize that there is a problem.

For a hamlet to be in good financial standing, their reserves have to be up to where they're supposed to be. Even if they're not in debt, if their reserves are not where they're supposed to be at, they are not where they're supposed to be. There are many different areas.

If that's not a good enough answer, I can get my DM to answer. I'm not sure if

that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask this question: do the municipalities provide their monthly financial statements to your department? Are they mandated and do you review the monthly financial statements from the municipalities? Let me first get a response to that for clarity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are supposed to put in a monthly financial report. Some do, but some don't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For those communities that don't send in their financial reports, what happens to them? Do you just leave them alone or do you do something about it? If there's a requirement to send in a financial report, then they should. What do you do with the municipalities that don't send in financial reports? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department works with the ones that struggle to do a financial statement on a monthly basis and there are different reasons. Sometimes they have capacity issues in terms of qualified employees. Some hamlets struggle to

have good financial staffing and we just can't get around that. Staffing is an issue. CGS works with every hamlet that is struggling and we will continue to try to help them through a struggle. Our goal is to work with the hamlets so that the hamlets operate efficiently for their residents. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will reach that subject later, but what jumps out is the request for large numbers of additional staff in your department. All this in light of communities that tend to be understaffed and the additional PYs do not appear to be in the non-decentralized communities. Nonetheless, I believe we will get to that subject later.

Mr. Chairman, I have a question regarding the budget request in the 2016-19 business plan, which I do not have a copy of in Inuktitut. Your department indicates that "Program delivery has been improved by dedicating new PYs, focused on departmental programming at the community level." Can you specify the positions that you have created in your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the member is talking about, I believe, is strengthen departmental internal controls. We're doing that through improvement of existing processes, training sessions to sub-delegation managers through CG&S, and resource management training for managers and directors.

Some of the activities that we have done are to have existing setup and delegation authorities so that more authorities can be delegated; examine opportunities for potential improvement such as consolidation of signing functions; create training material of internal controls and responsibilities and accountabilities; and deliver mandatory training to all employees who are in positions with delegated authorities.

What we want to do is just train the workforce we have now so that it can function better and cheaper and get the same results, if I understand the member's question correctly. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe you already answered some of the questions I was going to bring up later, but in your business plan for 2016-19, it indicates that you want to "Optimize the procurement function, through gradual migration of regional infrastructure procurement to a centralized procurement function in the department." Can the minister indicate what these changes will involve and if any positions will be transferred from other communities to Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In short, no, there will be no transfers of any PYs from the communities to headquarters. We're just transferring responsibilities and just the way stuff are done so that, instead of each region doing its own way of

procurement and contracting, it is standardized and everybody does the same thing every time something comes up. It's just to make it more efficient. One way of doing that is to transfer some of the responsibilities to headquarters or the regional centres, whichever works better. It's just to make it more streamlined so that the process is uniform. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just go right to the business plan on 168. I think Mr. Enook touched on it a bit about program delivery and dedicating new PYs. I'm wondering if the new PYs have already been hired. My second question to this would be: what kind of programs are you speaking about when you talk about departmental programming at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I just ask Ms. Angnakak for clarification on the PYs? I'm not sure what she's talking about. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I'm on page 168 of the business plan. Under the priorities, it talks about, "Based on the findings of the organizational review report, consider enhancements to improve program delivery." The status that you put under that is "Program delivery has been improved by dedicating new PYs, focused on departmental programming at the

community level." I'm asking what PYs. Can you identify which ones? Where are they? Is this for Iqaluit or are they regional? Also, when you talk about departmental programming at the community level, what kind of programs are you actually talking about there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That line when they talk about the new PYs, it was in the 2015 fiscal year, so those PYs are already there. I, myself, don't know where they are right now. I'll just get the information here. There is just one PY that came to Iqaluit and it was to provide consumer protection services for lottery and business licensing. That's the only PY that was created. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you talk about "focused on departmental programming at the community level," what do you mean by that? If that PY was dedicated to Iqaluit for lotteries at the community level, do you just mean Iqaluit? To me, that means communities within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The position is here in Iqaluit, but it's for all of Nunavut. I assume that all the communities issue lottery licences and stuff. The position is based here but it's not just for Iqaluit; it's for all of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.



**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for that response. It makes it a little clearer than how it's written.

The other thing is you did elaborate a little about consumer affairs. Within the priorities of 2016-17, it says, "Develop and implement a consumer affairs public education campaign." Can you elaborate about why you want to do this and what you're hoping to achieve? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the consumer affairs advisory is to advise "citizens and businesses of their rights and obligations and is responsible for related legislation and policies. Consumer Protection seeks to create a positive atmosphere that fosters economic growth while protecting the public interest."

One of the activities that we have done is develop a consumer affairs public awareness and education campaign. The outcome, we hope, is to ensure that all Nunavummiut have access to and are aware of the services that are provided by the Consumer Affairs section. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you say "public education campaign," what does that mean? How are you rolling out that campaign? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There could be IT stuff on the website or there could be flyers, whatever works best for the communities and the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is something that Mr. Enook touched on a little bit earlier, I think, if I was listening properly. One of the priorities is to "Optimize the procurement function, through gradual migration of regional infrastructure procurement to a centralized procurement function in the department." If you're starting to do that, what's in place now? If that is not how you do it, how do you do it now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way it's done right now is not completely uniform. How they do stuff in the Kitikmeot might be different than how they do it in the Kivalliq or the Baffin. We just want to streamline it so that it's controlled and everybody in all of Nunavut has the same process when they're doing any procurement. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I just want to say that I think that's a good direction to be going. When we're talking about procurement, it can become a very sensitive issue when businesses want to put on a bid and they want to know that they are being treated fairly and

transparently too. That's all for me right now in this section.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are still on page J-4, if I am not mistaken. When my colleagues were raising questions earlier, certain statements caught my ear. It's obvious that Baker Lake is one of the decentralized communities. Some of these responsibilities were originally undertaken by (interpretation ends) Consumer Affairs (interpretation) in Baker Lake.

