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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, October 31, 2016

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, 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, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) welcome to the House.

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Government House Leader, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 193 – 4(3):
Minister Absent from the House

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform my colleagues that the Hon. George Kuksuk will be absent from the

House today, October 31 and November 1, 2016 to attend an FPT housing ministers' meeting in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Minister's Statement 194 – 4(3):
MEDITECH Electronic Health Records

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health is continuing the implementation of the MEDITECH interoperable electronic health recordkeeping system to community health centres following the successful implementation in Arviat, Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet regional health centres.

In 2010 the interoperable electronic health record, or IEHR, was introduced at the three regional facilities to improve patient referrals, reduce the time to process for diagnostic imaging and testing, plus it provides timely patient information to doctors and nurses.

Mr. Speaker, the shift from paper to electronic records will provide our health care professionals with:

- clinical reports, including referral notes from physicians;
- diagnostic test results;
- a patient's prescription drug profile; and
- immunization data.

Mr. Speaker, MEDITECH is a powerful interoperable electronic health recordkeeping system. Currently nine communities have working access to

MEDITECH. The department plans to have MEDITECH in all communities by December of 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 195 – 4(3):
Quota Increase for Northern
Shrimp**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to report that Nunavut has received a 1,084 tonne increase in quota for northern shrimp. The increase is located in the Eastern Assessment Zone of the Davis Strait West management unit.

Mr. Speaker, this increase in Nunavut's shrimp fishing allocations is reflective of the Government of Nunavut's longstanding position that 100 percent of any fisheries quota increase in adjacent waters must go to Nunavut until we reach an equitable share of our adjacent resources. This increase holds a current market value of approximately \$5 million, increasing the total value of Nunavut's shrimp resources to \$43.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, this allocation increase will help to strengthen our industry's presence in Canada's commercial fishing sector and it will represent an important step towards establishing Nunavut as a major player in commercial fisheries. As such, we will continue to remain actively involved in discussions on shrimp management and will continue our lobbying efforts to ensure that Nunavut

receives an equitable share and maximum benefits from this fishery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Minister's Statement 196 – 4(3):
Canada-Nunavut Job Grant**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Canada-Nunavut Job Grant provides funding support for employers to train their employees in skills that allow them to advance in the organization, earn higher salaries, and increase their job stability.

I am proud to announce that my Department received 23 successful applications from employers this fiscal year and a total of 128 employees received training. Each region in the territory received at least one job grant.

(interpretation ends) My department provides two-thirds of eligible training costs for each trainee up to \$10,000. Employers are eligible to receive a grant if they are a Nunavut-based organization, have a position available for the trainee at the end of training, and are able to contribute to one-third of the total eligible training costs.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, we are now accepting applications for 2017-18. My department is committed to strengthening training opportunities in the territory, and we continue to positively contribute to the labour market needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Minister's Statement 197 – 4(3):
Community Transportation
Initiatives Program (CTIP)**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is committed to helping communities develop and maintain local transportation infrastructure to connect to economic development opportunities and traditional activities.

I rise today to provide an update on our department's successful Community Transportation Initiatives Program. Municipalities make use of this program to carry out local transportation infrastructure projects of their choosing.

Mr. Speaker, over the past two years Nunavut communities have received approximately \$3 million through this program in support of local community access roads and marine infrastructure. Communities in all three regions have received funding for projects, such as access road development and expansion, bridge installation, and sealift area upgrades.

Our government is proud of this program. We encourage all Nunavut municipalities to take advantage of the funding provided under the Community Transportation Initiatives Program to improve their access to the land and sea

through enhanced transportation infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 198 – 4(3):
Nunavut Devolution**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon, my colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update my colleagues about Nunavut devolution and an important development on the file.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the transfer of jurisdictional responsibility is a crucial component as part of this government's mandate to help realize the territory's long-term development and autonomy for Nunavummiut.

We were pleased to see the federal government appoint a new chief negotiator, Mr. Fred Caron, for devolution and announce it on Nunavut Day this past summer.

Earlier last week Mr. Caron and members of his negotiation team met with our chief negotiator, Mr. Simon Awa, as well as members of his team and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to begin the process where it left off last year before the federal election. This is a

positive signal of Canada's intention to get back to the table.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's self-reliance and future success depends on sound economic and resource development, and devolution is a critical step towards this realization. We are excited to return to negotiations and to step forward together to develop an agreement-in-principle on devolution with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

The Government of Nunavut looks forward to busy months ahead in negotiating devolution. It's time for the people of Nunavut to make decisions and manage their public land, water, and resources. I look forward to this next step toward a prosperous, self-sufficient Nunavut and I am enthusiastic about our territory's future possibilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 365 – 4(3): Four-plex Fire in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to convey my thoughts to the families who lost everything in a four-plex housing unit fire over the weekend. Thankfully no one was hurt, and I also wish to commend the Rankin

Inlet firefighters for the long hours they spent fighting fire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 366 – 4(3): Community Access Roads

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to speak about the importance of community access roads.

Mr. Speaker, please imagine a perfect day in the middle of our short arctic summer.

Imagine several generations of the same family together on the land: grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren.

Imagine the elders teaching their grandchildren and sharing their traditional knowledge of the land.

Imagine that the family has been able to find a few precious hours together, far from the daily routine of town.

Imagine that they have been able to travel together to this special place thanks to a community access road.

Imagine the beautiful landscape around them. It refreshes their bodies and nourishes their souls.

Mr. Speaker, providing support for the development of community access roads is an important responsibility of the

government, and I will have appropriate questions for the appropriate minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 367 – 4(3):
Harvesting of Polar Bears**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an issue that affects many communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as has recently been reported in the media, a number of hunters in the Kivalliq have expressed concerns relating to the total allowable harvest allocations that currently exist for polar bear populations in that area.

Specifically, Nunavummiut have observed an increasing number of polar bears within community parameters. As well, hunters who venture out of the community to harvest other types of wildlife have been experiencing an increasing number of polar bear attacks.

Mr. Speaker, regulations under the *Wildlife Act* mandate that emergency kills of wildlife that occur when it is necessary to preserve life are considered a harvest attributed to the total allowable harvest for the respective community in which the emergency kill occurred.

Earlier this year a resident in my community experienced a near fatal encounter with a polar bear while he was out hunting other wildlife. Unfortunately this hunter was forced to shoot the animal in order to save his own life. As a

result, Baker Lake's single allocation of a total allowable harvest for that polar bear subpopulation was used.

I remain concerned that this type of situation has become the norm in my community. It is becoming increasingly unlikely that residents of Baker Lake will have the opportunity to take part in the tradition of harvesting a polar bear for their family and community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that the conservation officers, local residents, and hunters alike make every effort to avoid having to kill a polar bear in self-defence.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, respect and care for the land, animals, and the environment is enshrined in our values as Inuit and has always been a guiding principle for the people in this territory.

I recognize that the current legislation and regulations are intended to ensure the survival of the polar bear species, which is and always will be a vital part of our culture and our ecosystem. However, I believe that we need to address the serious challenges that our communities are facing in ensuring the

safety of their loved ones from dangerous wildlife.

I encourage our government, in cooperation with Inuit and wildlife organizations, to work together to find a solution that will address these concerns.

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

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

**Member's Statement 368 – 4(3):
Happy Birthday to Grandchild**

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say "happy birthday" to my grandchild in Pond Inlet. Have a very happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 369 – 4(3):
Proper Nutrition for Medical
Clients**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut and the residents of my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about medical patients who travel for treatment either to Iqaluit or Ottawa. The issue is sometimes patients experience problems

with food either due to allergies or never having had a particular food before.

