



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**4th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 33**

**Tuesday, May 31, 2016**

**Pages 1828 – 1874**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

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

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

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

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

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

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

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

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

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

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

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

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

**Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**David Joanasie**  
(South Baffin)

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

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

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, May 31, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickee, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Tony Akoak will not be here today.

Further, I will say this statement in English.

**Speaker's Statement**

(interpretation ends) Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to make a brief statement.

I am pleased to announce that nominations reopen today for the Order of Nunavut.

The Order of Nunavut is the highest honour of our territory.

A total of 12 individuals have received the Order of Nunavut to date for their contributions in such fields as public and community service, the arts, education, language promotion, spiritual leadership, and business development.

Nomination forms are available from the offices of Members of the Legislative Assembly and can be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

This year's nominations close on Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

Investiture ceremonies will take place later this year.

On behalf of the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, I encourage all Nunavummiut to consider submitting a nomination.

We will now proceed to the orders of the day. (interpretation) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mike.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 103 – 4(3):  
Development of the Nunavut  
Permafrost Databank**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and the people of Pangnirtung, residents of my community. Good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform members of the Nunavut

Permafrost Databank recently completed by my department.

A great deal of national research funding is going into studying permafrost in Nunavut across numerous academic organizations, (interpretation ends) but often the results of this work are difficult to find and are spread across many locations. Permafrost data is important to decision-making in Nunavut because it informs infrastructure development and community land use planning. Increased permafrost thaw has major implications to our built infrastructure and we need to ensure we are planning for this.

(interpretation) To provide this information to Nunavummiut, we have developed the Nunavut Permafrost Databank as a central location to store permafrost data for all of Nunavut. (interpretation ends) This databank has been developed on a user-friendly, Google Maps interface so that users may visually explore permafrost projects by their location across the territory. The data is also freely available to anyone and includes information on temperature, depth, and type of permafrost. As more permafrost data is shared and made available, Nunavummiut can be better prepared to plan for changes.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Permafrost Databank is one of several new resources that we have developed this year to make climate change resources more available to Nunavummiut. These resources are available online on the Nunavut Climate Change Centre website. My department is committed to continuing to support community resiliency by creating useful adaptation resource to deal with the

impacts of climate change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Minister's Statement 104 – 4(3): Nunavut Land Referendum**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide background information and a statement on the land referendum which was held on May 9, 2016. This referendum was a result of Article 14 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA) which sets the framework on how municipal lands can be administered in the territory.

As the plebiscite authority, the Department of Community and Government Services conducted the public awareness campaign to educate Nunavummiut on the implications of a "yes" or "no" vote while remaining neutral. Public meetings were held in each community and information was distributed through the media, promotional materials, advertisements, public service announcements, and the land referendum website at [www.landreferendum.gov.nu.ca](http://www.landreferendum.gov.nu.ca).

Elections Nunavut conducted the voting community by community and the results show that Nunavummiut speak with one voice on this issue. The overall result was 83 percent for "no," which is almost identical to the results of the 1995 referendum. With the "no" vote, municipal lands in the territory will



continue to be leased as with the current system.

The Department of Community and Government Services believes that community decisions should be made at the community level. Each community now will follow the *Plebiscites Act*, which determines that there must be a five-year waiting period before another vote can occur. In the meantime, CGS will do what it has always done and that is to support the communities.

In the period leading up to the vote, there was a lot of discussion in the media. Some people said that CGS was attempting to download its responsibilities for municipal lands administration to the municipal councils. I need to correct this misconception. My department will continue to support municipal lands administration to build more capacity. If any given community feels it is ready to do another vote, CGS will uphold the principle of *Piliriqatigiinniq/Ikajuqtigiinniq*: Working together for a common cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 105 – 4(3):  
Support for Fort McMurray**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the people of Fort McMurray, Alberta. As we all know, the area has been devastated in recent weeks

by forest fires and more than 80,000 residents were displaced.

Mr. Speaker, our government has responded to this emergency by contributing \$25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross to help those directly affected.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pillar of *Sivumut Abluqta* to keep families healthy and build resilient communities. In times of great need, our community extends beyond our territory's borders. On behalf of Nunavut, I'm pleased to help the greater Canadian community and provide aid to those families that were displaced.

Nunavut has a history of helping those in times of great distress. Nunavut responded to the calls for help following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. As well, we assisted during the Nepal earthquake in 2015 and the Syrian refugee crisis in September of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Protection Services has also contacted the Alberta Emergency Management Agency to offer any logistic or administrative supports we may have available.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit societal values teach us to serve and provide for family and community. On behalf of all Nunavummiut, I extend our thoughts to all those in Fort McMurray. Stay safe and strong; we are with you in spirit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 106 – 4(3):  
Sisimiut, Greenland**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and residents of my community. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with representatives from Nunavut Arctic College, visited Sisimiut from May 12 to 15, 2016 to meet with Tech College Greenland (KTI) and Knud Rasmussen Højskole (KRH) to work towards increasing exchanges between students and staff.

This visit and its very helpful discussions are an excellent example of the increased contact and mutual assistance that are intended to flow from the memorandum of understanding on cooperation signed by our two governments in October 2000.

On August 28, 2012, the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Greenland further recognized our shared elements of history and geographical development and to facilitate cultural and artistic initiatives and exchange programs for artists, youth, and other cultural ambassadors.

Mr. Speaker, two separate memorandums of understanding were signed during this recent visit. These MOUs will build on sharing of information and practical experience between Greenland and Nunavut. The MOUs are between Nunavut Arctic

College (Piqqusilirivvik) and Knud Rasmussenip Højskolia (KRH) on culture and Nunavut Arctic College (Trades Training) and Tech College Greenland (KTI) on trades.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College's Piqqusilirivvik and trades training centre along with Greenland's Knud Rasmussenip Højskolia and Tech College (KTI) have agreed in working towards increasing staff and student exchanges. This great endeavour aligns with *Sivumut Abluqta's* priority on education and training. The opportunities in education between our schools will give both governments a skilled and engaged workforce that will help develop and grow as circumpolar citizens in a globalized economy.

We are looking forward to collaborating with all parties involved, further enhancing the smooth transition of exchanges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 107 – 4(3):  
Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide my colleagues with an update on the progress of the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable.

I co-chair the roundtable with the Government of Manitoba Minister of Indigenous and Municipal Relations, Eileen Clarke. I look forward to working with her at the next meeting, which will be held in Rankin Inlet in September. We will be working to move forward on the memorandum of understanding signed by the governments of Manitoba and Nunavut last year.

Four resolutions were passed during the last meeting in Churchill, Manitoba. These meetings occurred in February 2016. These resolutions called for strategies to gain access to federal funding, additional work on the winter road project, enhanced work to promote regional initiatives, and the revival of a regional waste management and waste reduction initiative.

A priority initiative for the roundtable is the advancement of a potential hydroelectric landline and fibre optic cable, which has been identified as a project of national significance because of its potential impact on culture, trade, transportation, energy, and partnerships. This project needs the support of the Government of Canada to proceed to the next phase. We are hoping that the Hon. Hunter Tootoo, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and MP for Nunavut, and the Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, will attend the meetings and help bring the discussions to Ottawa.

The Department of Community and Government Services will work with the partners and the Kivalliq Inuit Association in taking action on this project. The potential benefits for development have been discussed many

times. The next step is to facilitate cooperation between the stakeholders so that the discussions can lead to measurable results for our two regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

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

#### **Member's Statement 231 – 4(3): Recent Death of a 74 year-old Woman in Arctic Bay**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavummiut and my colleagues, welcome, as well as those watching the proceedings, especially the residents of my community.

I rise today to speak about grieving as I, too, was personally impacted by the loss members may already be aware of. Every year, most communities enjoy the balmy weather in the spring by holding fishing derbies throughout Nunavut. While our community was holding a fishing derby, an accident occurred resulting in an elder passing away.

The elder who passed away was 74 years old, two years younger than my age of 76, and she was one of our closest relatives, as our ancestors are related. Today, I wish to express my empathy for her lovely children and grandchildren, some of whom felt that she was their actual mother and not a grandmother.

This woman also assisted many of her community residents and she was quite vocal in expressing her opinions on

many matters, but that is the way she was. She provided assistance in this manner.

Unfortunately, she was struck by a sled. Although this is a tragic episode to speak about, we have to pass along the news. She was hit and run over by a sled. Although she lived for a few more days in Ottawa, she passed on due to her injuries. Today, I believe the burial will take place tomorrow as they are awaiting family members to arrive to our community.