However, when my colleague Ms. Angnakak was asking questions earlier, I really noticed the subject items. Some of these positions are already transferred to here. With that being the case, I would like to ask firstly if some of the PYs moved to the headquarters will be returned to Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of any positions that were moved from Baker Lake to here. That's all I can say. I am not aware of any positions that were moved. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lottery licence position, I do recall even before I was elected as an MLA that that particular position was based in Baker Lake as a decentralized

position. If that position has been moved to Iqaluit, what is the Department of Community and Government Services equal value of power and authority replaced with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this position was moved before you and I were elected, I can't comment much on it because we're just dealing with the 2016-17 budget right now. All I can say is that if it was moved before our government, then we are not aware of any that have been moved since this government was formed. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will rephrase my question here. As Ms. Angnakak was asking regarding the lottery licence position and the minister indicated that that position was moved here to Iqaluit, I presume that was during our time in legislative office here. My question is: does the minister have that information at hand when the position was moved here? That particular position was actually based in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The position that I was talking about with Ms. Angnakak is a new position and that position was created as a new position. It was not moved from anywhere. According to my information here, there have been no positions lost in Baker Lake. There are

vacant positions there, but there are none that have been moved from Baker Lake. The position that Ms. Angnakak was talking about is a brand-new position. It was not moved; it was made. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why not in Baker Lake when it was part of the decentralized plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This position is not part of the decentralized plan. It was a new position. The policy is that if we take a decentralized position, then we are supposed to put one back in. This was a new position that was not taken from Baker Lake or anywhere else. That's all I can say about it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lottery licence positions have always been based in Baker Lake and part of Consumer Affairs in Baker Lake as part of the decentralized plan when Nunavut was created. Why are some of these new positions that Community and Government Services is looking at not based in Baker Lake at the decentralized office, which has already been established for so many years since Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right, the manager is based here in Iqaluit, but all the other positions, the consumer affairs

analyst and the consumer affairs officer, are based in Baker Lake. The one new position here is called a senior security and privacy policy analyst. The positions that were in Baker Lake are still in Baker Lake. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wholeheartedly understand what the minister is indicating, but my question here again is: why do you have that position based here when there was a decentralized model which has been working all these past years in Nunavut? I'll ask that question first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new position that I told him about, the privacy policy, it's for ATIPP and they need to work with EIA, which is situated here in Iqaluit. Like I said, it's not a decentralized position. It's a new position to just help the consumer affairs department run better and it has to be based here because they have to work with EIA for ATIPP and privacy policy issues. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at this new position, how does that change the authority and overrides of any decisions of the positions that are based in Baker Lake when that new position is based here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This new position has no bearing on the operation going on in Baker Lake. It's on its own and it doesn't affect the operation in Baker Lake in any way. It's just more of a support for all of the consumer affairs stuff. It doesn't affect the number of PYs in Baker Lake. It doesn't affect their operation. It's just to enhance and help out. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, I'll ask this question in a different angle. When you look at this new position and you have established positions in Consumer Affairs, Community and Government Services in Baker Lake as part of the decentralized model, how would you rank this new position of senior security as opposed to the positions that are currently in place in the decentralized model of authority and power? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It doesn't relate in any way in terms of authority and power. The way the consumer affairs department runs in Baker Lake will still run the way it always has. This is just a position to help out if there are any issues with ATIPP and privacy issues. It doesn't affect the operations in Baker Lake. It's just to help out with ATIPP and privacy issues because privacy issues have become more and more of a concern in this day and age. It's to help out. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would it be correct that I'm hearing the minister correctly that all the current positions based in Baker Lake under the decentralized model with not lose their power and authority with their current positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this new position that CGS is looking at, you indicate that it will help the decentralized model and communities. Will this position be advocating or implementing any suggestions or work strategies to current staff in Consumer Affairs who have been, in my opinion, doing a very excellent job in Baker Lake with lottery licence and consumer affairs? Will there be any changes to the current system that is in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there will be no changes in the way Baker Lake is operating and has operated. I am sure they run very well. This is a policy and planning position here in Iqaluit to facilitate and help out with ATIPP and privacy issues. It will not affect the Baker Lake Consumer Affairs operation in any way. It will just enhance them if they need to be helped. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll angle my question in a different manner. Seeing that you have created a position and, if I'm listening correctly, you are already considering this new career of senior security possibly being hired, if not, I presume there is already an employee.

As the minister indicated, there are current vacancies in the Consumer Affairs Office in Baker Lake. How soon will you get those vacancies filled in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify the member's position about the new position here, this was in 2015-16. He is incorrect when he says there is a person there already because that was approved in last year's budget.

As for Baker Lake, we will do our best to fill any vacant positions. We will be working with HR to make sure any vacancy is filled. We work with HR to fill any and all vacancies anywhere in Nunavut. Our goal is to have Nunavummiut take these jobs as soon as possible. There are many obstacles, but we do the best we can to fill any and all positions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at these vacancies that are currently in Baker Lake and it's part of the decentralized model, the department is going to look at filling in those vacancies. Considering the fact that some of them are senior and middle management positions, will they

be looking at the internship program that this government has been addressing also as part of the filling in of the vacant positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The internship program is run by EIA. As the Premier said in his statement today, they had a graduate from our department from that program. Yes, we look at that and we are open to any suggestions about it, but EIA is the one who runs the internship program. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this new senior security position that is already in place, is that the only one new PY or are you looking at additional PYs? If there are going to be additional PYs, will they be here in Iqaluit or are they going to follow the decentralized model, which would be based in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Directorate, we are not asking for any new PYs. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak, you've got 70 seconds left.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for identifying the clock.

In your business plan on page 168, it's in black and white under Priorities (2015-16), second bullet, "Based on the

findings of the organizational review report, consider enhancements to improve program delivery. Status: Program delivery has been improved by dedicating new PYs..." Are you sufficient with new PYs or are there still any vacancies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member pointed out, this is 2015-16. Under the Directorate, we are sufficient in PYs right now and we are not requesting for any. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would it be correct that the decentralized model in Baker Lake for Community and Government Services' consumer affairs and lottery business licence work will not be affected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there will be no PYs taken from Baker Lake from Consumer Affairs. The way they operate will not be affected. It will just be status quo and they will work along their merry way and do a good job of it. Thank you.

>>Laughter

**Chairman:** Four seconds, Mr. Mikkungwak.

>>Laughter

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his comment and I hold him to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on the list is Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Mr. Savikataaq, (interpretation) welcome, (interpretation ends) along with your staff. It's a good announcement you made this morning. I just wanted to recognize that.