I have been informed by my constituents that medication is quite important. Some medication should only be taken with a full stomach. Some kinds of pills and greasy foods don't sit well together. For that reason, my two communities have expressed concerns about this issue.

At the appropriate time I will be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 370 – 4(3):
Happy Birthday to Wife, Elizabeth**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my constituents and my colleagues. I think several people are celebrating their birthdays today. I heard some of my colleagues celebrating birthdays as well.

I have been with this person for 35 years. She is not in Iqaluit at the moment, but she is in Arctic Bay. I would like to say "happy birthday" to my wife, Elizabeth Quassa.

Her name is also Malaya. A long time ago I thought "Malaya" was only a male name, but I then realized it is for both genders.

I wish a very happy birthday to my wife and to all others celebrating their birthdays here in Nunavut today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

**Member's Statement 371 – 4(3):
Successful Suicide Prevention
Conference**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Late last week and over the weekend we had a large conference in town. I spoke to it through a Minister's Statement last week.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the Iqalummiut for the warm hospitality that they showed to the delegates that travelled here from far and wide to attend this conference. There were nearly 600 delegates that participated in the conference. Numerous times over my participation in different events, I heard how warm the hospitality that Iqaluit and Nunavut overall was.

With the amazing work by the volunteers and the planners to put forward a conference of that size, some comments that were brought to my attention were that it was probably the largest and best CASP conference that many people have participated in. I just wanted to take the time to publicly recognize all the volunteers, the hard work, the staff, and everything that goes into putting a conference of that size together. I just wanted to say "nakurmiik." Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 372 – 4(3):
Happy Birthday to Wife, Mary**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and people of Pond Inlet. I, too, have an individual who is celebrating her birthday. My dear partner, Mary Kilabuk, I wish you a happy birthday today, I love you, and may you have many more birthdays.

My colleagues, she won't be going home until long after you're relaxing as she is a transcriber. You want your *Blues* early in the morning and she is working to help complete them.

Have a wonderful birthday today, Mary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 373 – 4(3): Co-
op Status in Iqaluit**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually when I go places, I look at ways and means as to how we can beautify and improve our community.

We have a co-op here, but we can't become members, which concerns me. I envy those smaller communities that have established co-ops and memberships. I was asked if I wanted to go to a board meeting, so I attended and then I asked, "How can we get a co-op

here?" Of course we would like to have membership privileges and so on.

Everything was approved and if we could set up a board of directors, then the conceptual co-op here could be ours. That's what I was told. People of Iqaluit, please set up and create a board so that we can own the Co-op that's here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone who's in the gallery, in a sense. He is here often. He lets Nunavummiut know what we talk about, what we say, and I would like to recognize and welcome Mr. Jordan Konek from CBC in the CBC booth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 490 – 4(3): Proper Nutrition for Medical Clients

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

Mr. Speaker, the disease of diabetes is a growing concern across Nunavut. A person with diabetes cannot control the amount of sugar in their blood, which can lead to very dangerous health conditions. Two of my constituents have a number of dietary restrictions and they will need to travel to Iqaluit for tests and medical care related to diabetes.

Can the minister clarify what steps are taken to ensure that the dietary needs of medical clients are taken into consideration when they have to travel for medical care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that issue. Whenever somebody is travelling under medical travel to access services that aren't available in their community, we work very hard with our contractors and our medical staff to make sure that their needs, including their dietary needs, are recognized. In a nutshell, if the member is aware of certain instances where that's not occurring, I would recommend that Patient Relations be contacted to deal with the one-off circumstance of that.

In general we would want to make sure that the staff at the boarding homes are informed of any dietary needs. As the member mentioned in his statement

earlier, if any medications need to be taken with food, the case manager and the staff at the boarding home are made aware.

If there are any issues, again I would recommend that any person running into any challenges with their medical travel immediately contact the medical travel office or the patient relations office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very thankful to the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, when patients come to Iqaluit, they have to stay at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home and when they have to go to Ottawa they stay at the boarding home there.

One of my constituents once told the kitchen staff that he wasn't allowed to eat a certain kind of food, but the kitchen was not concerned at all and didn't do anything. I am very concerned about this. There are people with diabetes in my constituency who are not able to eat foods like eggs and fatty foods, yet they are made available as meals at the boarding homes. They expect that their special dietary needs would be recognized and also be served country foods.

Can the minister look into those patients who have to go to the Ottawa boarding home and remind the staff there about respecting special dietary needs of diabetic patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make sure that the member's concerns are passed on to all boarding homes or transient centres that we use. From a medical standpoint, we do meet regularly with the administration of these facilities and I will make sure that they are notified that there are concerns, such as the member has brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much to the minister for supporting this because it is very concerning for Nunavut, especially because some medications are stronger than others. Some patients need to eat certain foods to take their medications and if you don't eat a certain kind of food when you're taking a particular type of medication, it's not good, but it happens.

Inuit country foods should be made available at the boarding homes. Will you be able to support that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever people are travelling away from home, the comfort of having food that they are familiar with is an important part of their process and level of comfort.

I know when I was recently at the Larga Baffin opening, there were *tuktu* and *maktaaq*. When I spoke to the executive director of that facility, she said that they quite often have country food available for the residents. It's something I know from other boarding homes that I have been informed of is that there are often HTOs or when people are travelling down to attend medical appointments, they often bring country food with them.

It's absolutely something I encourage all members of the public, any community hunters, or any HTOs, if they have country foods that they are able to donate to these facilities to help our medical travel patients and their escorts have access to food that they're comfortable with and that is proven to be very healthy for them, I encourage them to contact those facilities. If there's any way that I can assist them in providing country food to facilities that we contract, I'm open to any dialogue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 491 – 4(3): Nunavut Film Development Corporation

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody.

My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The Government of Nunavut has estimated that the film industry spends approximately \$13.0 million per year in the territory. The global acclaim for such works as *Atanarjuat* and *Two Lovers and*

a Bear clearly demonstrates the need to for us to invest in this vibrant sector of the cultural economy.

In 2014-15 the Department of ED&T provided \$825,000 in core funding to the Nunavut Film Development Corporation and the Department of Culture and Heritage provided an additional \$200,000. However, it has recently been reported that insufficient funding is responsible for delays in the production of the next season of *Qanurli*, which is one of the very few Inuit language programs that exists in the world today.

Can the minister indicate if her department is presently considering requesting an increase to its Film, Television and New Media Program budget in its 2017-18 main estimates, which the Legislative Assembly will be considering about four months from now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for asking that question. Yes, we have been planning to request an increase for the Nunavut Film Development Corporation's budget for 2017-18, making the total budget \$1,361,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. That's a

great response and we look forward to seeing that request.

As I noted in the preamble to my question, the Department of Economic Development provided \$825,000 in core funding in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Can the minister explain how this figure and perhaps the next figure of \$1,300,000 were determined? 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 asking questions about the film industry in Nunavut. We have to understand that film production and other things like that are increasing. The Nunavut Film Development Corporation's budget includes training and (interpretation ends) mentoring (interpretation) of Nunavummiut.

They are thinking along the lines of having an increase in the number of employment positions in the corporation and the businesses that are under the Nunavut Film Development Corporation or other groups that support the development corporation because of the fact that it will help with the language. We're increasing the budget because there are more and more film productions happening all the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Film, Television and Digital Media Development Contribution Policy, it's a long name, expired on March 31, 2015, over a year ago. The annual report for the Nunavut Film Development Corporation has not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since September 11, 2013, over three years ago.