Since this event occurred, I had to rise to speak about grieving the loss of loved ones in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 232 – 4(3):  
Congratulations to Kugaaruk's  
2016 High School Graduates**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I wish to state that all of us occasionally go through hardship while some people experience good times as these are all part of our daily lives and which we will experience eventually.

The matter I want to speak to is something I take pride in and although my colleague just spoke to an unfortunate incident that occurred, it takes place at the same time as this event that is a momentous occasion for our community. We have to try to be optimistic in our communities.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my congratulations to the 2016 Graduating Class of the Kugaardjuk Iihakvik.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, education and lifelong learning are the keys to future success. Our young people have worked hard to complete high school. This achievement will give them even greater opportunities to succeed in life and to take on the responsibilities of leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the success of:

Dennis Alakannuark (Kamikpak);  
Elsa Inutuinak (Nimiq);  
Kristen Ittimangnak (Kanayuk);  
Shannon Kayaitok (Okpikalik);  
Suzanne Krejunark (Upluriaq);  
Charles Niptayuk (Makittuq);  
Shania Nirlungayuk (Ulluruaq); and  
Mary Ann Qayutinuak (Qakuqtinniq).

I would also like to recognize the support of the parents and families of these graduates and their teachers. They, too, play an important role in helping our young people reach their goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 233 – 4(3):  
Senate Committee Visit to  
Sanikiluaq**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Legislative Assembly about the recent visit to Sanikiluaq by the Senate of Canada's Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.

Mr. Speaker, as you know from its recent visit to your community of Igloolik, the Senate committee has been undertaking a comprehensive study of housing in the north.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate committee's visit to Sanikiluaq took place on April 21.

Along with Mayor Elijassie Sala and representatives from the local housing organization, I had the opportunity to meet with the Senate committee to discuss the many challenges that we face in Nunavut with respect to housing.

Mr. Speaker, as part of its visit to Sanikiluaq, the committee toured the community and had a first-hand exposure to the housing conditions in which residents live.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank and acknowledge the chair of the committee as well as the deputy chair of the committee, Dennis Patterson, our own Nunavut Senator, for spearheading this important work, and I very much look forward to the committee making its recommendations to the federal government later this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that as many federal parliamentarians as possible have the opportunity to experience first hand the housing challenges in the north.

I was pleased to see that the members of the Senate committee clearly recognized

and acknowledged the magnitude of the investments that will be required to significantly increase the housing stock in Nunavut, reduce overcrowding, and address such issues as mould infestation.

Mr. Speaker, officials from the Nunavut Housing Corporation testified before the Senate committee on March 23 of this year, shortly after the adjournment of our winter sitting.

For the benefit of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, I encourage the minister to table a copy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's presentation in this House before the end of our current spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 234 – 4(3):  
Congratulations to Grandson  
Terrence Taparti**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to state how proud I am of one of my grandchildren.

First of all, good afternoon to the people of Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour, members, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I have a grandson who is 16 years of age now and he usually travels out with junior cadets and takes part during their travels.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I'm so proud is the fact that last winter 14 cadets were selected in Canada to take part in Winnipeg. As it turned out, my grandchild was the only individual from

Nunavut to be selected for the competition for the cadets in the south.

While he was down at the competition, my grandson named Terrence Taparti placed in the top ranks of the competitors. Due to this fact, since my grandson was one of the best competitors, the 14 cadets who partook ended up with seven cadets being chosen for this competition. This was related to parachuting, I believe, that will occur in July.

Since my grandson was one of the chosen cadets and he placed in the top ranks and as the only competitor from Nunavut, I wanted to express my pride in his accomplishments and to share my happiness in his ability and willingness to learn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and Nunavummiut to congratulate my grandson for being one of the winners at the competition. This also means that my grandson will be able to undertake activities that he takes joy in and this will occur in July. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 235 – 4(3):  
Kimmirut Kamik-making**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back. I send my regards to all those who are listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to share my pride in the great success of the kamik-making project, which took place in Kimmirut this past winter. In the fall of 2015, six lucky women were selected to take part in the five-month kamik-making program.

Mr. Speaker, five months of kamik-making takes a lot of dedication and commitment, yet it was a goal achieved by those six Kimmirut ladies, each of whom completed their very own pair of sealskin kamiik.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally congratulate each of the participants:

- Lysee Itulu;
- Levena Utye;
- Oleepeeka Padluq;
- Kayla Nutarasungnik;
- Padluk Judea; and
- Ningeorapik Kolola.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give thanks to the two elder instructors, Jeannie Padluq and Annie Ikkidluak, for providing instructions and guidance to the women who participated in this project.

Mr. Speaker, I would finally like to acknowledge and thank Monica Gardner for coordinating this project, the [Ilisaqsivik] Society in Clyde River for providing materials, and the Department of Culture and Heritage for funding this project. I would like to thank each and every one of them.

I also would like to see similar projects taking place in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 236 – 4(3):  
Support Rankin Inlet's Elders**

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok**  
(interpretation): Good day, my fellow residents of Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I continue to rise in this House to address the needs and rights of Rankin Inlet's elders to receive adequate and appropriate care in their home community, close to their families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that our government faces many conflicting demands for space, services, funding, and resources. I also recognize that many jurisdictions across Canada face similar capacity issues when it comes to ensuring that the long-term care needs of residents are provided for.

However, I remain committed to lobbying for local residential long-term care for Rankin Inlet's elders within the community of Rankin Inlet. A significant number of Rankin Inlet residents have already been sent away from home to receive care. They miss their home and their families miss them.

A further ten to twelve individuals are approaching the stage where their families will no longer be able to provide the level of care they need.

Mr. Speaker, with over twenty Rankin Inlet elders requiring residential [long-

term] care in the very near future, the economic, practical, and compassionate step would be to ensure that such care is available in the community of Rankin Inlet.

I once again strongly urge the government to give more priority to considering the feasibility of opening a residential long-term care facility in the community of Rankin Inlet as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 237 – 4(3):  
Wishing a Happy Spring to  
Nunavut Residents**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Springtime is good weather usually in most places, 24-hour sunlight in some parts of Nunavut, enjoying our beautiful land. When springtime arrives, we enjoy our beautiful land and spending time with our families and neighbours.

Mr. Speaker, coming from the most western community in Nunavut, which is three time zones away, our traditions are much like many other communities throughout Nunavut.

When I was growing up, we travelled by dog team. Travelling in springtime by dog team was exciting but a lot of hard work. When the ice was deteriorating, (interpretation) leads and shore cracks (interpretation ends) were ever-present.

Mr. Speaker, riding on a qamutik meant that you were always getting wet.

Mr. Speaker, today, travels to your tent or cabin by snowmobile in the springtime is faster and much more comfortable. Mr. Speaker, in some communities, folks can go to their spring camp on a four-wheeler or even by truck.

Many things have changed from when I was young, by travelling by dog team, but one thing hasn't changed throughout all these years. Mr. Speaker, the one thing that has not changed is our love for our outdoors, our love for the springtime, and our love for our traditions and our culture with the new season of spring coming on.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to wish all Nunavummiut, the members and staff of this House a very safe spring season right across our beautiful land of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 238 – 4(3):  
Successful Polar Bear Hunts**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back to the House.

I, too, wish to speak about celebrations our communities hold, especially when young men caught their first polar bear, including young people and even small children who would shoot the animal.

Now, in my own nuclear family, I have grandchildren who are included in the group of youth who harvested their first polar bear. My male grandchildren range from the youngest of about 8 years old to the oldest being 18 years of age. I take care of one of my grandsons and he is now 14 years old. Most of the siblings have caught their own polar bears and I wanted to voice my pleasure in his accomplishment.

Based on my own experiences when I shot my first caribou, my father and I were hunting via dog team around this time of year when caribou are calving. My father allowed me to shoot a caribou from the dog team. I have never forgotten that experience and due to that reason, my grandchildren are a focal source of pride to me, along with other young people throughout Nunavut who have harvested their first animal.

It is a very important cultural practice to have youth harvest their first animals and hunting in general. This is still part of our lifestyle. Due to that reason, I take tremendous pride when youth are able to harvest their first catch. I include all youth in Nunavut who have done so, particularly this grandson whom I call "the grandson."

He harvested a polar bear before his oldest brother. His older brother's name was drawn for a polar bear tag. When I informed him that his older brother's name had been drawn, he just stated, "I have already caught a polar bear," and that was his only response.