Going back to our review of your business plan, I have a few questions. First off, we recently heard about the NNI Policy review occurring. CGS being the lead department on procurement, contracting, and leasing for government agencies, will your department be having a role in that review and, if so, what are you anticipating participation in that review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CG&S did have a role in it, but the NNI Policy is under ED&T. ED&T will be the actual department that rolls out the NNI Policy, but we did work with them and we did have a role in it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you done with your part or are you still going to be involved moving forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will still be working with ED&T with the policies and guidelines when it comes out because we are the procurement department, so we will be working with them, but it is their project. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to get that out of the way. However, going towards the Inuit Employment Plans on 182, there's talk about a two-year co-op program created and funded through Arctic College to train NLCA beneficiaries for informatics positions. In this budget, you're proposing, I believe, 21 new informatics positions. Have you already started identifying the candidates to fill these positions or once this budget is approved, are NLCA beneficiaries being canvassed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All government departments want to hire as many beneficiaries as we possibly can. The recruiting process will follow the normal recruiting process through HR, but beneficiaries will be having hiring priority just like every other department because we want to hire as many beneficiaries as we can. The hiring process will follow the regular route in which the government hires and its recruitment policy. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I know that the hiring process will go through and it's normal, but as departments, you do have a role in recruiting new, potential staff. I'll take your example as the Technical Professional Studies Scholarship. It says here that there were 18 scholarships awarded and out of the 18, there were 15 NLCA beneficiaries. I'm trying to get at: what is your department looking forward to doing in recruiting or do you guys attend career fairs, going to high schools, and say, "These informatics positions or infrastructure jobs are up for grabs. Come get them"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The scholarship program is to help students who are in school to help them out with funding and the ones that qualify get the funding. We hope to hire as many qualified beneficiaries as we can, but we can't make them work for us. We hope that they will work for us, but there are many different opportunities for people once they get an education. Sometimes when beneficiaries get used to living down south, some of them like living down there. It's challenging. Just because someone gets a scholarship doesn't mean that they are going to work for the government, but we sure do hope that they will. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the response. Also in addition to that, can I ask the minister to work with his colleagues in the

Department of Family Services? I know they have a great program, Getting Ready for Employment and Training, initiatives to get people at the community level filling these positions that might be sitting vacant. Maybe we can start filling these positions in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will take that as notice. Yes, we want to fill all vacancies. With informatics, we want to make sure that they are filled by well-qualified and well-trained individuals. As we all know how frustrating it is when the computer is just not working right, we want to make sure that we have the best possible people to help all you guys in the communities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the record, I was speaking all across the different divisions or the department as a whole, not just informatics. I'll just make that comment and I'm done for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms, please assist the officials.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 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 agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for March 1:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions



5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. 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
  - Bill 15
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 Tuesday, March 1, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:57*

# **Appendix – February 29, 2016**



## **Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

### ***Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and the 2012- 2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit***

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Winter 2016 Sitting**

**Pat Angnakak, Chair  
Alex Sammurtok, Co-Chair  
Tony Akoak, MLA  
Joe Enook, MLA  
David Joanasié, MLA  
Pauloosie Keeyootak, MLA  
Steve Mapsalak, MLA  
Simeon Mikkungwak, MLA  
Allan Rumbolt, MLA  
Tom Sammurtok, MLA  
Isaac Shooyook, MLA**

[www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)

## Introduction

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Section 24 of the *Official Languages Act* provides that:

- (1) The Languages Commissioner, shall, within 12 months after the end of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly an annual report on the conduct of the office and the discharge of the duties of the Languages Commissioner during the preceding year, including
  - (a) the appointment and activities of an acting or special Languages Commissioner during the preceding fiscal year;
  - (b) a description of the number and type of applications and requests made under this Act and under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the status or resolution of the applications or requests that were active during the preceding fiscal year and information about any instances where recommendations made by the Languages Commissioner after an investigation have not been followed; and
  - (c) an assessment of the effectiveness of the enforcement powers exercised and duties performed by the Languages Commissioner, with any recommended changes that the Languages Commissioner considers necessary or desirable to improve compliance with this Act or the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.
- (2) The Speaker shall cause the annual report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Section 23 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that:

- (1) The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit shall, within nine months after the end of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the Minister and to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly an annual report on the performance of its statutory duties and exercise of statutory powers, including the following information:
  - (a) the activities of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit during the preceding fiscal year;
    - (a.1) copies or summaries, as the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit considers to be appropriate, of the reports or recommendations submitted or advice provided to the Minister under paragraph 17(1)(f), if any;
  - (b) the results achieved;
  - (c) an assessment of the strength or needs of the Inuit Language;

- (d) the priorities of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and any change of priorities made or anticipated in the interest of a more effective response to the needs of the Inuit Language;
- (e) any other information that the Minister may require.

- (2) The Speaker shall cause the annual report of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to be laid before the Legislative Assembly as soon as is reasonably practicable.

The 2013-2014 annual report of the Languages Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 9, 2015. The 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 annual reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit (Inuit Language Authority) were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5, 2015.

The terms of reference for the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts include the mandate to review the reports of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

The Languages Commissioner's responsibilities are established by two pieces of territorial legislation: the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act, both of which were passed in 2008 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Nunavut's new Official Languages Act came into force on April 1, 2013, while the Inuit Language Protection Act has been coming into force in stages.

The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut has three main areas of responsibility: the investigation and resolution of concerns relating to language rights, providing guidance and support to various bodies and institutions on their obligations and duties with respect to language rights, and the administration of her office.

The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit was formally established on September 19, 2009, under the Inuit Language Protection Act, to expand the knowledge and expertise available with respect to the Inuit Language, and to consider and make decisions about Inuit Language use, development and standardisation.

The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is responsible for developing and approving standardised terminology and expressions in the Inuit language, conducting research and documenting traditional Inuit language terminology, developing standards to ensure that the quality of the Inuit language is maintained, supporting government bodies and other organisations in developing terminology and competency levels, assessing the status of the Inuit language in the territory and recognising achievements of excellence within the territory in relation to the advancement of the Inuit language.

In June of 2015, the standing committee announced its plans to hold televised hearings in the fall of 2015 on the most recent annual reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and the Languages Commissioner.