I actually read the report and it was very interesting to note how many great movies actually have been made in Nunavut and in Iqaluit specifically.

Will the minister commit to tabling an updated policy and the outstanding annual reports when the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly begins next February? 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 asking another two questions. I'll try to respond to them. The Nunavut Film Development Corporation makes press releases and I will check into them. The last report was in 2013 and I will have to ask them why we haven't heard from them since that time. If we need to table anything, I will ask them to work on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I'm sorry. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasie.

Question 492 – 4(3): Net Metering Policy

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Last month I noted with interest when QEC announced that it plans to launch its net metering program in the spring of 2017. QEC has indicated that this, and I quote, “will enable QEC customers who are interested in generating their own electricity supply with small-scale renewable energy systems to send excess power to the electricity grid.”

Can the minister indicate when QEC will finalize its new net metering policy and amend its terms and conditions and service to include the new net metering policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question about an aspect of QEC trying to get the net metering policy out to try to access more power from outside the corporation. We expect that this will be put in place in 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s new *Blueprint for Action on Housing* document indicates that NHC will, and I

quote, “...assist QEC through a pilot project of net-metering technology through installation of solar panels on select homes in Nunavut.” Can the minister clarify how homeowners can volunteer to participate in this pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): This new net metering policy you speak of is already in use in some communities, with one already in place here in Iqaluit. However, the actual policy itself will need to be revised to ensure that QEC can properly administer it.

With respect to the question, this will be available for usage by any person wishing to partake in this program. For example, if they have solar panels, this program will be available to them. However, with respect to the connections to QEC’s power grid, due to this program creation, it will require additional work.

With respect to his other question, I’m sorry that I can’t respond as it is specific to NHC in terms of how exactly it will fit with them. However, we are opening this program so that homeowners can have the opportunity to connect to this and the policy will be implemented in 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm whether or not the implementation of QEC’s new net

metering program will need to be reviewed by the Utility Rates Review Council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not sure as to when we will be submitting it or if we have already submitted it to the Utility Rates Review Council. I will have to get back to my colleague with a definitive answer as to when or if we have submitted it, but I know there have been discussions about it. I will have to get back to my colleague as to when or if it will be reviewed by the Utility Rates Review Council. I understand the question, but I'll have to get back to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 493 – 4(3): Community Access Roads

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I made my statement earlier, I was going to say “good day” to the residents of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak as well as my fellow colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The department's current 2016-17 main estimates include \$1.5 million for its Community Transportation Initiatives

Program, which provides funding for community access roads.

Can the minister indicate if her department is considering requesting an increase in this amount for its 2017-18 main estimates, which will be considered by the Legislative Assembly in a few months from now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. In the main estimates for 2015-16, we had just established that program and this is only the second year in its existence. We have no plans for the upcoming year to increase that amount at the moment, but we know that we receive many requests for that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Mr. Speaker, the Municipality of Taloyoak received \$25,000 in funding during the 2015-16 fiscal year for the Netsilik Access Road project and I want to express my appreciation for this support. The municipality is currently working with the department on the Redfish access road, Ivitaaruqtuq.

Can the minister explain what criteria her department uses to determine whether or not to approve the full amount requested by a municipality in

any given proposal submitted under this program? 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 requesting more information. The Department of Economic Development handles numerous requests for access roads and other programs. Kugaaruk requested \$25,000 to build an access road called the Barrow Lake access road and they were given that funding.

Sometimes requests are denied the full amount. We look at what they request and if they have the capacity in (interpretation ends) that community to carry out the work, the extent to which the community is prepared to contribute its own resources, and the extent to which local labour and municipal equipment are used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) This wasn't for Kugaaruk. I'm talking about Taloyoak with respect to the \$25,000 that was received for the Redfish access road.

(interpretation ends) The department's *Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy* provides that the maximum contribution that her department can provide to a municipality in any given fiscal year under this program is \$300,000. The policy also

provides that "Contributions are normally made for a one-year period. Multi-year contributions may be considered on a case-by-case basis."

Can the minister explain how her department decides whether or not to approve a multi-year contribution for projects that may take more than one year to complete? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to his question concerning Taloyoak, they were given \$35,000, not \$25,000.

Communities submit different proposals. If they want to have a project approved to build a road, they can have discussions with our staff. If they wish to have a multi-year project, it's done through discussions and it's very possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 494 – 4(3): Continuing Care in Nunavut

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I direct my question to the appropriate minister, I forgot to mention the birthday girl's name in Pond Inlet. Her name is Chantal Apak Koonoo.

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

Mr. Speaker, on 26 February 2016 a document entitled *Continuing Care in Nunavut* was tabled in this House. This document provides a very comprehensive look at the current status of care needs across Nunavut, from housing needs for elders, to home care, to the needs for residential long-term care.

Can the minister indicate whether or not he has had the opportunity to read through this document and whether he agrees with its recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think anybody in this room or in this territory can argue the fact that we need more continuing care homes in the territory. There are obvious challenges for getting care homes like that on a capital budget with the amount of infrastructure deficit and the competing needs across the territory.

I have said numerous times that there are opportunities out there for partnerships and economic development activities from other organizations to be able to provide services like that for Nunavummiut that the Department of Health and currently the Department of Family Services can participate in.

I have read the document and like I stated, I do agree with a number of the points made in the document. Again, I

don't think anyone is arguing that the need is there. It's just a matter of getting the resources in place to make sure that people are cared for appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Continuing Care in Nunavut* document noted that there are approximately 51 beds available for adult care across Nunavut, with approximately 30 adults on the waiting list at any given time. Can the minister clarify for this House what priorities are being placed on opening up more adult care beds in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't been inactive, and I know the member is continuing to bring up a very important issue. When you look at the increasing bed capacity that we've got, that we just recently are in the process of opening in Cambridge Bay, I'm sure the member will recall on the preplanning exercise that we're going through right now of taking a look at other facilities where maybe extensions could be explored.

Again, we haven't been complacent in this issue. We are working with the resources that we have available to us. We're looking at enhancing community care so that people can stay in their homes longer. There are a number of different initiatives that we're working on with our elders to meet the needs in

the territory as much as possible, Mr. Speaker.

That being said, sometimes the needs are too great for the facilities that we have and we do have to resort to out-of-community or even out-of-territory care. I can assure the member that we're all aware of the need for increased community care for elders and all people who are going through health-related issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's home care program plays an extremely important role in providing care and support for Nunavut's ill and elderly who remain at home and do not go into adult care beds. Given the lack of availability of adult care beds, can the minister describe what steps, if any, are being taken to increase the resources and staffing for his department's Home and Community Care program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Home and community care is available in all communities throughout our territory and we're continually looking at enhancing programming. We currently provide rehab services and case management. They provide palliative care, respite care, nursing care, assistance with homemaking, foot care, and personal care. The list goes on and on of the level of service that these

trained medical health professionals provide to our residents.

We're continuously looking at exploring opportunities and increased training. We have recently done palliative care skills training here in Iqaluit in May and in Igloolik in June, and caring for people with dementia was also delivered recently in June. The chronic health disease education and training fund provided by Health Canada supports learning opportunities for all of our home care nurses. We're continuously looking at ways to enhance the services that we're providing so that people can stay in their homes for as long as possible but still have a level of care that meets their needs.