I wanted to express my happiness over this practice as we still utilize it up here. I extend my congratulations to all youth



who harvested their first animal. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Member's Statement 239 – 4(3):  
Appreciation for Support  
Provided During Medical Leave**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish Nunavummiut a good day again, actually a good afternoon, including my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start with the reason for rising today. I wish to voice my appreciation to my colleague and fellow ministerial member and extend my thanks to Minister Mike, who assumed my role while I was away this winter. He was appointed to my role while I was absent and he assumed many responsibilities for which I greatly thank him for, including his officials and staff, as this was a rather heavy responsibility that he was able to undertake. Mr. Speaker, I extend my gratitude for his assistance along with his officials.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my hard-working staff and the department staff. It is through their efforts as well that I will be able to proudly update my colleagues in this session on the initiatives that my department is undertaking.

In closing, I am expressing my heartfelt gratitude to my other colleagues, (interpretation) to members present here,

and particularly my constituents of Whale Cove and Arviat. This includes all Nunavummiut who kept me in their thoughts and (interpretation ends) for their well-wishes and support during my time away for medical reasons.

Mr. Speaker, today, I am very happy to return to work and look forward to a productive spring session. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 240 – 4(3):  
Cabinet Meeting in Constituency**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my gratitude and to voice my appreciation to those who partook. This spring, the Executive Council travelled to my constituency community of Clyde River to hold meetings. I wish to extend my appreciation to all members, especially to our Premier.

We received a tremendous welcome in Clyde River and the ministers were welcomed into the community for their meetings. I am proud that the cabinet selected Clyde River to hold their meetings and this applies to all ministers who were at the meeting.

Nonetheless, I wanted to clarify this one point. It was unfortunate that we could not complete our work prior to leaving the community. The Executive Council did not complete their work while meeting in the community.

I think we are all aware that residents of our communities are usually quite ecstatic to greet visitors to their communities, especially leaders of various organizations, and they welcome the visitors. Many residents want to meet the leaders, as they are proud of their visitation to their community.

Now, we dealt with an unfortunate situation with the weather, as the forecast stated inclement weather would arrive the next day, and it led to a hasty conclusion of the meeting. They didn't complete their meetings in the community, although the community was informed about the number of days they would stay.

However, it was unfortunate that the community was informed of the length of the stay, but the group left early. As some residents regret early departures, it would be preferable not to have this happen when leaders travel to communities to meet, especially our government representatives here in Nunavut. They should complete their agenda prior to departing the community.

We cannot control the weather. We heard later that the weather improved shortly after. This was continually brought up. As hunters, most men tend to wait for weather to improve prior to departure. In my opinion, our leaders should also adopt this practice of awaiting weather to improve since we cannot control the weather. They should wait for the weather to improve prior to departing the community. That would have happened in the community.

The end result was they only met for one day. On behalf of my constituency

community of Clyde River, I voice their regrets, as I know they would have preferred the visitors to stay a bit longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 241 – 4(3):  
Happy Birthday to Jack Hanniliaq**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, when birthdays crop up or other events that are a source of pride, members tend to voice their well-wishes to their constituents.

I rise today to express my thoughts on this person living in Igloolik. Although he moved there from another area, he has spent many years in Igloolik and his name is Miquirniq, Jack Hanniliaq, who is celebrating a birthday today. He is originally from the Kitikmeot region from (interpretation ends) Contwoyto Lake, (interpretation) which is called *Tasirjuaq* in their dialect, if I am not mistaken. He was born in that area.

I believe that around the 1950s or '60s, many Inuit moved from those areas to work at the DEW line sites. This man moved to Igloolik when the (interpretation ends) DEW line (interpretation) radar installations were still being operated. He originally went to Hall Beach and moved to Igloolik and he has remained in Igloolik ever since that time. Perhaps he is around 80 plus years old now.

The reason why I refer to this man is that our elders, no matter where they come from, are to be honoured and appreciated. Due to the fact that our

elders did their utmost to survive, as their descendants, we are able to live today. I am always appreciative of our elders. As Nunavummiut, let us ensure we properly look after our elders by caring for them and to listen to their sage advice. I just wanted to reiterate this part.

On this elder's birthday, although he is not the only one celebrating a birthday today, let us show Miqqurniq our appreciation on his birthday. I ask my colleagues to extend birthday wishes to him. 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. Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 305 – 4(3): The Need for an Elders' Facility in Rankin Inlet

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier, who is also the Minister responsible for Seniors' Advocate.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will be aware, the issue of placement of our Kivalliq elders is of great concern to me. I am not the only one concerned. In April of this year, the Kivalliq Inuit Association sent a letter to the Premier with respect to the need for a palliative

care facility and elders facility in Rankin Inlet.

Can the Premier confirm that he did receive the April 26, 2016 letter from the Kivalliq Inuit Association regarding the need for a palliative care facility and elders facility in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as we're all aware, there's a major need for care of our seniors, our elders, and extended care facilities are needed throughout Nunavut. There's no doubt about that.

Mr. Speaker, I did receive the letter from the Kivalliq Inuit Association stating that there is a need for that among other things. I get many letters on these issues and that's one of the things that we talk about. Of course, this whole Assembly supported the motion that was put forth by the regular members on making sure that we start working on a process where we can start initiating some of these things that our seniors and elders need in extended care facilities, going from level 1 all the way up to level 4. These are in the process of being discussed.

As the member is well aware, there are two proposals that are well advanced. There's no doubt and this whole House supported the motion that was put forth by the regular members. As a government, the member is absolutely right that there's always a need for more funding, more priorities, and this is one of the priorities that I intend to see

moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that elder needs may be met by a number of different departments and services within Nunavut's government. Can the Premier describe in detail how he, as the Minister responsible for Seniors' Advocate, works with his cabinet colleagues and others to ensure that departments and agencies are working together to provide all the necessary services for our elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work is ongoing. There are discussions through our various departments, including my department. It is one of the things that were discussed during our cabinet retreat, both in 2014 during our retreat in Whale Cove and this recent retreat that we had in Clyde River/Iqaluit. Those are ongoing discussions. In fact, I don't want to get to the details of the processes that we're doing in cabinet. Once they're done and established, I'll surely let the House know about the progress on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Mr. Speaker, I have raised the need for an elders facility in Rankin Inlet for some time now. With

nine Rankin Inlet elders currently receiving care away from their home community and an additional ten or twelve Rankin Inlet elders whose families will soon not be able to provide the level of care they need, Rankin Inlet desperately needs its own elders care facility. Will the Premier commit to addressing this need as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we all need to work together on this, our departments, the Legislative Assembly, and our partners that are out there. We want to ensure that we get the best care possible for our seniors and elders that do need care.

Mr. Speaker, the member has been raising this question for a number of sessions and I understand where he and his folks from Rankin Inlet are coming from. We do need to pick up the pace to ensure that we have facilities to take care of our elders. We talk about care closer to home, not just within this government. We talked about this in this government, the previous government, and the governments before. We want care closer to home for our elders that do need the care that we should be providing.

As the saying goes, the level of the government's responsibility is always measured by how well they take care of their seniors, their elderly, and the folks that need more care.

Mr. Speaker, I will do my best with our partners to ensure that we work in getting the facilities that we do need for our seniors and elders all throughout the levels. Level 5 is one of the difficult situations that we face in Nunavut. We do need extra professional care when it comes to level 5, but we're aware of that. Mr. Speaker, we will certainly do our best with our partners to ensure that we move this file forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 306 – 4(3): Cabinet Retreat in Clyde River**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back. I would like to ask a question to the Premier about the meeting in Clyde River that the Member for Uqummiut spoke about.

I am very glad that they went to meet in a small community because we want to help the small communities. I would first like to ask the Premier: how many hours did they spend in Clyde River? 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 can certainly provide that once I get them in front of me.

There was a day that we spent there and there were unforeseen circumstances that prevailed. Mr. Speaker, we did complete our discussions once we got back here to

Iqaluit. As members are well aware, that took a bit of time because of the storms. The city was shut down for a number of days, so we did take the time to finish our retreat. It's sad to say that we had intended to finish our retreat in Clyde River, but under certain circumstances, we could not do that.

I will provide the number of the exact hours that he's requesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate that the weather controls us sometimes. You should spend more time because they pass. We didn't hear of anything that was discussed during the meeting. After meetings take place, the people who ran the meetings usually tell us about what happened. Can the Premier tell us what was decided or what was said at the meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly can speak about some points that we discussed. Mr. Speaker, there were letters of direction that went out to each minister. There were letters of direction that went out to deputy ministers. As a usual protocol after a retreat like that, there are directions for actions that are taken by departments through consensus style of governing of the cabinet.

There are a different number of things. I can't get into exact details of our discussions, but the member is well

aware, as he has taken parts in many retreats, of how the processes work. We decide what the action items are going to be. The letters of instruction go out to each minister, including our deputy ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have taken part in retreats and I explained what happened at the retreats. That's what seemed to be missing. I know they went to Clyde River and it was expensive to get there and to stay there for a short amount of time. How much did that trip to Clyde River cost? Can the Premier provide that to the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being an open and transparent Premier, of course, you will get the finances that cost to take that trip there. There are also many trips that other members have taken. There are many other trips that I have taken. We take these trips on behalf of Nunavummiut. We want to come up with the best action plan that is effective and that benefits Nunavummiut.