The November 24-25, 2015, appearances of witnesses from the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and the Office of the Languages Commissioner before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee's hearing was televised live across the territory and was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitor's Gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearing will be available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

## Observations and Recommendations

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### Issue: Implementation Activities of Territorial Institutions

Section 22 of the Official Languages Act provides that:

- (1) It is the duty of the Languages Commissioner to take all actions and measures within the authority of the Languages Commissioner to ensure that Official Language rights, status and privileges are recognized, and the duties respecting the Official Languages are performed.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the duties of the Languages Commissioner include
  - (a) investigating whether the requirements of this or any other Act, regulation, policy or procedure concerning the Official Languages have been appropriately performed, and providing reports about the results of the investigation and recommendations, if any;
  - (b) developing mediation and other methods consistent with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and using these methods when appropriate to resolve concerns about the performance of legislative, policy or procedural language obligations; and
  - (c) commenting on the implementation activities and performance of territorial institutions and municipalities under this Act, and on their compliance with the spirit and intent of this Act.
- (3) The Languages Commissioner shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as are assigned to the Languages Commissioner by this and any other Act.

Section 28 of the Inuit Language Protection Act provides that:

- (1) The Languages Commissioner shall take all actions and measures within the authority of the Languages Commissioner to ensure that the rights, status and privileges established by this Act with respect to the Inuit Language are recognized and performed.
- (2) The Languages Commissioner may, on request, advise an organization regarding the specific actions or approaches the Languages Commissioner considers appropriate for compliance with this Act and the regulations.
- (3) On the request of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, the Languages Commissioner may provide reasonable assistance to support the informed and effective exercise of a power or performance of a duty of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.



It is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made by the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut in providing more detailed information in her annual reports concerning her office's activities, plans, and priorities.

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner describes the results of her office's "press release review" and "website review," which allowed her office to investigate the extent to which government departments were distributing and displaying notices to the public in the official languages, as required under subsection 11(1) of the Official Languages Act.

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner also describes the results of her office's "call verification survey," which allowed her office to investigate the extent to which head or central offices of government departments were providing active offers in the official languages, as required under subsection 12(7)(a) of the Official Languages Act.

It is noted that in her 2012-2013 annual report, the Languages Commissioner previously provided the results of her office's 2012-2013 "call verification survey," which allowed the office to investigate the extent to which the employees' right to work in the Inuit language was facilitated within the public service, as required by subsection 12(1) of the Inuit Language Protection Act.

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner provides information on six formal concerns related to the performance of legislative, policy or procedural language obligations that were received by her office during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

It is important to acknowledge that the Office of the Languages Commissioner provides an "Our Investigative Procedure" document on its website, which outlines the specific steps to be taken once a formal concern has been submitted with the office. This document indicates that:

"The Languages Commissioner will advise the parties of the option of going through a mediation process. If the parties choose to go through a mediation process then the Languages Commissioner or representative will coordinate this process."

It is also important to acknowledge that, in her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner recommends that regulations be approved and published on language services and communications to be provided by municipalities. The Languages Commissioner also recommends that the Minister of Languages collaborate with departments and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to develop specialized terminology in the Inuit language to allow for the adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in Nunavut, bring into force sections 3 to 5 of the Inuit Language Protection Act, work towards the establishment of an accredited translation bureau for all official languages, and raise awareness of the role of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Subsection 22(2)(c) of the Official Languages Act provides that:

“[T]he duties of the Languages Commissioner include ... commenting on the implementation activities and performance of territorial institutions and municipalities under this Act, and on their compliance with the spirit and intent of this Act.”

However, the Languages Commissioner does not indicate in her annual report, and did not provide testimony to the standing committee, during its November 24-25, 2015, televised hearing, to suggest that her office has conducted a review or provided comments on implementation activities such as language development programs or policies of territorial institutions and municipalities, beyond the public service’s statutorily mandated right to work in the Inuit language and the government’s statutorily mandated requirement to provide in all official languages public notices and active offers from central and head offices.

Subsection 13(2)(c) of the Official Languages Act provides that:

“The Minister of Languages shall ... coordinate the implementation, monitoring, management and evaluation of language obligations, policies, programs and services by departments of the Government of Nunavut and public agencies.”

Subsection 13(3)(a) of the Official Languages Act provides that:

“The Minister of Languages shall, in consultation with territorial institutions and municipalities, develop and maintain a comprehensive plan for the implementation of language obligations, policies, programs and service by departments of the Government of Nunavut and public agencies.”

It is important to note that section 15 of the *Official Languages Act* provides that:

- (1) The Minister shall, within 12 months after the end of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Languages Commissioner a report that describes
  - (a) all the activities, results achieved and use of government resources during the preceding fiscal year in relation to the discharge of language obligations;
  - (b) the establishment, operation or performance of policies, programs and services in this regard; and
  - (c) any other information that the Minister considers appropriate.

Section 27 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* also provides that:

- (1) The Minister shall include in a report prepared and submitted under section 15 of the Official Languages Act a separate description of
  - (a) all the activities, results achieved and use of government resources during the preceding fiscal year in relation to the discharge of language obligations under this Act;
  - (b) the establishment, operation or performance of policies, programs and services in this regard;
  - (c) the number and nature of the reports and recommendations provided by the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit pursuant to subsection 17(1), the government response in each case and, if a report or recommendation has not been accepted or implemented, an explanation for the government response; and
  - (d) the other information relating to this Act and the regulations that the Minister considers appropriate.

On June 12, 2014, the Minister of Languages tabled the government's 2011-2012 annual report on its administration of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* in the Legislative Assembly. This report included information on the government's programs and policies to promote, develop, and provide Inuit and French language services in the territory. The standing committee notes with concern that the Minister has not yet tabled the government's 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 annual reports on its administration of the territory's language legislation.

On October 30, 2012, the Minister of Languages tabled *Uqausivut: The Comprehensive Plan Pursuant to the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act* in the Legislative Assembly, which was intended to guide the government's implementation activities and performance under the territory's language legislation from 2012 to 2016, as required under subsection 13(3) of the *Official Languages Act*.

The government indicates in its *Uqausivut* document that the Languages Commissioner had provided a submission to the Minister of Languages to review and comment on the content of the document during its draft stage.

The government also indicates in its *Uqausivut* document that the Minister of Languages will be responsible for preparing an annual progress report on the government's work to implement the priorities and actions identified in this document. The standing committee notes with concern that the Minister has not yet tabled any reports that provide a progress update on the government's *Uqausivut* implementation plan.

The standing committee notes that the Languages Commissioner has not formally reviewed or commented on the government's *Uqausivut* implementation plan or its activities and performance in meeting the expectations set out in this plan since it was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2012.