I can assure the member that it's a continual growth. We don't become complacent with the programs and services that we do provide. We're always working. The officials at the Department of Health are always looking for ways to enhance the service that we're able to provide in the territory. I can assure the member that the work is ongoing and will continue to produce results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 495 – 4(3): Management of the Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bears

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish everybody a safe and happy Halloween.

Today I would like to ask questions to the Minister of Environment.

On October 10 of 2014 the federal government announced that territorial and provincial governments as well as hunters, Inuit, Cree organizations, and wildlife management boards had reached an agreement to maintain the effective management and conservation of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation. In that announcement the federal government indicated that “In November 2016, the relevant parties will meet to review this agreement.”

Can the minister confirm that the Government of Nunavut and relevant hunters and trappers organizations will be meeting next month with the provincial governments of Ontario and Quebec to discuss the management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That meeting for the southern Hudson Bay that the member was talking about will not be happening next month. The reason it will not be happening is because there has been a survey done for the southern Hudson Bay polar bear population, but the analysis of the data is not complete yet. It would make more sense to have the meeting once they know exactly what the data says. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board began a public hearing on the proposed new Polar Bear Management Plan, which was submitted by the Government of Nunavut. According to this proposed plan, the total allowable harvest for the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation is divided amongst Nunavut, Ontario, and Quebec.

Can the minister clarify who is responsible for monitoring and enforcing these total allowable harvest allocations in the Ontario and Quebec jurisdictions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows, we have no jurisdiction over in Ontario and Quebec, therefore we are working with our federal counterparts, who in turn will work with the provincial counterparts, so that when there is a management plan and a TAH, it will be usable and enforceable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the recommendations included in the government’s proposed Polar Bear Management Plan is that Nunavut “Help Quebec to develop a management plan and system to ensure that TAH is respected and followed and all harvesting is reported.” Can the minister indicate when his department plans to begin working on this management plan with his counterparts in Quebec? Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have suggested a management plan to Quebec and Ontario that is similar to what we have here in Nunavut where we manage the polar bears very well. As part of the recommendation for a TAH, we are also recommending that a management plan similar to Nunavut should be implemented in Quebec. We have not heard back from Quebec yet, but with the help of the federal government and in cooperation with the Quebec government, we are hoping that we will have similar management plans for the polar bears in southern Hudson Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 496 – 4(3): Purchasing of Harp Sealskins

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

Here in our community as well as smaller outlying communities in this region, harp seals migrate north and the populations are increasing exponentially. They have nice skins and the smaller yearlings are the ones we like to eat. Most harp seals serve as dog food as the meat is quite good, but the skins are not used at all today. Ringed sealskins are used in our communities and sold to the Department of Environment.

I would like to ask the minister if the Department of Environment can start purchasing harp sealskins as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question so that we can get our message out. In fact we do buy harp sealskins. The numbers aren't that significant, though. We buy mostly ringed seals, but I'll let the member and the public in Nunavut know that we do buy harp sealskins as part of our Fur Pricing Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister and I am very pleased. Can the minister commit to publicizing information so that people are aware your department buys harp sealskins? It's very important and beneficial to our hunters and harvesters. Perhaps you can commit to providing or making that information available to the public so that they are aware that they can sell the harp sealskins to the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that that information was not well distributed. I will inform my department to make it known that we do buy harp sealskins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurток.

Question 497 – 4(3): Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have a good day, people of Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation.

(interpretation ends) In March of this year it was announced that the Qulliq Energy Corporation would be undertaking a pilot project to install energy-efficient LED street lights in Iqaluit. The announcement also indicated that, and I quote, “the lessons learned from this project will assist QEC’s future plan to extend LED street lighting to the rest of Nunavut.”

Can the minister update me today as to if and when LED street lighting will be installed in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. We just recently started this program utilizing LED street lighting. They’re pretty bright. We have been working on this program. We have plans and

according to the plan for LED street lighting, Rankin Inlet is also included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have heard concerns from my constituents regarding the need to install more street lights in the airport and dock areas of Chesterfield Inlet. Mr. Speaker, improving street lighting in these areas will improve public safety.

Will the minister commit to having QEC review the street light situation in Chesterfield Inlet and report its findings to me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for speaking to the concern. As QEC was planning for the installation of LED lighting, we wanted to hear about the positive results. I know that QEC is listening in, so I’ll ask them to include that community. I would like to restate that moving towards using LED lighting is very important to us because our lights can only be powered with fossil fuels. With the LED lighting in Iqaluit, we have learned that it is very beneficial and they’re very bright. They emit good light and they use less fossil fuel. I’ll ask my staff to consider the member’s comment or request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In June of this year the Qulliq Energy Corporation's new corporate plan was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. It indicated that one of the corporation's priorities was to, and I quote, "remove all single-walled underground piping that ties into QEC's fuel system in Rankin Inlet...and replace with either double-walled underground piping or aboveground piping." Can the minister update me today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can look into the status of this plan and get back to the member once I have the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 498 – 4(3): Storage for School Buses

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, ministers, Nunavummiut, Uqsuqturmiut, and my two granddaughters watching, my Mamatsiaq and Sunshine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as was discussed in the House last week, the community of Gjoa Haven is very pleased to be receiving a new school bus this year. The use of the bus is very important to the community and it helps keep up attendance in our schools. Currently the bus is stored in the hamlet garage. However, more and more vehicles are coming into the hamlet and there is less and less space available.

Can the minister provide an update on what kind of support his department can make available to the hamlet to access safe storage for the school bus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed the provision of buses in the communities is quite important and the program is used by the communities that also maintain the vehicles, so I first want to express my gratitude to the communities.

Each application for a bus is different and there are different reasons used in applying for them, which are critical. To date there is a (interpretation ends) 36-passenger school bus (interpretation) in Gjoa Haven costing \$105,000 and the details he provided are correct.

However, we haven't had any discussions about communities that, for example, may not have storage for the bus. In communities where space is not readily available, we have noted that the bus may be parked outside of the principal's house and plugged in or what we have heard about is when space is not

available, they are also parked outside of the RCMP station and if they are plugged in, they can start.

The communities are managing as best as they can, but we have not heard about requests for a garage as the Department of Education doesn't fund garages. Perhaps CGS would be the department to request this from as we are starting to learn that many communities do not have space. As my colleague stated, parking space is limited and perhaps we must revisit that idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recognize that the district education authority plays a role in ensuring that school bus services are provided in the community of Gjoa Haven. The Gjoa Haven DEA recently wrote to the Minister of Education on this issue. Can the minister clarify what his reply to the Gjoa Haven District Education Authority suggested with respect to the storage of the school bus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. As per my earlier response, currently we are trying to discuss this issue with the DEA and to dedicate a temporary storage space. We can revisit this issue after further discussions with the local DEA on their options. That's all I can say at this time.

As I mentioned earlier, some communities park their buses where it

can be plugged in. However, we would need to discuss this matter with the local DEA of Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He partially answered my third question.

Mr. Speaker, if there is no storage for the school bus, then it risks being damaged by vandalism or by the elements. Even if there is crowded storage, there is a risk of damage when too many vehicles are crowded into a small space.