We want to ensure that whatever programs that may be out there in the federal government, we go after those programs and program money like any other responsible minister would do. We do not sit around here waiting for things to happen. We go out there and we try to access extra money that is out there. When it comes to health, we do that

constantly. When it comes to the economy and transportation, we do that constantly. We do have to invest our money to try to get back more benefits for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 307 – 4(3): Public Housing Allocation Process**

**Mr. Qirngnuq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and they concern the issue of the allocation process for public housing units.

As of today, how many people are on the public housing waiting list for the community of Kugaaruk? 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 apologize for the delay.

Mr. Speaker, right now, as of the latest information I have, there are 79 applications on the public housing waitlist. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of today, how many people are on the public housing waiting list for the community of Taloyoak? Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very similar number, the latest information I have is 76 is the number that are on the needs waitlist in Taloyoak. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, one of the recommendations in the Auditor General's 2008 report on the Nunavut Housing Corporation was that NHC should, and I quote, "clarify the appeal process for applicants and tenants who feel they have been treated unfairly, and clarify the internal corporate procedures for managing the appeal."

Can the minister clearly describe NHC's current appeals process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of avenues available to people to appeal. The first would be to their local LHO to appeal any allocation errors that they feel may have been done or any other restrictions that were put upon their application. There is a further appeal process that they can take that to the district office for a further appeal.

On occasion, under extraordinary circumstances, the appeal makes it up to my level. I do try to make sure that the local housing organization has the autonomy in place to be able to deal with local issues, and that is the intent of having LHOs in the communities and having community boards representing their populace in their own community. I don't like to interfere with community decisions, unless there's an actual rule or policy being broken, same with the district office staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 308 – 4(3): Government-wide Priorities and Reviews**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on the last day of our recent winter sitting, the Premier tabled the summary report on phase 1 of the current GN-wide review and operational audit of its programs. This report identified the capacity and capability of district education authorities as being a concern, and the report recommended that a comprehensive review of DEAs be conducted. When will this review begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are always some glitches when we're trying to get things done.

According to my briefing note, it says that it's forthcoming, but I will try to respond to and give the hon. member the information that he's requesting.

Mr. Speaker, I know the process is ongoing. We do have phase 1 completed. The process of giving more information and preparing action plans for phase 2 is still in the works. Once I have that information, I'll be happy to share it with the member and the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important to recognize that the government simply does not have an unlimited budget with which to increase funding for every single one of its programs. One of the key mandates of this review was to identify areas where the government could reduce spending in order to free up resources for higher priority areas.

The last O&M budget before the next general election will be introduced next year. Can the Premier indicate what specific programs are being considered for spending reductions or elimination? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as I have indicated, I'll be happy to provide the member and the House with the next phase of action items that we're looking at right at this point.

Mr. Speaker, we're always trying to find ways to save money. We're always trying to find ways to become more efficient. We're always trying to find ways to become more effective. We're trying to do this under the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate that we all did together. We want to make sure that we have wise use of our resources. That's one of the action items that we have been doing as a government.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 300 programs that we looked at. There are other arm's-length organizations that are under the government that we want to take a good, hard look at. Some of these might be impacted by the upcoming amendments to our *Education Act*. We want to be careful on how we progress forward, knowing we do want to find ways to become more efficient and effective in making sure that the government is spending and investing money with the best possible benefit for Nunavummiut.

I'll be happy to give the information to the member and the House once I have it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my final question, I welcome to the House Mr. and Ms. Simailak sitting right behind me.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary question on this will be, in response, the Premier indicates that he will be responding to my questions. Will he be



responding in writing and cc'ing all the respective DEAs that are involved in this initiative? 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 question. Mr. Speaker, I will be working very closely with my colleague, the Minister of Education, on some of the items that we're looking at. Of course, one of them is the DEAs. There are other organizations that I have mentioned, not in name, but there are other organizations that we're looking at and that's going to be done through phase 2. Once I have that information, I can either put it in writing or have a conversation with the hon. member and that way, I will be reporting to the House too with a report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 309 – 4(3): Kimmirut Airport**

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

Mr. Speaker, during our recent winter sitting, the minister tabled the *Nunavut Airports 20 Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment*.

As the minister is aware, Kimmirut's current airport terminal building is almost four decades old. The 20-year needs assessment report, which the

minister recently tabled, indicates that Kimmirut's airport terminal building "requires immediate replacement with a new building...until [a] new airport is constructed."

Can the minister update the House today on how her department is addressing this situation? 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 that question. On the subject of Kimmirut's runway and air terminal building, whenever we are going to be doing any project that requires construction dollars, we usually make a submission to have it included in the capital plans. The Kimmirut Airport Terminal Building has not been approved yet in the capital estimates, but when we're dealing with the capital plans, we will make sure that we make another submission.

We know that the Kimmirut Airport Terminal Building is 37 years old. We will make sure that our staff reviews what we can do and looks at whether we will be moving the airport. We don't want to build a new air terminal building when the airport might be relocated to another site. We have to look at all these avenues, but that's currently what we're doing at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Nunavut Airports 20 Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment* report clearly identifies a significant number of problems with the location of Kimmirut's current airport and clearly states that the appropriate mitigation strategy is relocation of the airport. The minister alluded to a strategy towards this project. Can the minister provide an update on how her department is approaching this? 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 the member for that question. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has recognized that the Kimmirut Airport no longer has the capacity to be extended any farther, at least in the present location. Our only future option in this regard is to move the airstrip if we are going to upgrade it. We know that is our only option as a department.

The member was copied in correspondence we sent in January outlining the challenges faced by the community related to the airstrip and the work required to undertake that in his constituency community of Kimmirut.

Perhaps most importantly, with respect to his question and the age of the infrastructure or terminal and if they were to renovate the terminal, it would be an expensive undertaking and it seems more practical to build a new terminal, as the costs would be roughly

equivalent. We feel that would be a better option.

In order to work towards that goal, my staff has started researching the requirements related to the portability of the new terminal if we are building a new terminal, as we don't want to have it left behind when the airstrip is relocated. They are looking at a building that could be moved. To date, I believe they have found a mobile unit that could be used in the interim prior to relocation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit's new airport is being constructed as a P3 project. Is this an option for Kimmirut? 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 his suggestion in that regard. Nevertheless, Iqaluit's new airport terminal is in another category, as it is extremely expensive around the \$300 million range.

With respect to the situation in Kimmirut, we expect that it would be less expensive and we have discussed a range of options. Similar to the situation in Pangnirtung where relocation of the airport is being discussed, we anticipate the costs to be approximately \$50

million for the Kimmirut Airport relocation.

As per your reference to Iqaluit, the airport here is being constructed as a P3 project and we haven't explored this option for the Kimmirut Airport issues to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 310 – 4(3): Iqaluit Marine Facility**

**Ms. Angnakak:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. First before I start, I want to say “happy birthday” to my sister. She is celebrating her special day today.

My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I'll keep her on the hot seat.

During our recent winter sitting, the Legislative Assembly voted to approve \$5 million in funding towards the new Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project. This essential infrastructure, which many others and I have been supporting for years, will include an improved small craft harbour and a new deepwater port.

Can the minister confirm when her department will be issuing a detailed request for proposals for the next stage of this project, including the design for the facility? 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 that question. Government contracting is under the mandate of CGS. Maybe it's better if you redirect that question to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you very much. A big hint for the CGS minister, perhaps, in the next coming days.

Residents of Iqaluit recognize that the timeline for completing the new marine facility is approximately four years. Until such time as the new facility becomes operational, there will be a need for regular annual maintenance of our community's existing infrastructure, including the breakwater and causeway.

Last year, the department's tender call for maintenance work was issued on May 29 and closed on June 12. Can the minister clarify when this year's tender will be issued? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank the member. Now that the beautiful days of spring are here, we fully expect the summer to arrive shortly thereafter. Last year, the ice stuck around for quite a long time and hunters were unable to moor their boats until later on.

We do have expectations this year that we will be able to launch our boats earlier, but again, our local experts, the hunters, have stated that the ice this year may not leave until some time in late July. The sealift ships will arrive around that time based on their schedules, perhaps starting around July 27.