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #1**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Government of Nunavut make every effort to produce and table its annual reports in the Legislative Assembly within the timeframes that are statutorily mandated under the territory's language legislation.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it will table its 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 annual reports on its administration of the territory's language legislation in the Legislative Assembly.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Government of Nunavut begin the practice of including annual progress reports on its administration of the *Uqausivut* implementation plan as a separate section within its annual report under the territory's language legislation.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it will finalize and table an updated version of its statutorily mandated implementation plan.

## **Standing Committee Recommendation #2**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Languages Commissioner begin the practice of reviewing territorial and municipal programs and policies related to the implementation of the territory's language legislation to determine the extent to which these policies and programs exist and meet the statutory requirements set out in the language legislation, specifically programs and policies relating to the following areas:

- Policies that provide for the facilitation of employees' right to work in the Inuit language within the public service;
- Programs to promote the revitalization of Inuinnaqtun;
- Policies that provide for the distribution of the Language Promotion Fund and federal-territorial funding agreements; and,
- Territorial and municipal policies to provide for communications and services to the public in official languages.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Languages Commissioner begin the practice of including a report on her office's review of these territorial and municipal programs and policies as a separate section in her future annual reports, beginning with her 2015-2016 annual report, to be presented to the Speaker and subsequently tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

### **Issue: Implementation of Sections 8-10 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act***

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner indicates that her office undertook a one-time initiative to "Research the language protection and revitalization initiatives in early childhood education in Nunavut," which would allow the office to "provide recommendations supporting the linguistic needs and rights of children in Nunavut in anticipation of the Childcare Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act."

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner also indicates that one of her office's planned activities for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was to "Monitor progress towards instruction in the Inuit language from kindergarten to grade three and grade four to grade 12." However, the Languages Commissioner also indicates in her 2013-2014 annual report that her office decided to continue this work and to measure the education system's performance by reviewing the Auditor General of Canada's 2013 report on Education in Nunavut and the Minister of Language's annual report, anticipating that this report would outline the "status of legislative obligations relating to primary and secondary education."

Subsection 8(2)(b) of the Inuit Language Protection Act provides that:

"The Government of Nunavut shall, in a manner that is consistent with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit ... develop and implement appropriate Inuit Language competency targets necessary for the achievement of full proficiency for all stages of learning ..."

Subsection 9(a) of the Inuit Language Protection Act provides that:

"[T]he Government of Nunavut shall promote early childhood Inuit Language development and learning involving children and their parents at the community level, and shall develop and provide early childhood education materials and programs in the Inuit Language."

Section 10 of the Inuit Language Protection Act provides that:

"The Government of Nunavut shall develop and provide Inuit Language acquisition and upgrading materials and programs designed for adults who wish to learn or improve their proficiency in the Inuit Language both in community learning environments and through post-secondary education."

During its November 24-25, 2015, televised hearing, Members asked a number of questions concerning the Office of the Languages Commissioner's plans to conduct its own analysis of the education system's activities and performance in relation to the implementation of the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act. In response, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

"We were actually quite overwhelmed by the level of work by the systemic investigation. So that took away from some of the work that we had hoped to do,

including the work on education. So I decided for 2015-2016 that [our] annual report will focus on education.”

The standing committee recognizes that the Languages Commissioner may use secondary resources that are available to her office, such as the reports of other organizations and departments, to supplement her office’s work to monitor and investigate the extent to which territorial and municipal governments are fulfilling their statutory language obligations.

However, the standing committee is of the view that the Languages Commissioner must have a direct knowledge of the activities and performance of the institutions that her office monitors and investigates to allow her office to provide comprehensive comments that reflect the specific experience and expertise of her role as language ombudsperson of Nunavut.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #3**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Languages Commissioner provide, in her response to this report, detailed information on her office’s work to independently review the education services provided by the Government of Nunavut and clarify whether her office has been able to determine the extent to which the Government of Nunavut’s programs and policies meet the statutory requirements set out in sections 8-10 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

**Issue: Implementation Activities of Municipalities**

Section 7 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that:

- (1) Every municipality shall make available to the public, regardless of the volume or level of demand, if any, the following additional communications and services in the Inuit Language:
  - (a) street signs, traffic signs and any maps that may be produced or procured by the municipality;
  - (b) activities or services delivered by the municipality relating to the social welfare of individuals or the community;
  - (c) municipal notices to the public, by-law enforcement and ticketing;
  - (d) interpretation at public meetings and municipal council meetings;
  - (e) the other prescribed communications or services that the Commissioner in Executive Council considers to be essential as the result of their nature or consequences for individuals, for a community or for Nunavut as a whole.

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner indicates that one of her office's planned activities for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was to "Follow up on the available services and communications provided by municipalities," and that this activity was to be carried out with the following objectives:

- "Ensuring that municipalities' services and public communication comply with language laws;
- Identifying challenges to providing language services and communication; [and,]
- Supporting municipalities to be in a position to provide language services."

During the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, televised hearing, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

"We have sent out questionnaires to the communities and asked the hamlet councils about what their roles and responsibilities are, if they knew their roles and responsibilities under the Official Languages Act, and whether they need more information.

We have sent out two sets of questionnaires to the communities, but we had very little response. We also thought about calling the communities to get the information that we would like to get and to find out whether they know their roles and responsibilities under the Act."

The standing committee continues to emphasize the importance of ensuring that municipalities are aware of their language obligations and that municipalities have the opportunity to discuss challenges, needs or best practices regarding the provision of services in the Inuit language within the communities.



Subsection 12(8) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that:

“If there is a significant demand for communications with and services in an Official Language in a municipality, the administrative head of the municipality has the duty to ensure that members of the public entitled to the municipal communications and services prescribed by regulation, can receive them in that Official Language.”

Subsection 38(1)(h) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that the Commissioner in Executive Council may make regulations:

“[I]dentifying a municipality referred to in subsection 12(8) or setting out the evidence or criteria to be considered in determining whether subsection 12(8) applies to a municipality.”

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner makes the following recommendation:

“To provide clarity, the OLC recommends that the Minister of Languages pass regulations on expected language services and communications for all municipalities according to their respective significant demand.”

During the standing committee’s November 24-25, 2015, televised hearing, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

“We do have the mandate to deal with Inuktitut services in hamlets under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, but with regard to English language services, we do not have that authority...”