Will the minister commit to working with the Gjoa Haven District Education Authority to find a solution for accessing storage for the community's school bus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, I am more than willing to talk to the Gjoa Haven District Education Authority after having received the correspondence. There are less and less spaces available for school buses, so we're going to need to have a dialogue on this issue and it will very likely be at the regional school operations offices. I would like to thank the member for bringing this issue up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 499 – 4(3): Polar Bear Hides at Fur Auction Houses

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

Mr. Speaker, this past winter I asked the same question regarding polar bear hides that are sent to auction houses but are not purchased right away. I would like to ask the minister if he can give us an update today on what is happening with the polar bear hides since I last asked the question. Have there been any auctions yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't respond to his question at this time, but I can say there haven't been any auctions as the number of polar bear hides we had were sent out when the prices were very high. When they were sold in the past, they would get a fair return on the sale. At that time the money was appropriate, but to date the price of polar bear hides has gone down because there are fewer buyers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, all the hides haven't been bought at the auction houses yet, and there are quite a number of people who were paid in advance prior to the polar bear hides being sent out.

What if the polar bear hides aren't sold? Some, I believe, are kept there for many years because they don't have auctions very often. Some individuals have had advanced payments. What would happen in that case? Would they have to return the money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the advance payments, they would not owe money, but if they are sold for less than what their advance payment was, then they would have to return the remaining amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister have any information as to when the next auction will be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I don't have the date as to when the next auction will be, but it will be some time in the month of December. I don't know the exact date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 500 – 4(3): Harvesting Polar Bears

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is aware, Baker Lake is allocated one polar bear tag out of the total allowable harvest for the Kivalliq region of the Foxe Basin polar bear population.

Can the minister indicate what specific steps must be taken in order for Baker Lake's allocation of polar bear tags to be reviewed and possibly modified? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, raised the concern on the western Hudson Bay polar bear population many times when I sat over on the other side, and I'll address the issue now.

The TAH for the western Hudson Bay, which Baker Lake is a part of, right now is at 28. How it works is the Department of Environment sets the TAH and that TAH is allocated to the regional wildlife board, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board in this instance, and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board allocates it to the communities.

Baker Lake has one right now. The allocation is done through the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. If the Baker Lake HTO

wanted more, then they would lobby the Kivalliq Wildlife Board to get more than their allotted share. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We rarely hunt polar bears, but I believe our polar bear quota comes from the Foxe Basin area. That one tag that we have comes from the Foxe Basin area.

According to the government's current *Harvesting Regulations*, an individual who kills a polar bear in self-defence must deliver the bear to the conservation officer. The conservation officer may then decide to return the bear to the individual; give it to the appropriate hunters and trappers organization or regional wildlife organization; retain it as government property; give it to a school or museum; dispose of it; or sell it by public auction and credit the proceeds of the sale in the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund.

Can the minister clarify under what circumstances would a conservation officer decide not to return the polar bear to the individual who made the kill? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying that the polar bear tag he was talking about was for the Foxe Basin. The process would still be the same.

KWB would make the decision on what community gets the tag.

As for the member's concern about defence-killed polar bears, when a polar bear is killed in defence of life and property, normally it's not an easy decision for the person who shoots it, but once any wildlife is killed in defence of life and property, and in this instance he is talking about polar bears, the process starts. The polar bear will be seized by the conservation officer and an investigation will be done.

Once the investigation is done, the normal process is the polar bear hide will be turned over to the HTO in the community where it happened because the HTOs are the ones that hold the tags. The HTO will determine how to dispose of that polar bear hide. On the perspective of the department, we highly recommend to the HTOs that the polar bear skin does not go back to the person who shot the bear because that could just encourage or could be seen by others as a reward.

The polar bear hide is turned over to the HTO and the HTOs will decide on how to dispose of the hide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want make it clear that my Member's Statement is enshrined in the Inuit of our population. I just wanted to point that out.

As the minister is aware, once a polar bear is killed by self-defence or during a

hunt, only the animal's hide is viable to sell by public auction.

Can the minister tell us today: once a conservation officer has decided to sell the hide of a polar bear that is killed in self-defence, what is the conservation officer expected to do with the animal's meat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me just clarify something here: the conversation officer is not the one who decides to sell the polar bear hide.

As I stated earlier, the hide is normally turned over to the hunters and trappers organization and so is the meat. When there is a defence kill, the meat is turned over to the HTO if they want it. In many instances this can't happen if the defence kill is far out on the land and in the summertime because the meat might spoil before it gets to the HTO, but the normal process is the hide and the meat are turned over to the HTO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Enook.

Motion 035 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Baker Lake, that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Question 501 – 4(3): Departmental Vacancies

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of vacant positions in the minister's department. Earlier in our sitting the minister informed me that there are currently five vacancies in his department's Pond Inlet office. He also indicated that only one of the positions can be advertised due to a lack of allotted staff housing units.

Mr. Speaker, since it appears likely that these positions will remain vacant for the foreseeable future, can the minister explain who is actually doing the work that these positions are supposed to perform? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of positions that are vacant. The member is right. As I stated earlier in his answers, there was one position being advertised. Since then

there are two positions being advertised, but we are allotted only one staff housing unit, so hopefully we will get one successful applicant. In terms of these jobs that are just vacant, the regional director of infrastructure is being filled by an interim job right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's recently tabled *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that one of the government's actions will be to, and I quote, "review the process for reallocating vacant units based on the staffing waitlist of each community."

Given the situation facing the minister's vacant positions in the Pond Inlet office, can he assure me that he will be meeting with his cabinet colleagues to push for units to be allocated to the Pond Inlet positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I have not spoken with the housing minister, but I know that my staff have been dealing with the staff of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to come up with solutions because Pond Inlet is not the only community that is short staff housing, even though the member keeps saying there are empty staff houses. I have heard it many times.

There is just not enough government staff housing within Nunavut to fill current positions. When we have to

compete with public housing and other infrastructure, we are a part of the line-up to get infrastructure needs, but my department will keep working with the department of housing to try to get staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the minister and I see it in a different light. I keep saying that we have a lack of government staff houses in Pond Inlet and you keep saying that you have a lack of housing, but we have about nine or ten government units in Pond Inlet that have never been lived in since they were built.

Another question I would like to ask is your staff directory indicates that one of your government positions based in Pond Inlet is the regional director of infrastructure. Minister, can you confirm whether or not the current occupant of the position actually resides in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The position is filled currently by an interim person and I can't say for sure that the body is in Pond Inlet. I just know it's filled and I can get back to the member to see if the body is working in Pond Inlet.

An Hon. Member: They're supposed to be.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 502 – 4(3): Foster Parenting

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

Mr. Speaker, the issue of foster parenting is an important one across Nunavut. Sadly there are occasions where a child has to be removed from the family home for their best interest. When that happens, they are often placed in a foster home where they are cared for until they can return to their family.

Can the minister clarify what criteria are in place to determine who is eligible to be a foster parent in Nunavut and what factors determine whether someone is not eligible to be a foster parent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to respond to this difficult question.

Mr. Speaker, potential foster parents are investigated properly by children and family services workers from the Department of Family Services. They are investigated to see if they can become foster parents so that the children can have a proper place to stay.

Senior officials from the Department of Family Services look for an appropriate foster family for each child. The parents and social workers are involved when they place a child in foster care. That's the response I can provide to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, a few days ago my colleague from Tununiq addressed the issue of foster parenting and questioned why children who are apprehended are not always placed with eligible foster families who share the same tradition and background.

Can the minister confirm that when a foster family is being selected for placing a child, the first priority should be to select a foster family which has a strong foundation in Inuit culture and heritage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, foster parenting is run by the Department of Family Services. What my colleague explained is if it's an Inuk child, then they try to place that child with a family that speaks the same language and has the same culture as that child. If there is absolutely none available in the community, for example, if it's an Inuk child or a Qallunaaq child or a child of any other culture, if there are no culturally appropriate foster families available or if any of their relatives aren't available to take care of the child,

then the child has to be put into the foster care plan.