It was too early to have expectations last year when discussing the marine port infrastructure. We will commence our review of the most amenable dates and we will start the planning similar to last year, although it seems obvious that we will require a comprehensive review of this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite hear a date, but I want to go on to my next question and to say that it's very important that Iqaluit's hunters and trappers organization is consulted on what specific work needs to be performed on our existing marine infrastructure so as to help ensure the safety of the boating public. Will the minister commit to ensuring that her department will sit down with representatives from Iqaluit's HTO to identify priorities in this area? 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 the member. Yes, I sat with the Iqaluit HTO and every time they invite me, I'm always open and we

will await their invitation. If anyone wants to invite us, we're available to meet with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 311 – 4(3): Consultations on Caribou Collaring**

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

Mr. Speaker, last winter, I directed several questions related to caribou management. In the Baffin region, there was a moratorium announced to curb caribou harvesting.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister this winter if caribou population surveys would be undertaken. The Department of Environment announced that they would use collars to track caribou throughout their range. Inuit did not agree with this, especially our hunters, who are against any kind of collaring work, especially on wildlife and caribou in particular. It has resulted in injuries to the animals' necks, both polar bear and caribou that were collared as part of these surveys.

Mr. Speaker, the minister made a statement that a tour would be undertaken prior to the population survey being conducted particularly related to caribou collaring efforts. Did they tour the communities in early spring? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, we were going to look into this issue with the impacted communities in regard to caribou management in the Baffin region and we have already consulted with the communities regarding the survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We wanted to hear a report on whether the communities are in acceptance of putting collars on the caribou. Did all the communities approve the request to put collars on caribou during their survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a concern about putting collars on caribou during the survey. I don't have the detailed information on the request of the communities. I will be able to look into that, but as the minister, I haven't personally seen if they did collaring during the recent survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the

minister for his response. According to the minister's response, can we expect that he will be able to provide a report on the details as to what the outcome is after visiting or consulting with the communities? After the survey, will the results be communicated to us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, when surveys are completed, the results are not immediately available about the status of the population. The survey results are now being compiled. As I stated last year, the survey was to commence after the calving season. Last summer, after the caribou calved and up to this winter and springtime, with the calves becoming yearlings, the second phase of the survey was going to be undertaken. The results will be available upon completion, but that is the reason for the population survey on Baffin Island's caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 312 – 4(3): Airport Infrastructure**

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

Mr. Speaker, a number of Nunavummiut and my constituents are disabled and

face mobility challenges, including the use of wheelchairs.

Mr. Speaker, I have received concerns that the airport terminal buildings in Nauyasat and Coral Harbour require improvements, such as the installation of ramps, to make them fully accessible to the disabled.

Can the minister indicate how her department identifies what improvements or retrofits need to be made to existing airport infrastructure in order to make the facilities fully accessible to the disabled? 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 for that question. It is a very good question. We are looking at ways of making it more accessible for the disabled and to have more comfortable access to the airlines.

As of yet, we haven't seen any results, although we undertook a review of the equipment that would allow for easier access. We have submitted the report to the airlines outlining the legislative requirements to enable access to less mobile passengers. It currently states that the passengers are to be accommodated, but it does not outline in which manner that would enable this accommodation. This wasn't discussed.

We haven't recommended that they explore the best practices specific to airline companies. We are continually

exploring ways to improve this requirement, including the review of illustrations that are relevant to realities of today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, I landed at Iqaluit's airport. While I was taxiing to the terminal, I noted that construction of Iqaluit's new terminal building is continuing. Can the minister indicate if the new Iqaluit International Airport terminal will be accessible to the disabled? 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 the member for his question. The new airport terminal building is being constructed at this time.

Down south, you are able to walk into the airplane without having to take the stairs. You can walk right into the cabin of the plane, but the terminal we are building is not being set up as such. We will have to come up with additional funding if we want to have similar access to planes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that, disabled people face many challenges when they

are going into the terminal and onto the plane, particularly when they are in wheelchairs and can't walk. They face difficult challenges when they are accessing the old terminal.

I know that the capital estimates include funding for small and minor capital projects. Can the minister indicate if this funding can be used for improvements and retrofits to existing airport infrastructure in order to improve access for the disabled? I hope that was clear. 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 that question. Right now, there is no funding available for use in such a project within the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada.

Today, according to Canadian transportation legislation, making improvements for the disabled are considered add-ons. In other words, they can be installed at the discretion and expense of the airlines. This would include access ramps for wheelchair-bound passengers.

However, our department has looked into the most appropriate ways of providing assistance. We're still in the discussions stages of what to do in the future on the most appropriate means of dealing with this in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 313 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

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

I think we need another term for "minister" because church ministers used to be the only ministers.

>> *Laughter*

My question is, Mr. Speaker: the minister is aware that in the Baffin region, we can only harvest male caribou because that is the law. This is very unfortunate to life in Nunavut. What is your position? Will the quota system be in effect for 10 or 20 years? As the caribou will take a long time to come back, what have you planned for the following years? Can you tell me how many years the quota system will be in effect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for pointing that out. My wife is a minister also, a church minister.

>> *Laughter*

During the moratorium on caribou, the NWMB held public hearings, as per the land claims agreement. After those hearings, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board used the information they had gathered and made their

decision based on that. As a part of their mandate, they are managers of wildlife. Last year, they allowed a quota of 250 male caribou to be harvested and I approved that as minister. This is renewed on an annual basis.

For the people affected by caribou management in the Baffin region, if local HTOs, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, or the Nunavut Wildlife Management provides us with alternative actions on how long the moratorium should be enforced by the Government of Nunavut, only then would we determine how long it will be in effect. 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 speaking to my question. Before our session ends, I would like a response, as I did not get an answer on how many years this will be in effect. Mr. Speaker, have you had discussions with your staff or officials on how to resolve the caribou management issue in the Baffin region?

Are you aware that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* states that Inuit speak the truth? The caribou are not being depleted. Once they've run out of food, they would move to another area. Those who do not know *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* tend to believe caribou are being decimated when, in fact, they are not disappearing.

What have you decided on harvesting caribou? There are females without calves still out there and they are actually growing in numbers. Will you

never consider making them available for harvesting when you decide on the quota? There are so many of them out there now.

Will you ever consider having them able to harvest the increasing numbers of calves or caribou? While their numbers are increasing, are you going to decide that we are only going to be harvesting males? Can you make plans to allow the harvesting of females without calves? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Indeed, in the Baffin region, the main topic under discussion revolves around caribou, and this has been quite a challenging process. We heard information that caribou undergo cyclic population crashes, but no one stated that the caribou were disappearing. However, people mentioned the fact that the population was in decline.

The mitigation efforts revolved around the management challenges with the caribou population on Baffin Island, especially in light of the fact that residents in the region comprise over half of Nunavut's population. I believe there are approximately 18,000 residents or perhaps more like 15,000 residents just on Baffin Island.

The reasoning behind people's wishes to harvest non-male caribou is something we keep hearing, so yes, we have heard that wish. Further, our wildlife management partners and organizations are closely involved in this process, as



they are also voicing the same concerns. With the current practice of harvesting only male caribou, there seems to be dissatisfaction with this non-quota limitation.

For these reasons, our department will work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on dealing with the concerns expressed to date. The discussion will revolve around the 250 tags currently in use and how to fill the tags, as well as whether or not we will continue the male caribou harvesting only.

This decision is under the auspices of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, so they have that authority. As the government, we cannot request changes unilaterally, as per the NLCA decision-making process. Now, when we have submitted our options paper related to the caribou management issues on Baffin Island, they will review it and that is the current plan in place. 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. Yes, indeed, I completely grasp the response and although I understand the background, I want to express my concern related to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, based on my knowledge, the ministerial portfolios are the highest level of authority within the Nunavut government. As I believe a minister of this government is the highest position, which organization has the ultimate authority in your position as the Minister

of Environment? Is it NWMB or does your department have overall authority? As the minister, which organization has the higher authority and can you perhaps provide an outline of how decisions are made?

I was led to understand that in your position as the minister of the Nunavut government, NWMB has a higher authority than your position. Therefore, I would like to know where you hold the portfolio that Inuit have deep interests in. When we are discussing the issues dearest to Inuit or issues that are contentious, will you be just accepting the NWMB decisions related to wildlife while holding your ministerial portfolio? It seems that you are underneath their jurisdiction when I view the decisions in this light.

I wonder what exactly the authority is of ministers within this Nunavut government. As an example, it seems the ministers are being controlled by their deputy ministers as well as outside agencies such as NWMB. I haven't fully understood the authoritative chart of how decisions are made, so I would hope that it could be explained simply as to which organization has the ultimate authority in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for pointing that out.