If it is deemed that there is a significant demand under the *Official Languages Act*, the Minister of Language is supposed to pass a regulation deeming that there is a significant demand in a community for languages of English and French.

Until there’s a regulation identifying that a community has to provide services in English or French, we don’t have the jurisdiction to investigate concerns with municipalities in those languages. Right now, the only obligation to provide services is for municipalities under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, in Inuktitut.”

The standing committee agrees with the intent of the recommendation to ensure that municipal offices make available communications and services in the English or French languages in communities with a significant population of English or French language speakers.

However, the standing committee notes that there are currently no procedures or policies, that have been communicated to the public, which outline the process by which the Executive Council must determine whether a municipality has a significant demand for English or French language services.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #4**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline by which it will publish regulations under section 38 of the *Official Languages Act* and section 44 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Government of Nunavut develop and implement its regulations and procedures concerning subsection 38(1)(h) in consultation with the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

**Issue: Status of the Systemic Investigation of the Qikiqtani General Hospital**

On February 24, 2012, the Office of the Languages Commissioner announced that it would be conducting a systemic investigation to determine the extent to which services provided at the Qikiqtani General Hospital are available in the territory's official languages.

It is important to acknowledge that the systemic investigation of the Qikiqtani General Hospital was initiated before the current Languages Commissioner assumed her office.

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner indicated that one of her office's planned activities for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was to "Finalize the systemic investigation report on the availability of language services and communications at the QGH [Qikiqtani general Hospital] and release the systemic investigation report."

During her recent appearance before the standing committee, during its November 24-25, 2015, televised hearing, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

"To provide an update on the systemic investigation on the Qikiqtani General Hospital, the Office of the Languages Commissioner finalized a report on the systemic investigation and provided it to the Department of Health. A summary and recommendations will be included in the 2014-2015 annual report and the report itself will be tabled along with the annual report."

The standing committee notes with concern that the Office of the Languages Commissioner's final report on its systemic investigation has not been made available to date.

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner indicates that one of her office's planned activities for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was to "Finalize and publish the systemic investigation procedures," and that the office will "assess and review our practices for lessons learned."

The standing committee notes that the Languages Commissioner has not made her office's updated procedures concerning systemic investigations available to the public to date.

During her recent appearance before the standing committee, during its November 24-25, 2015, televised hearing, the Languages Commissioner also stated that:

"Some of our projects have had to be postponed due to staffing issues, as well as the focus on trying to complete the systemic investigation. If you can imagine that 51 interviews of half an hour and trying to pull quotes just from those interviews alone, and the research that was done trying to create expectation standards of language services for multilingual services. We were actually quite overwhelmed by the level of work by the systemic investigation."

The standing committee notes with concern that the office's workload associated with its systemic investigation of the Qikiqtani General Hospital exceeded the capacity of its staff and that, as a result, a number of the office's planned activities could not be completed.

In her 2013-2014 annual report, the Languages Commissioner indicates that one of her office's planned activities for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was to hold "Meetings every two months with the French coordinators of the GN's Interdepartmental French Working Group," in order to have a "better understanding of the status of the implementation of French language rights in territorial institutions," but that "this activity was postponed until September 2014."

During the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, hearing Members asked a number of questions concerning the reasons for this postponement. In response, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

"What happened was the investigator/researcher for the French language was the main person working on the systemic investigation. So that took her away from some of the activities that we had hoped for her to take part in. Now that the systemic investigation is complete, she has resumed her regular duties, as of [today]."

The standing committee notes with concern that staff vacancies in the Office of the Languages Commissioner has been an ongoing issue for a number of years.

During the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, televised hearing, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

"I don't know why we can't fill the positions. Right now, we have three positions open. One is a communications officer. They are advertised for three weeks and once it is closed, we have to re-advertise it because of no applicants."

It is important to acknowledge that the office's systemic investigation of the Qikiqtani General Hospital marks the first investigation of its kind to be undertaken by the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

However, the standing committee has observed that the Office of the Languages Commissioner may not have had the necessary strategic direction or resources to undertake this systemic investigation and, as a result, faced ongoing challenges related to staff and capacity throughout the three years that the investigation was taking place.

The standing committee notes that the delay in the presentation of the Languages Commissioner's annual reports, and subsequent tabling of these reports in the Legislative Assembly, creates confusion as to the actual date of completion of a number of the office's activities, such as the final report on the office's systemic investigation. The standing committee emphasises the importance of providing clear and timely accounts of the office's activities and related timelines when presenting an annual report.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #5**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Languages Commissioner provide in her response to this report a detailed timeline in which her office will produce and present to the Speaker her 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 annual reports to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Languages Commissioner produce and present to the Speaker a full and final report on her office's systemic investigation of the Qikiqtani General Hospital to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Languages Commissioner provide a detailed timeline in which she will produce and present to the Speaker a full and final report on her office's systemic investigation of the Qikiqtani General Hospital to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Languages Commissioner provide in her response to this report a detailed timeline by which her office will publish its updated procedures on conducting systemic investigations.

**Issue: Mandate of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit**

Section 16 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that:

- (1) It is the duty of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to expand the knowledge and expertise available with respect to the Inuit Language, and to consider and make decisions about Inuit Language use, development and standardization under this Act.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit shall
  - (a) develop, through consideration of the oral traditions and usage, diversity and modern needs of the Inuit Language, standardized terminology or expressions in the Inuit Language;
  - (b) publish, promote and maintain a database of all the standardized terminology or expressions in the Inuit Language;
  - (c) develop and publish competency levels or standards of Inuit Language use or correctness, including with respect to any dialect of the Inuit Language in local use;
  - (d) on receiving a request from the Minister, the Languages Commissioner or an organization, consider proposed terminology, expressions, documents, standards, competency levels or communications in the Inuit Language and provide recommendations in response; and
  - (e) establish and administer, in accordance with applicable law, an award program to recognize outstanding achievement by an organization or individual in implementing the requirements of this Act or in contributing to the development, promotion or protection of the Inuit Language.
- (3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit shall undertake and supervise research to support the work and performance of its duties, and shall
  - (a) document and preserve traditional or historic terminology, regional variants or dialects, expressions and accounts of the Inuit Language;
  - (b) identify research requirements and deficiencies relating to the use, development, learning, linguistic structure, vitality or standardization of the Inuit Language;
  - (c) undertake or supervise and publish research to address the requirements and overcome the deficiencies identified;
  - (d) promote quality, coherence, balance, accessibility and the avoidance of duplication in the research;