For example, in Pond Inlet there was a child that was apprehended by Family Services. They were taken care of by Family Services for a while before they could find a foster family outside the community because there were none available in the community. We have to make sure that the child is in a safe place. They did that to make sure the child was kept in a safe place because there was no one available in the community. That has been done and that is the response I can provide at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, many of the foster parents in the community of Baker Lake are government civil servants who are very busy with their careers and often work in positions of great responsibility.

While their contribution as foster parents is extremely important, it is also important that foster parents from other backgrounds are also being encouraged to provide caring homes.

Will the minister commit to encouraging and supporting the involvement of Inuit foster families within the government's foster family system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start off

with an apology, as I inadvertently mentioned a community when I should not have. I apologize for my error.

Foster home placement, even if it is just an overnight placement, is a complicated process. As an example, any emergency placement is usually with an available foster home. However, potential foster parents must undergo a thorough application process to determine their suitability and once they have that certification, they can temporarily foster a child. Further, if a child needs to be put in foster care, the usual approach is to temporarily house them with relatives whenever possible.

As the Minister of Family Services, I can commit to looking into this. With respect to children who need to be temporarily fostered and the places where they are housed, I can agree to that request to have it reviewed under my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 503 – 4(3): Status of New Power Station in Cape Dorset

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I first want to acknowledge his position as he is currently the fourth Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and it seems every year the portfolio is assigned to another minister.

My first question is: can the minister provide a status update on the

construction of a new power plant in Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for pointing out. Yes, I think I am the fourth minister. I don't know how many portfolios I've had with the government. I've had the portfolio of the Qulliq Energy Corporation for quite a while now, and I want it known that I used to work for the QEC.

With respect to the power plant in Cape Dorset, it has been in the works for quite a while. The planning has been quite smooth, along with the research required for the land and geotechnical studies on the area where it would be built within the community. The space has been identified by the hamlet council. They informed QEC that the parcel of land where it would be located includes (interpretation ends) lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. (interpretation) The hamlet council has identified the lots where the power plant would be located. Yes, this process is moving forward quite well, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A land lease is required when anything is to be constructed, and he just indicated that these are the lots that the hamlet has identified.

My question now is: has the Qulliq Energy Corporation signed a land lease agreement for the lots where construction will be taking place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, much of the preparation work revolved around the land studies, which I stated has moved forward, and the design drawing has been completed. The design of the power plant includes construction blueprints for this project. There are some issues from the summer when the preparations should have been completed. The power plant project is proceeding smoothly for Cape Dorset now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He did not respond to my question, but I would still like to know, if a land lease agreement is not yet signed, when do they expect to sign an agreement?

Lastly, capital estimates for the Qulliq Energy Corporation are not reviewed in this House and it is only later that it becomes known which communities will receive a new power plant.

Can the minister indicate when the construction of the power plant in Cape Dorset would begin and whether he has the estimates required to complete the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as per my responses earlier, much of the work required has been completed. In this current month the studies will be largely completed and we will have an idea of the overall costs. The construction costs are still being finalized.

With respect to the member's question about the land lease agreement, once the first stages of work are completed, the signing of the land lease agreement will be the next step in the process.

However, most of the work has been completed which were needed to move this project forward, and the planning work for the power plant in Cape Dorset is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 504 – 4(3): Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators

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

Earlier during this sitting I tabled the resolutions that were passed by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities during their May 2016 annual general meeting.

During the meeting the association made a resolution calling upon the government

to provide funding for the creation of an executive director position within the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators. The association argues that the creation of this position would ensure that the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators has the capacity to remain an active and independent organization, and that such a position would benefit the Nunavut Association of Municipalities as well as the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister tell us what specific discussions, if any, his department has had with the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators concerning their need for an executive director? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't tell the member exactly what conversations have been happening, but I'm sure they have. I also want to let the member know that different organizations like NAM and the mayors make resolutions. Most of the time we are not party to the resolution, so we can't assist them in making the resolution, but we get the resolutions.

Sometimes there are financial implications with resolutions that are made. In that instance steps where there are financial implications involved, we have to have deep discussions. As the member is well aware, we can't just create jobs out of thin air. There has to be a master plan.

I can't say exactly what conversations have been happening between CGS and NAM. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In speaking with the NAM executive director, he told me that he has actually been volunteering in that position for the last eight years and they have been asking CGS for this type of support and they haven't got it.

As the minister is aware, a number of municipalities face challenges related to the high rates of staff turnover in senior administrative officer positions. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities argues that, if the position created, an executive director of the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators could provide support to senior administrative officers during these periods of turnover.

Can the minister tell us today what specific actions his department is taking to ensure that municipalities that are facing high rates of turnover in these senior administrative officer positions have the administrative support that they need to deliver services to their residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that there is a high rate of turnover with SAOs. It's a stressful job and some people just aren't cut out for that job, I

guess, and there's a high turnover.

That being said, when there is a sudden vacancy of an SAO, we work with the community to find an interim SAO. If the SAO is retiring or they let them know when they're leaving and if there's ample time, then the job would be advertised. In the event that they leave abruptly or suddenly, we work with the communities to get them an interim SAO. There are a number of people who work for CGS that go from community to community to help them out with their finances and their SAOs. We also have some contractors that work interim SAOs going from community to community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his comments. I think then my next question will follow your comments. I think they go well together.

I recognize that the department provides financial assistance for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities through its contribution funding. In light of what the minister just said about some of the problems that the hamlets are getting and how his department goes around and helps them, perhaps the minister indicate if his department has considered the possibility of providing similar funding for the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators to help them do their jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't say whether we have considered that or not, but whenever someone gives me or my department a suggestion, it will be considered and it should be considered because we're here to make things work better and we're here to service the communities.

There are also courses that go on and we are talking with Arctic College to put on courses through Arctic College through MTO to try to get SAOs trained right from the bottom up even if we have to because we know that we are short of SAOs. If we can get more SAOs to apply, then that's all the better.

As to exactly what suggestion the member is talking about, I can't answer that right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 505 – 4(3): Consumer Protection Law in Nunavut

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Consumer Affairs.

Vehicles are sold here in Nunavut and some of them are used and sometimes they break down right away after being bought at a costly price. We know that if you're going to buy a big-ticket item like a vehicle down south, a report is legally required. Can the minister work on getting similar legislation for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the Minister for Consumer Affairs, I guess it's called, but I'm not sure if this would fall under my department or the Department of Transportation in terms of regulations on what is needed before any vehicle is registered. I'm not sure; if the member can clarify his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Okalik, we need clarification.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He's the minister responsible for the protection of consumers. If I wanted to purchase a second-hand vehicle from down south, I would be able to look up the vehicle report on the Internet. According to the legislation that they have in some jurisdictions, one can look at a report on that second-hand vehicle.

If we're going to be selling second-hand vehicles, then consumers should have the opportunity to look at a report of the condition of the car so that they can find out what kind of problems they might encounter. I would like to ask the minister if he can commit to looking at some kind of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this would best be addressed under the *Motor Vehicles Act* as it involves vehicles. I'm willing to sit down with the member and take his concerns and consider it, but my understanding right now is that this is better addressed through the *Motor Vehicles Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the minister wants to sit with me, I'll try to make myself available. I know that the number of people selling second-hand vehicles is increasing and there are quite a number of people who have been buying second-hand vehicles that have had issues. I would like to speak with the minister and have this discussion in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Keyootak, please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

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

recognize visitors in the gallery. There are young people from my home community. They all have the same last name, even though they're not siblings.