Back when the land claims process started, quite a few of us were involved with negotiations between Inuit and

government. I believe quite a number of Inuit who were involved are also sitting here. Inuit wanted more control over issues dearest to them, so they negotiated the land claims that governed the decision-making. Inuit voted to approve the land claims. The Inuit position was the wildlife management was the most important aspect of the land claims agreement, specifically listed within Article 5, which outlines how wildlife management decisions would be arrived at.

The parties to the land claims agreement included the forerunner of the Nunavut government, the Government of Canada, as well as NTI. They agreed on the land claims agreement and it was approved through legislation. However, Inuit voted to approve the land claims agreement as the sole beneficiaries and they were the only people who could vote. None of the governments had to vote nor did the ten other provincial governments have to vote to approve this agreement. They just followed the provisions of the agreement. That is why I am making this statement. We have no choice but to adhere to the land claims agreement and this agreement outlines what Inuit wanted.

As part of that, they empowered NWMB as the ultimate authority on wildlife management, at least as per the language. Nonetheless, as the ultimate legislative authorities, the governments have the final approval. It seems obvious that NWMB undertakes consultations with various groups, such as the elders, hunters, and experts on wildlife. This also includes scientific data they have to include as part of their wildlife management authority. After they have consulted the various parties and they

arrive at a decision, they submit their decision to the government and the appropriate minister to approve, deny, or amend the decision following the outlined provisions.

Therefore, as a minister of this government, that's where I get my authority according to the land claims agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 314 – 4(3): Increasing Support for Homeowners**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask my next question to the minister of the housing corporation.

It was over a decade ago that I was a part of the government that created the subsidy for homeowners that are employed by the Government of Nunavut. We set it at \$400 a month, which works out to about \$4,800. It has come to light that those in government staff housing get the equivalent of \$20,000 a year in subsidies, who are employed with the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister explain if he is willing to study the increase of support for homeowners that have made a commitment to our territory, who are employed by our government, to increase the amount of subsidy for homeowners that are employed by the Government of Nunavut?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. He just snuck it under the wire before time was up today in question period.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation isn't ultimately responsible for establishing or paying out the \$400 a month subsidy to homeowners that are government employees through the Department of Finance.

However, I do want to highlight to the member that through our ongoing discussions for the blueprint for action under the housing strategy, earlier this month at the beginning of May, there was the first engagement session and coincidentally, the second engagement session is ongoing as of yesterday. It is ongoing today. There are four goals that are being discussed in those deliberations with interdepartmental representation and other stakeholders. Of those four goals, there are nine topics and one of those topics is meeting the housing needs of GN employees.

I would anticipate and it has been a discussion that I've had with my officials that how we evaluate, how we interpret, and how we implement staff subsidies for homeowners and for Nunavummiut is something that we need to take a look at. As the member mentioned, it has been some time and economies to scale have changed a little bit since that time. It is something that is being deliberated amongst my staff and their colleagues interdepartmentally and

other stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The cost of owning a home has gone up considerably throughout this territory. Taxes, fuel, and electrical rates have gone up considerably since the first time the subsidy was introduced. Can the minister make a commitment to review this and to increase the rates for homeowners? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a homeowner and as the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation who is responsible for paying a lot of the fuel and utility expenses associated with a number of housing units across the territory, I know how much of an impact utility expenses are.

I can commit that this will be a topic of discussion at the blueprint for action. I, however, cannot commit today to increasing that number. We're waiting to have the blueprint for action and there will be discussions, I'm sure, with my colleagues at the cabinet level to discuss this, if that is an action that comes out of the blueprint document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. 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 Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 136 – 4(3): Government of Nunavut Presentation to Canada Transportation Act Review Panel Iqaluit, NU June 23, 2015**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's presentation to the *Canada Transportation Act Review Panel* in Iqaluit, Nunavut, June 23, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Tabled Document 137 – 4(3): Reaching and Teaching All Students – A Model to Guide the Practice of Inclusive Education in Nunavut, Final Report of the External Review of Inclusive Education**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the final information of the external review of inclusive education titled "*Reaching and Teaching All Students – A Model to Guide the Practice of Inclusive Education in Nunavut*" dated

February 2015. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills Bill 18 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2016- 2017 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2016-2017*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017*, be read for the second time.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 17 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

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

#### **Bill 18 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2016-2017 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2016-2017*, be read for the second time.

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

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

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

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 18 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 17 and Bill 18, 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 15:30 and Committee resumed at 16:00

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. As we proceed, Nunavummiut, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

Members, in Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) and Bills 17 and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the discussion on Tabled Document 149 – 4(2). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Tabled Document 149 – 4(2): 2013-  
2014 Minister’s Annual Report on  
Poverty Reduction –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk, welcome. Before we proceed, I would first like to ask if you have officials that you would like to bring to the table. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Members, do you agree to bring in the minister’s officials?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I think you almost got a nay. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I say “good afternoon” to our fellow Nunavummiut.

With me today to my right (interpretation ends) is Irene Tanuyak, Assistant Deputy Minister with Family Services, and to my left, Lindsay Turner, Director of Poverty Reduction. Also, Mr. Chairman, we have standing by in the gallery from the department Rian van Bruggen, Director of Policy and Planning, also Sol Modesto-Vardy. She’s the director for corporate services. (interpretation) Those are our witnesses, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the House, Ms. Tanuyak and Ms. Turner. If you need to have witnesses appear at the table, you will have an opportunity to introduce them.

I believe we can now proceed with the review and I would also like to proceed. Minister Kuksuk, if you have any opening comments, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2013-14 *Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction* is the first report developed to meet the requirements of the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*. It was tabled in May of 2015 in the Legislative Assembly. It was originally scheduled to be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole in the fall of 2015. However, this appearance has been postponed twice. As Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to this report today.

The social challenges related to poverty are complex and interconnected. Housing, mental health, addictions, food security, education, cultural identity, connections to the land, training, income, local economic development, and strong community organizations are all factors that interact in determining community wellness.

In April of 2010, the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat was created under the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. In April of 2013, the Department of Family Services and the Poverty Reduction Division were created, taking on the responsibility for this work. The mandate of the division is to guide the implementation of a poverty reduction action plan (the *Makimaniq Plan*), to lead the coordination of poverty reduction efforts, and to support program and policy reform.

We need to work together for our programs and services to have a meaningful and lasting impact in reducing poverty.

In October of 2012, the Government of Nunavut partnered with Nunavut Tunngavik to establish and support the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

The roundtable is unique in that it brings together MLAs, elders, youth, hamlets, the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik, regional Inuit associations, community organizations, businesses, and community members.

The roundtable provides a forum for all 25 Nunavut communities to work together to recommend ideas and actions for resolving social challenges related to poverty reduction. The *Makimaniq Plan* presents these ideas and actions and is based on a joint commitment by roundtable members to contribute to the work to be done.

The 2013-14 *Annual Report on Poverty Reduction* describes 65 different programs, policies, and initiatives across the Government of Nunavut, amounting to a budget of \$254 million.

Poverty reduction is an interdepartmental responsibility. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of each department in working to improve the lives of Nunavummiut and to strengthen our communities. During my appearance, I may direct some questions to other ministers as appropriate.

There is more we can do. This 2013-14 report outlines the combined efforts of Government of Nunavut departments. However, we continue to face many social challenges. For us to see significant change in the levels of poverty in Nunavut, we need to consider how the design and delivery of our

programs and services can have a greater impact on poverty reduction, and we need to focus our limited funds on programs and services that enable Nunavummiut to live healthy and productive lives.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to continuing this work with you and to combining our capacities to help each other in addressing gaps and in strengthening our communities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. As the mover of the motion, do you have opening comments, Ms. Angnakak?

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be able to speak to the motion that I moved almost exactly one year ago. At that time, Jeannie Ugyuk was the minister. If Jeannie is watching today, I would like to welcome her to our proceedings.

The subject of poverty and its reduction was a key issue raised in many of our election campaigns, including mine. It is an issue that has frequently been raised in this House and it is an issue that is often discussed around kitchen tables across Nunavut.

Any discussion of poverty will bring many varied issues to mind. Perhaps we all have our own ideas on what we mean when we talk about poverty.

For me personally, I think that being poor means that you are standing on the outside looking in, that your standard of living is lower than that of others around you, and that your basic needs are not being met. These needs may include

such things as adequate housing, enough food to eat, a decent education, and good health.

Poverty is having addictions rampant in your family with little or no support to address it.

Poverty is being unable to address the mental health needs of family members and being unable to deal with the outcome of intergenerational anger and the depression that follows when conflicts occur.

Poverty affects all of us in society in one way or another, perhaps not directly for some, but in how we behave in life and in how we treat others.

Our personal understanding of how other people in society are coping may have a direct impact on what you think about poverty and what role we might take to help reduce it, if any.