- (e) share information with an organization, academic institution or individual, within or outside Nunavut, with the objective of expanding the available knowledge about and expertise in the Inuit Language, language development or standardization more generally; and
  - (f) undertake or supervise research that the Minister or Executive Council may request.
- (4) Without limiting the generality of subsections (1) and (3), the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit may collaborate with, promote or contribute to the work of an organization, academic institution or individual capable of expanding the knowledge and expertise available with respect to the Inuit Language, or supporting the work or any special projects of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.
- (5) The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit may
- (a) designate standard terminology, expressions, orthography, language or usage in the Inuit Language for (i) use by an organization or in an area of activity to which this Act and the regulations apply, and (ii) the communications of a department of the Government of Nunavut or public agency;
  - (b) direct a department of the Government of Nunavut or public agency to implement standard terminology, expressions, orthography or another standard language or usage in the Inuit Language that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has recommended; and
  - (c) undertake or supervise additional projects consistent with the duties of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit that the Minister or Executive Council may request.

Section 17 of the Inuit Language Protection Act provides that:

- (1) In order to perform its duties under this Act, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit may
- (a) establish committees composed wholly or partly of its members, under the terms and conditions that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit considers appropriate;
  - (b) conduct the reviews, hearings or meetings and receive the submissions or reports that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit considers appropriate;
  - (c) develop, review, recommend or administer surveys or tests that evaluate Inuit Language proficiency for purposes including the certification of an individual's educational or employment skill or competency level in the Inuit Language;
  - (d) collaborate with an organization, the Languages Commissioner and any other person exercising powers or having duties under this Act;
  - (e) index or publish information concerning any matter within the authority of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit; and

- (f) advise or submit reports or recommendations to the Minister at its own initiative, concerning any matter within the authority of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.
- (2) Subject to this Act, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit may establish rules and procedures
- (a) applying to the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, or to the Minister or Government of Nunavut or to organizations dealing with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit; and
  - (b) governing the work, priorities and business of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and the manner in which its duties will be exercised and its powers will be performed.
- (3) Rules and procedures established under subsection (2) are not statutory instruments or regulations within the meaning of the *Statutory Instruments Act*.

It is important to acknowledge that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has made efforts to demonstrate in its 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 annual reports the manner in which its activities during these periods of time have allowed it to fulfil a number of its duties and powers, as mandated under sections 16 and 17 of the Inuit Language Protection Act, respectively.

However, the standing committee notes that an ongoing concern has been the extent to which the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has been successful in promoting its role, activities, plans and the availability of its resources throughout the territory, despite efforts to collaborate with the Offices of the Languages Commissioner and the Minister of Languages to raise public awareness on the division of roles between each entity.

Testimony provided during the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015 hearing indicated that:

"There are various language entities and we know there's confusion. Some concerns are expressed to the Languages Commissioner, even though it's our responsibility. Due to the confusion by the public, a couple of years ago, we developed a poster to define and publicize the roles and responsibilities of the Languages Commissioner, the Minister of Languages, and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, and to indicate the differences between the roles and responsibilities of these three language entities. We provided that poster to the public."

In its 2014-2015 annual report, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit indicated that it had provided assistance to a number of departments and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation in reviewing and developing terminology in the Inuit language.



The standing committee recognizes that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit may decide to publish developed material and resources jointly with a department, public agency, or organization with which the authority develops such publications. However, given that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is statutorily mandated to publish, promote and maintain a database of all the standardized terminology or expressions in the Inuit language, the standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the authority makes any materials and resources that it has developed publicly available on a permanent basis.

Testimony provided during the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, hearing indicated that:

"As we indicated earlier, we are compiling this database of terminology. We're currently working on the website and we have requested Pirurvik to put the website together. Once we have compiled the terminology, we are going to make it available to the public and to the people of Nunavut as soon as it's completed."

The standing committee recognizes the importance of providing online resources such as databases, publications and language training materials. However, during the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, hearing, Members raised concerns that not all residents of Nunavut may have easy access to the internet and that these individuals should not be restricted from accessing such important resources and materials.

It is important to acknowledge that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has made efforts to communicate its roles and activities to the communities during meetings that it holds in various communities.

Testimony provided during the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, hearing indicated that:

"When we go to the communities, we usually go on the local radio station to talk about our roles and responsibilities as the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. If anyone wants further information, they can call our office. We try to provide all that information when we go to the communities."

The standing committee recognizes that travel to communities within Nunavut often involves high costs related to transportation and accommodation. However, the standing committee emphasizes the importance of providing information on, and access to, the entities responsible for the administration of the territory's language legislation to communities, to ensure that the public is aware of their rights and obligations and the resources that are available to individuals and organizations regarding language services.

## **Standing Committee Recommendation #6**

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit begin the practice of including in its annual reports, beginning with its 2015-2016 annual report, a detailed account of its activities and plans to publicize its roles and the resources that it may provide.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit provide, in its response to this report, a detailed account of the information that is included in its terminology database.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it will launch its website.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit establish procedures pursuant to subsection 17(2) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to provide departments and organizations with clear direction on the process by which entities may request and receive assistance from the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit.

**Issue: Travel of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit**

In its 2014-2015 annual report, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit indicates that representatives of the authority participated in a number of conferences and meetings during the 2014-2015 fiscal year in order to identify research needs and gaps relating to the Inuit language, including an Inuit studies conference in Quebec City and a meeting with the language secretariat of Greenland in Nuuk, Greenland.

During the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, hearing, Members asked a number of questions regarding the specific research initiatives and outcomes of the meeting that took place in Nuuk, Greenland. In response, testimony provided indicated that:

“They went over there to do fact-finding, but sometime in the future, we believe that if we have to travel to a conference, we want to take from them and also provide something to them. That’s one of the areas we want to improve upon because this was not set up properly due to a high turnover of our staff... In the future, we would like to get further information from other meetings and do some fact-finding and provide our information to them and give our position to them.”

The standing committee recognizes that the field of Inuit language studies may be considered relatively new and that accumulating a comprehensive library on current and developing research initiatives related to the Inuit language may require the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to pursue partnerships and consultations outside of Nunavut, nationally and internationally.