The first one I would like to recognize is Adam Jonas Nookiguak, Annie Nookiguak, Anne Nookiguak, Mary Nookiguak, and Lena Nukiruaq. I would like to welcome them to the gallery. I also want to let you know that the very last one is named after my mother. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. We will move 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. The Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 015 – 4(3): Bill 14, Public Health Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 14, *Public Health Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 14 will appear on the orders of the day for Wednesday.

Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister. (interpretation) I apologize. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 201 – 4(3): Respectful Workplace Policy

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost got a promotion.

I wish to table a copy of the Yukon government's *Respectful Workplace Policy*, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Tabled Document 202 – 4(3): Yukon Public Service Commission Main Estimates

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of the Yukon Public Service Commission's 2016-17 Main Estimates. I encourage all members to review this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions

for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 20, 22, 23, and 24 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 30 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:39 and Committee resumed at 16:02*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon. Welcome back. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut watching TV and listening to the radio.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 20, 22, 23, and 24. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we proceed, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a happy Halloween and safe trick-or-treating to all Nunavummiut.

I would also note that although we may have one or two tricks in store for

ministers today, I'm sure that we're all hoping for some extra treats in each department's budgets.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, we would like to continue with the consideration of the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services, followed by the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement with first deal with Bill 24?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Family Services if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Mike, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right

is Rebekah Williams, Deputy Minister, and on my left is Sol Modesto-Vardy, Director of Corporate Services.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Mike. On Friday we were on page D-3. Family Service. Corporate Management. Total Capital Expenditures. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon to all the listeners. Happy Halloween to everyone.

On Friday the minister was responding to questions regarding the \$2,020,000 for the case management system. We have 25 communities. Can the minister give us an explanation as to how the system will operate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The following communities now have operating case management systems: Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Cape Dorset, Igloolik, Kugluktuk, Coral Harbour, and Sanikiluaq. Those are the communities now using the system. Naujaat, Hall Beach, and Kimmirut also now have the case management system.

We are requesting capital funding for Kugaaruk, Clyde River, Taloyoak, and Qikiqtarjuaq. The only outstanding communities for this coming year are Whale Cove, (interpretation ends) Chesterfield Inlet, Resolute Bay, (interpretation) Arctic Bay, and Grise Fiord. Those are the five communities that do not have the case management

system and we will be installing them during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. With the case management system, of course there's going to be a lot of personal or private information that will be going through the system. How are you going to protect the personal or private information that will be going through the case management system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not implemented these changes as we are still concerned about the computer management system that the member mentions. The private information, other privacy issues, or other information that have to be properly filed is a complex issue in the communities.

Computerizing the information file system is desirable, but we have to be diligent on how we deal with personal information in the most secure way possible. Once we have completed the computerization process, we would then transfer the personnel and privacy files to a computerized storage system. The child and social services staff are in the process of making these upgrades.

Mr. Chairman, it's going to be a great asset to our department. It will make the moving of documents a lot easier, including the protection of privacy files. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want further information on the first question that I brought up regarding what they do. He identified the communities that already have a case management system and they're proposing to put the system in the remaining communities. What date will all Nunavut communities have a case management system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. The outstanding communities without the case management system, as I indicated earlier, are having a hard time managing the files because they are hard documents that are hand written and it seems less accessible when they are on paper. They're having a hard time moving the files around and it's going to make it a lot easier once they get into the case management system.

We're looking at the last four communities to have the case management system installed in 2017-18. After 2017-18 there are only going to be five outstanding communities that will need to have the case management system installed. That's our plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister elaborate on how it's going to make it easier to handle files with the case management system? Can he elaborate or give us an update on how it's going to

be easier to handle the files? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities in Nunavut are all part of the social service work and child services work in each of the 25 individual communities, there are actually 26, but in the 25 communities, for example, if there is a file opened in Kugluktuk and some of that information has to be sent to Iqaluit, carrying out that work is very difficult to do without the computer system.

Once the case management system is operating for children services and income support, especially for those we prioritize, it would result in a much faster resolution of the work on the files and with the income support or any other programs or services we provide, the turnaround time will be a lot shorter. We have noticed that with communities that have the case management system.

If he has any particulars, I would be pleased to answer them, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to understand how it's going to make it easier to manage. The reason why I'm asking that question is because I don't know how it works or what services or programs go through the case management system.

With respect to the capital funding of \$1.15 million that you are requesting, for

example, there are some monies for renovations. For example, here in Iqaluit the social services office was renovated. I think it used to be the Nunavut Court of Justice housed at the Arnakallak Building, which now houses the Department of Family Services. I heard that it used to be called the Arnakallak Building, but there hasn't been a sign outside since it was renovated. Will it still be called the Arnakallak Building or are you going to be giving it another name? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. The name hasn't changed. It is still the Arnakallak Building, but we will ask the owners to put up the sign again. That's all I can say. We know that this doesn't change the name of the building. It's a good name and I can say this as a past resident of this area and that it is the name of a past resident. We will follow up on this with the owners of the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him. There may be offices in other communities that need renovations. How do you identify which community offices will be renovated, especially if a particular office is a priority item for renovation? Can he describe how they identify which Family Services offices, whether it is inside or outside the building, require renovations? How do they determine which ones are a priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. There are different reasons. The Department of Family Services was recently separated from the Department of Health. This process started in 2013. Even though we have a Department of Family Services, with it having moved from the Department of Health as an independent department, whether it be vehicles, offices, or other materials, they're still using old equipment. The separation of offices is one of the issues. It has been planned that way for a while now. The Department of Family Services wanted separate offices outside of the Department of Health. That's how it is set up for renovations of office buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are all aware that in Nunavut there are no healing centres or treatment centres. Has the Department of Family Services considered healing centres or treatment centres or healing centres for the future? Who have you discussed this with? Can the minister explain that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are all aware that the Department of Family Services is having discussions on healing or treatment centres, which fall under the Department of Health, but that being the case, we have to move things around.

I am having discussions with the Minister of Health and our staff are working together. They're still in the process of moving from the Department of Health. With respect to all the things that now fall under the Department of Family Services, I cannot really respond to his question right now. We are taking this under careful consideration with the Minister of Health concerning these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for the response. In the capital estimates that we're considering right now, you have identified communities that will get new vehicles. Perhaps he can provide an update on the communities the Department of Family Services currently has vehicles in and how many communities need replacement vehicles. That will be my last question for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for calling you the Speaker. I didn't realize that until someone mentioned it.

This is only the third year the Department of Family Services has been operating as an independent department. There are still some things under the Department of Health. When social services fell under the Department of Health, the old offices and vehicles were being transferred over to Family Services.