Today, we will be discussing ways in which the Government of Nunavut has addressed this complex issue as we review the minister's 2013-14 Annual Report on Poverty Reduction.

Mr. Chairman, there are some very dedicated and passionate people who are committed to reducing poverty levels in Nunavut and who have worked very hard, both within and outside of government, to address the issues with whatever means they have.

The minister's 2013-14 Annual Report on Poverty Reduction provides us with some very good points for discussion. My hope is that these discussions will continue to take place and that, collectively, we can be supportive of



initiatives that have proven to be successful as well as considering new initiatives in going forward to address and reduce poverty in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. We are going to be focusing on the minister's 2013-14 Annual Report on Poverty Reduction. I think we can move directly to questions. At this time, I would like to recognize Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials.

(interpretation ends) My first question and request will not increase the cost of your department or the government for that matter. As you know, I have had the benefit of getting a good post-secondary education. I struggled, but it was all worth it.

The practice at the time was, when you go to university, you are first approved for FANS, and then you wait for your payment to arrive, but it takes 11 [days] to two weeks for your first payment to arrive. At the same time, you're incurring costs. You have to eat. You have to buy books. When you don't have money, you fall behind.

That is something that your department can easily change, to pay on time when needed for the students. These students are trying to improve their standing in our communities so that they can work in our government or outside, and we should be doing our part to support them and pay them with the support that they need when they need it.

Can the minister commit his department to pay the students early so that they can cover their costs when they're first going to university or college? That's my main question at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That is an excellent question. We have debated this issue for many days and months in the past year regarding students who are funded through the (interpretation ends) FANS (interpretation) program, how to improve the timing of the payments to our students, and the kind of support our students require, including a review of the barriers or problematic issues that cause these delays.

There were many issues that caused these problems, but I can state today that our department has continued to work on this matter. We can now state that the delays and late payment concerns have been resolved and we expect in the short term that payments to expectant students will be sent so that they can purchase course materials such as books. Our expectations are that this process will be much faster than in the past years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. That is quite an interesting piece of news and I wish to see this implemented in the next fiscal year, as we are already in a new fiscal year. As we are aware, once the students

complete their studies, they will be able to acquire good jobs, and I would like to see them provided assistance.

Now, another matter I want to ask about is related to income support recipients. This group would seem perfect to get further assistance, as some people are unable to work in offices while some people are extremely good hunters who can go hunting to supplement their fellow residents' diets. If we could provide more assistance to people in this area, it can benefit from a comprehensive review in the future.

We all know that in Nunavik, the hunters will offload their catch into the communal storage facilities, as their hunts are funded as part of their programs. Perhaps if we utilized this type of assistance program, it would provide tangible benefits to our communities, as well as to our income support recipients.

Instead of just sitting around collecting benefits, actual benefits to the community could be realized by hunting, which in turn would assist them to become more self-sufficient. I wonder if the minister can review this matter more comprehensively. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The subject the member is referring to is something I completely understand. Mr. Chairman, in the communities, the income support recipients are assisted through our department's Income Support Program.

We call it *niqaituutit* in our dialect, just so we all know what we are discussing.

With respect to the comments from the member, we have reviewed that issue as to how the communities can provide assistance that is not just income support for food, as some recipients want to do work for their benefits. We have started to work with the local HTO boards, with a departmental committee to review these issues and to make recommendations. They may have already completed this even as I speak about this development related to the member's question on how we can encourage income support recipients to partake in hunting activities to provide food for the community and their relatives.

That is where we are looking at options under income support as to how we can provide traditional country food to be included in poverty reduction. We're now starting to work and deal with these issues by working with the HTOs on how we can move forward with this. Thank you, Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Following my list of names, I have Ms. Angnakak. Before you start, if you have any questions, please raise your hand ahead of time so that we can write down your name. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I want to ask the minister when he expects to table the 2014-15 Annual Report on Poverty Reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We expect that the report will be completed and tabled in the House by 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask the minister why the annual report would be so late, 2017, if it's a 2014-15 fiscal year report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I will explain it in English so that it's clear. (interpretation ends) Work is underway to complete these reports. We were asked to present the 2013-14 to COW. We wanted to present this report first before determining the first informative and useful approach to the next reports. We anticipate being able to present these reports at the latest during the winter of 2017. (interpretation) In order to be well prepared for the next annual report, we will complete the 2014-15 report first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I want to go on record for being concerned about the lateness because you approved money, and for us to have a better sense of how things are going and having to work with the report

that is already two years late is a little concerning to me.

In the beginning in your executive summary, you talk about the tradition of sharing, sharing food and helping each other. When you take that into account, how does the department feel? It seems to me, in the past, people assisted each other more than perhaps what they do today. If this is the feeling of the department, how do you think that has impacted the poverty rates that we are seeing today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. Mr. Chairman, as to whether it improved the livelihood of the people who are living below the poverty lines, I'll have Lindsay Turner respond to that question because she's the director if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Turner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The extent of poverty in Nunavut is quite considerable and so this places a lot of pressures on families to meet their basic needs in addition to sharing. The Government of Nunavut does provide a lot of resources to support community-based solutions to food security, food organizations, or food events within communities. This is one way in which communities join together to share food. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going on, I am interested in your round-table gathering. Maybe you could go over, just so everybody can understand better, what processes did you use? When you use roundtables, what does that really mean, who was involved, and the mandate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For round-table meetings in Nunavut, we have representatives from the government, NGOs, such as regional Inuit organizations, and NTI is involved in poverty reduction in Nunavut. We had representatives from the communities who provide a lot of contribution, especially Nunavut businesses. They provide support and were involved in the roundtable. We had different representatives in the roundtable on poverty reduction.

As many of my colleagues and I will recall, there was a consultation tour concerning this issue last year. They did a consultation tour of the communities to see how they can start dealing with poverty reduction. There was a consultation meeting through the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the Department of Family Services. NTI also has representatives in the roundtable. Briefly, those are the members of the roundtable, if I'm coming across clear. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) With respect to the members of the roundtable that you just mentioned, how many times have they met so far? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Before you respond, just to remind Minister Kuksuk that this annual report was not tabled for a long time. It was tabled last year and many Nunavummiut don't really understand what their roles and responsibilities are for poverty reduction. Don't worry about providing lengthy responses so that the people of Nunavut can be well informed and have better knowledge on that. You can respond now, Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The question is understandable. Mr. Chairman, I remember it very clearly last fall during the round-table meeting. After the community tours, the round-table meeting in Cambridge Bay is the last one that I can recall attending. As to how times they have held round-table meetings, Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you, I would like to invite one of the staff, Lindsay Turner, Director of Poverty Reduction, to come to the witness table to explain further. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I don't quite understand. You're inviting Lindsay Turner to the witness table, but she is already there. Are we talking about the same person? Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I'm sorry. It's my mistake. I'm getting confused with the names. I would like the official to my left to respond. My

apologies.

**Chairman** (interpretation): My turn. Wait for light to switch on before you speak. I'm sorry. Ms. Turner, your turn.

**Ms. Turner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been four round-table gatherings to date within Nunavut. The round-table gatherings are based on requests to hamlets and regional Inuit associations to nominate representatives to participate. In those gatherings, regional Inuit associations are asked to nominate a regional representative, an elder representative, and a youth representative.

The gatherings are based on breakout sessions where the members are given specific questions where they are asked to come up with ideas and possible actions for resolving a particular issue related to poverty reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you. Can you tell us how much it cost to hold those meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The total cost of the meeting was around \$200,000. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who paid that \$200,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Family Services paid the expenses. It's not only the meeting; it's airfare and accommodations. That was included in the total cost. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you feel that you got value out of those meetings for the \$200,000? I guess I'm wanting to know a little bit more about the outcomes of those meetings and how they have impacted the work that you're currently doing now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. During the round-table meetings, we heard from many different people and we have been able to work with the communities, businesses, and different government departments, not just our department. We're not the only department that attends those meetings. There are delegates from NTI and regional Inuit associations.

As to the question on whether there's a benefit toward that, yes, I can state that there is a potentially positive benefit. At those meetings is a consensus on further

action that should be taken cooperatively in the future on poverty reduction. As the Department of Family Services, we cannot deal with this issue all by ourselves. We need to work with them and come up with plans if we are to make progress. Working together is the only way it can be of benefit. That's where we stand, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is also written here that there are three staff members who concentrate solely on poverty reduction. Are the staff adequate and do they speak Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Even if they don't speak Inuktitut, there are other workers in (interpretation ends) Family Services (interpretation) who are fluent in Inuktitut. We're not concerned of whether or not they can speak Inuktitut because we have enough Inuktitut-speaking workers. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go on to something else and this is the Poverty Reduction Fund. In your annual report, you talk about the creation of a Poverty Reduction Fund process. The purpose of this is that you wanted to find people to contribute financially to this cause.