The standing committee also recognizes that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is an arm’s length body and has the mandate to make decisions regarding Inuit language use, development and standardization independently of the government's administration. However, given that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit operates entirely on contribution funding provided by the Government of Nunavut, the standing committee maintains that the authority must provide the highest level of transparency possible when disclosing the purpose and outcome of its expenditures.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #7**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit begin the practice of including in its annual reports, beginning with its 2015-2016 annual report, detailed accounts of its activities, expenditures and plans in relation to travel.

**Issue: Annual Reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit**

It is important to acknowledge that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit provided in its 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 annual reports a list of activities that it had undertaken and resources that it had developed during these periods of time. However, the standing committee observed that these annual reports did not provide detailed information on the timelines in which these resources were developed, how these resources were distributed throughout the territory, or the authority's future plans to use its resources to fulfil its mandate.

For example, the standing committee observed that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit did not provide in its most recent annual reports detailed information on how it plans to distribute, use and record the results of the surveys that it had developed.

In its 2013-2014 annual report, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit indicated that it had "developed a comprehensive language use survey that can be conducted with Inuktit speakers in government, private businesses and the general public."

In its 2013-2014 annual report, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit also indicated that:

"A dialectal attitudes survey was developed to research the attitudes of Inuktit speaking teachers across Nunavut. This survey can also be used to assess dialectal attitudes among employees in the government and the private sector, interpreters and translators, youth and the general public."

However, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit did not provide in its 2013-2014 annual report any further clarification on whether these surveys were distributed or conducted.

In fact, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit did not provide in its 2014-2015 annual report any follow-up on its "language use survey" or its "dialectal attitudes survey."

The standing committee notes that the mandate of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit includes identifying research requirements and deficiencies relating to the use, development, and standardisation of the Inuit Language.

While the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has indicated that it had developed surveys concerning the use and development of the Inuit language, the standing committee remains concerned that the authority did not provide further information in its annual reports to clarify the manner in which these surveys would be, or have been, used to produce research results on the use of the Inuit language.

During its November 23-24, 2015, televised hearings, testimony provided did clarify the status of these two surveys. Testimony provided during the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, televised hearing indicated that:

"In the report, it states that the survey questionnaire has been completed on the language use in the government, private businesses, and the general public. The questionnaire has been drafted, but we haven't initiated the survey. I believe that we will start off with the government employees and which language they use in the workplace according to their roles, responsibilities, and duties. The questionnaire has already been drafted and I believe that we will start off with the government employees."

In response to questions concerning the "dialectal attitudes survey," testimony provided during the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, hearing indicated that:

"I've done surveys with the teachers and we will do a survey with the government. Employees, private interpreter/translators, the general public and the private sector and we'll use various means to get survey perhaps use Survey Monkey and use the fax survey, although the survey questionnaire are the exact same. We'll provide an opportunity to the public or other entities so that they can use any means that they like, whether it would be computer or fax."

The standing committee also notes with concern that the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 annual reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit were not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until November 5, 2015.

The standing committee emphasises that, as a publicly-funded entity, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit must be held to the same standard that any other territorial institution or public agency is expected to meet in relation to reporting standards. To ensure transparency in the allocation of public funds, the annual reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit should provide, to the greatest extent possible, comprehensive information on its completed, ongoing, and planned initiatives.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #8**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit begin the practice of including in its annual reports, beginning with its 2015-2016 annual report, more comprehensive information on its activities, publications, priorities and future plans.

**Issue: Language Proficiency Assessment in the Public Service**

In its 2014-2015 annual report, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit indicated the following:

“Taiguusiliuqtiit has collaborated with the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Pirurvik Centre on developing Inuktitut competency levels for the government’s proposed language incentive.”

In response to Member’s questions concerning this “proposed language incentive,” testimony provided during the standing committee’s November 24-25, 2015 televised hearing indicated that:

“There have been a lot of concerns about the government bilingual bonus and we hear about this issue. That’s why we’re working on the competency levels so that we can identify which stage an employee is at. Although some of us can speak Inuktitut, some of us can’t work on the written component of it, and there are different levels of proficiency.

Once we find out that a certain level of Inuktitut proficiency has been reached by an employee and once they have learned, then according to the level of Inuktitut, a bonus will be given. This could happen over a period of a year or more. There are incentives we are trying to provide so that people will take Inuktitut language training that can be reflected in their pay.

Their level of proficiency will determine which pay level they would be at. That is how we would like to set it up...

We will work with the Department of Finance to determine how many staff work within the government that are eligible for the bilingual bonus and once all of this work is complete, our goal is to make sure we provide incentives for employees to take more training.”

In its 2014-2015 annual report, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit also indicated the following:

“A preliminary language assessment test was developed to evaluate the language skills of employees and, where necessary, to help pace them in an Inuktitut training program.”

During the standing committee's November 24-25, 2015, televised hearings, Members asked a number of questions concerning this "preliminary language assessment test." In response, testimony provided indicated that:

"We just completed the assessment on the Quttiktuq language ... If we need to make an improvement on the assessment test, we will do so because we will have to do assessments on the government staff. I'm talking about the North Baffin dialects.

We will change the dialect and develop another assessment test on the South Baffin dialects and Inuinnaqtun. Those will be next. Next year, this will be set and we will expand our assessment test to other regions for different dialects. At this time, we just initiated the work and we haven't started the assessment test on the public. We just did an assessment test yesterday on our staff and we will do more work on that."

While the standing committee agrees with the intent and spirit of a language incentive for the territorial public service that is based on adequate assessment, it is important to consider the variance amongst various regional Inuit language dialects throughout the territory.

It is also important to note that an ongoing concern for employers in Nunavut's public and private sectors is the apparent lack of professionals that are qualified to educate and conduct assessments in the Inuit language. The standing committee notes that the establishment of a new language incentive based on an assessed proficiency of the Inuit language may require a number of specific positions responsible for undertaking assessments of a number of current and new employees on an ongoing basis.

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #9**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit provide, in its response to this report, a detailed account of the proficiency assessments that it is currently developing and planning to develop in collaboration with the Government of Nunavut, including information on the specific dialects that will be focused on in the development of these assessments.

**The standing committee recommends that** the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it will complete these proficiency assessments.

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #10**

**The standing committee recommends that** the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it plans to complete and implement its new language proficiency incentive.

**The standing committee further recommends that** the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed account of any Inuit language training programs and assessments that will be developed and implemented in association with its new language proficiency incentive.