From what I understand, to date, there have been no outside contributions provided to the fund. Can you tell us why you feel this is the case? What is going on here? Obviously, the mechanism was put in place so that contributions could be provided, but you haven't had any of those contributions. Why is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different details within the question and there is no one answer to it. I would like Ms. Turner to provide a more detailed response, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Ms. Turner.

**Ms. Turner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been working in the last year to develop the policies and accounting structure around this fund. We have been waiting for that work to be completed before creating some communication and awareness tools around this fund. Once all of the necessary pieces are in place, we will start working in that area to create awareness of the fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you very much. Can you tell me whom you are going to be approaching once you get everything set up? Do you have any entities in mind that you feel could contribute financially to this cause? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We would like to work together and we're expecting to do that. As I mentioned earlier, we want to work on this with the business owners in the communities. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us if he has had discussions with the president of NTI or the regional Inuit associations and all the different presidents across Nunavut to see if they would be open to providing funds for this cause? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have not met personally with organizations she has mentioned. As we have said before, through the roundtable, the people who participate in those meetings have discussions on how to deal with poverty. It's obvious that many of these organizations sit at those meetings and discuss those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go on to something else. I read with interest on page 15 of the annual report when you talk about the government poverty reduction program. What is the government poverty reduction program?

On the second paragraph, it says that "We have chosen this inclusive approach to demonstrate not only how government programs help vulnerable Nunavummiut in meeting their basic needs, but also to show how government programs address the root causes of poverty and help Nunavummiut to change their circumstances to build self-reliant lives."

The whole purpose why we have the new legislation in place and we are raising the annual report is because we do have real problems with poverty in Nunavut, yet that statement seems to say to me, "Well, we have all the programs and we have all the services to address the root causes."

To me, that message is a little bit confusing and I'm just wondering if you or your staff can speak to that comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The true meaning of poverty reduction is about reducing poverty for those who are struggling to make ends meet. As such, we have to work closely with the many stakeholders involved. We can reduce poverty only by working together. I believe her question is about what we are doing within the government as contained in the report.

I would like Ms. Lindsay to respond with your permission. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Ms. Turner.

**Ms. Turner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The idea we were trying to communicate with that sentence was that poverty was not just a financial issue, but that it was broader and that it did include also the health concerns that create capability poverty, the ability to develop skills and access education which create poverty, as well as issues related to social exclusion. The idea was to emphasize that it was more than just a financial issue in terms of having the income to meet with your basic needs; it was more complex than that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean, just the way I read it, it looks like you have \$254 million all together, as per the opening comments, the programs and services that address poverty, yet we have the highest poverty rates in Canada. The way I read it, I could be wrong, obviously, but it's telling me, "Look, we have all these programs and services that address the root cause of poverty." I was just getting at that like the way it reads. It's a little confusing.

I have time, right? I have two more minutes, so I'm going to use that time to go into page 18 of the annual report. It's under Collaboration and Community Participation. In the first paragraph, you talk about the public engagement process and that "Three key goals were outlined in the plan under this theme." There are a), b), and c), and b) says, "increased support for community action."

I'm wondering what you are talking about when you say "support." Is that financial support? Is that program support? What does that really mean when you make that statement when we're talking about community action. What kind of support? And if you can give us an example of what community action was achieved that helps to reduce poverty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That has a number of possible meanings. It could mean how financial support can be helpful or training support in different areas in the communities. We're looking at other things besides job training, including how to live off the land and acquire hunting skills.

Perhaps Ms. Turner can give you a more comprehensive explanation about this. I don't have all of it in my head right now. Maybe Ms. Turner can elaborate more on my answer so that it will be clearer for everyone, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Ms. Turner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction included this idea in the *Makimaniq Plan*, they were speaking to the potential for not-for-profit organizations to really build the strength of a community. They were commenting on the need for more support for the not-for-profit sector, both in terms of resources but also training, whether it be board of governance training or training



on managing an organization. It was building on the idea of supporting the not-for-profit sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you talk about a not-for-profit structure within the community, can you give us an example of what types of not-for-profit committees you were working with, as an example, in the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*. (interpretation) I would like Ms. Turner to respond to the question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Turner.

**Ms. Turner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of wellness centers that are members of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. The Nunavut Literacy Council is also a member, as well as the Embrace Life Council.

The idea of support for community organizations would also be for not just members of the roundtable, but any community-based organization, whether it's formally registered as society or whether it's a more informal group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Angnakak, with 50 seconds to go.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you very much. I guess my next and last question until they give me another 10 minutes...

>> *Laughter*

...will be, c) says, "poverty reduction legislation." I understand this legislation came into being because of that very reason about looking at the great poverty we do have in Nunavut.

It has been a couple of years now and the number of people that you have talked about that you've had to deal with within the communities, all the committees, Inuit organizations, and all the stakeholders, is a lot. You had to have a lot of organizing and that.

Today, can you tell us exactly how you feel about the whole process to date? Is it working? When I think about what you guys are working with, it's just mind-boggling to be in how I would organize all of that because that's a lot of work. Just maybe a comment would be great. Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That question deserves a thorough response, even though I was appointed to my position long after this process got rolling, Mr. Chairman

However, I can say that we are working with the other departments on this matter. I can say today that we have been working together properly about this, along with the third party members like NTI and the private sector. They work together as one and move things

forward. That's how it has been done. It's moving toward a more efficient way of helping the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Proceeding to the next person on the list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask to our minister about his opening comments. It was tabled in May 2015. It states, "this appearance has been postponed twice." What were the causes of the two delays that you mention in your opening comments? That's what I would like to know and that's why I'm asking the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I understand the question. I don't have the reason, but Ms. Turner can explain the reason for the two delays. If Ms. Turner can respond to that, I would like her to do so. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Ms. Turner.

**Ms. Turner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the legislative calendar is determined by the Legislative Assembly. They are the ones, I understand, who make the decisions as to appearances before the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, do you have another question?

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the second paragraph of your opening comments, I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) "Housing, mental health, addictions, food security, education, cultural identity, connections to the land, training, income, local economic development, and strong community organizations..." (interpretation) The items are divided up into different sections and I'm sure they will each cost money.

In the financial part of the annual report, which aspect will be most expensive that the minister is aware of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. They will have different costs. To his question, I can say that providing housing is going to be the most expensive looking at that list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the written document, if I say it in English, (interpretation ends) mental health and addictions, (interpretation) it mentions Rankin Inlet and Kugluktuk, but I don't see Iqaluit on the list. Is there nothing that is going to be put up in Iqaluit? That's my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, I don't really understand the question and perhaps he can rephrase it. I would like to understand his question clearly. I understand that he mentioned addictions and mental health. Maybe one of my staff here understood the question. I would like him to rephrase his question, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, please rephrase your question. Go ahead.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies I made a mistake. I looked at the wrong page, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to ask about the (interpretation ends) Kugluktuk healing centre. (interpretation) That's what I'm asking about. There is a healing centre in Kugluktuk and one in Rankin Inlet. However, I don't see anything for Iqaluit and that's my question. Are there no plans to put up one here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I hope that makes the question more understandable. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to respond to that, but it's also under the responsibility of the Department of Justice and the minister is here. Perhaps my ministerial colleague can respond to that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, can you respond to this question? Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member repeat his question, please.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Qirngnuq, please repeat your question so that Mr. Peterson will understand it properly. He says that he can answer it as long as he understands the question. Please repeat your question, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking about what is written in the (interpretation ends) minister's annual report (interpretation) on page 28. It mentions the (interpretation ends) Kugluktuk healing centre and Rankin Inlet healing centre. (interpretation) Is there no healing centre in Iqaluit? I don't see it on that page and there's nothing about Iqaluit. I would like to know and that's why I'm asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, would you like to answer that? Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking the MLA to clarify that. In Kugluktuk, it is the Ilavut Centre. It's the name of the facility. In Rankin Inlet, again, it's the name of the facility. In Iqaluit, it's called the Baffin Correctional Centre currently. In the long-term plans and in briefings from the department, we're working on expansion and renovation of the Baffin Correctional Centre, and then it will be renamed to the Qikiqtani Healing

Centre. That is in the long-term plans, but there currently is no healing centre in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. When are you going to be completing the document? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you're referring to the 2013-14 annual report, it is already available. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, are you done? Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this time, I would like to move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

## **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 149 – 4(2) and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

## **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus tomorrow at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for June 1:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions

12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 17
  - Bill 18
  - 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)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:07*