I can't tell you exactly which communities. I think my colleague is

asking whether all communities have vehicles. We can identify vehicles, but for 2017-18 I already identified them in my opening comments. It was in my opening comments. Mr. Chairman, I don't know which staff member, but maybe you can give the one on my left the opportunity to identify the communities and respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

Ms. Modesto-Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of our communities have vehicles. We have been ordering vehicles since 2014-15. So far we have purchased 25 new vehicles as a replacement from those vehicles that were transferred from the Department of Health. These are the communities that have vehicles: Cape Dorset, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, Nauyaat, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, and Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page D-3. The next name on the list, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan doesn't really indicate child and youth centres. Ilagiittugut has been closed twice now here in Iqaluit and they don't seem to have anything in the plans on what next steps they will take on that. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I thank my colleague for that

question. Yes, I can only state that it has not been identified in the capital estimates as to what the next step will be for the Ilagiittugut building. It is only through the operations and maintenance section that it is being worked on. I believe my colleague is probably asking about renovation for that building. That's the only response I have right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This facility has been closed twice now. First of all, children were removed from the building and then recently the employees were laid off. What about the youth and children? Where do they stay now with there being no facility now? What are the department's plans for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. This is sort of outside of what we're discussing right now, but I can say that there were only three clients at the facility and the contractor didn't want to renew the contract. The services are presently being worked on and the facility will be reopening. It will open again this fiscal year and the contribution agreement will be more detailed for a contractor who will be able to run the facility. There will be some slight changes in the request for proposals out for the Ilagiittugut building. I hope that answers my colleague's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked is because I would like to know how many clients have been sent south since we don't have a facility anymore. This is touching on capital estimates. How many children and youth are presently down south from Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. We're talking about the Ilagiittugut facility right now and I'm responding to that.

When the facility closed, we announced that it would be temporarily closed. Since then there have been no clients sent down south. There's one we returned home and one here in Iqaluit who has been placed with foster parents who can take care of children, but we haven't sent anybody down south since the facility closed.

The main reason is that we are trying to put a contribution agreement together to renew services without using the old contribution agreement where people were sent down south and with the idea of returning clients from down south. That is presently being worked on. There are tenders being dealt with right now and that is what I can say at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it at that for now.

The other question is I thought I heard that as a part of their plans for the case management system, it's not really geared towards income support assistance, but the minister seemed to say that they will be using that system for income support. The funding request seems more geared towards children and family services. Can the minister elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I said that, I apologize. What I was trying to say is that the case management system that we talked about earlier here will improve the way we work with social service clients. The way we work with children will improve. There is a lot involved with respect to social assistance and child work. Thank you for reminding me of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page D-3. Family Services. Corporate Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$3,170,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page D-2. Department Summary. Family Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$3,170,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues for supporting our capital estimates for the Department of Family Services for the coming 2017-18 fiscal year. This will help the department a great deal and the people we represent, especially the children. It will help give assistance to them even more. I thank you all for asking questions and I thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are a good Chairman, just like I am. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Mike. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2017-2018 – Environment –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. We will now proceed. As we just heard, Mr. Akoak was a very good Chairman and I would like to be a very good Chairman too.

We can now proceed with the Department of Environment's capital estimates. If you are ready, Minister Savikataaq, you may now make your opening comments. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and members, I am pleased to be here today to introduce the Department of Environment's capital plan for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

For this fiscal period, the Department of Environment is proposing a capital budget of \$2 million. This expenditure will allow the department to concentrate on two program areas: wildlife management and parks and special places.

Within our Wildlife Division, \$500,000 is dedicated towards renovating various conservation offices throughout the territory. The main project for the 2017-18 fiscal year is renovating the Gjoa Haven Conservation Office.

Mr. Chairman, the remaining \$1.5 million is combined various capital funds which will be used to replace aging mobile equipment for our Wildlife Division and for funding our Territorial Parks and Special Places projects.

In keeping with our Umbrella Territorial Parks Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement, we will commence the master planning phase for new parks in Sanikiluaq, Arviat, Clyde River, and Napaaqtulik on Axel Heiberg Island. These projects will focus mainly on establishing and training of the community joint planning and management committees. These committees are required to proceed with park development.

It is our intention to continue to monitor and maintain infrastructure in all of our territorial parks and campgrounds throughout Nunavut.

In closing, the Department of Environment's capital plan is focused in areas that clearly support the needs and priorities of Nunavummiut.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Opening comments from the standing committee, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Environment's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year is \$2 million. The department's capital budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year was \$3.2 million.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$500,000 in funding to undertake wildlife office renovations in various communities and \$1.5 million in funding for the department's small capital projects.

Members encourage the minister to provide the standing committee with a detailed breakdown of which wildlife offices will receive funding for renovations during the upcoming fiscal year.

The department's proposed 2017-18 small capital budget includes funding for the replacement of mobile equipment and the development of infrastructure in territorial parks.

On March 3 of 2016 the minister of the day announced the establishment of the Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee for Territorial Parks in Nunavut. The standing committee recognizes that the establishment of this committee is a step towards meeting the expectations laid out in Article 8 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on any additional committees that may be established to guide planning and management decisions related to specific territorial and national parks.

The department's 2016-17 capital estimates included \$1.2 million for the construction phase of a new wildlife office in Resolute Bay. The department had previously indicated that the department intends to replace all 25 wildlife offices in the communities. Information provided by the department indicates that its schedule will require the replacement of one office on an annual basis over a 26-year cycle.

In his January 21, 2016 correspondence to the standing committee, the minister indicated that his department had decided not to build a new wildlife office in Resolute Bay and that his department had instead decided to undertake renovations at the existing wildlife office building in Resolute Bay at "significant cost savings." Members look forward to ongoing updates on how these changes may affect the department's schedule to replace and renovate wildlife office buildings in Nunavut.

Members note that the department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$320,000 to replace mobile

equipment for wildlife offices across the territory. During the minister's appearance, members raised concerns relating to the manner in which the department allocates this funding across the territory. Members encourage the minister to provide the standing committee with a detailed breakdown of which wildlife offices will receive funding for mobile equipment during the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates for the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Savikataaq, as we proceed, do you have officials that you would like to bring to the witness table? Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Mr. Chairman, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Savikataaq would like officials with him at the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my DM, Mr. David Akeeagok, and to my right is my ADM, Mr. Steve Pinksen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House, Mr. Akeegok and Mr. Pinksen.

We can now proceed. We're on page I-3 and it includes I-4. You can ask questions on both of those pages. At this time are there any general comments? I don't see any show of hands. Are there any questions on those two pages? We can now proceed. I'll read it in Inuktitut. We're on Environment. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2 million. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions around the mobile equipment replacement for communities. I know that not all communities have a truck for the wildlife departments in the communities. I'm just wondering if the department is ever intending to work towards having a pickup truck in all of their communities for their wildlife officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we're not looking at putting vehicles in every wildlife office in Nunavut. It's just not financially feasible at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some communities, maybe in most communities, the wildlife offices all have a boat that's on a trailer and these boats are fairly heavy. They're required to get these boats in and out of

the water every year and sometimes quite often. What are they supposed to do for getting their boats in and out of the water when they don't have a vehicle in the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, every community does have a boat, I believe, but not every community has a truck to put the boat in and out and they have to find someone to help them. We can hire a contractor to do that if need be or they can ask someone to do it, but we are also buying some UTVs, side-by-sides, for some of the communities and those are also capable of launching boats. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Questions? We're on Environment. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Savikataaq and your officials.

I don't have too many questions, but I'm just trying to get some clarification first of all on park development. We have a nice breakdown of all the different parks that you want to develop in the territory and they have different amounts that you allocate, for a total of \$1.5 million.

Can you explain how you came up with these figures for each of these? I'll just use as an example the Baker Lake Thelon and Kazan River, \$80,000; Ovayok Territorial Park, \$20,000; Sylvia Grinnell, \$100,000. How do you come

up with these figures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, before you proceed with your response, members, if you have any questions, please raise your hand ahead of time so that we won't have to wait for you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each project is budgeted on its own in terms of what is going to be happening or developing in the park. It is not "Here is \$200,000. You seven guys divvy it up." It doesn't work like that. Each project comes up with a business case and a plan on what they want to do and that budget is looked at on each individual park and project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. I have another question. In one of the substantiation sheets you have Nunavut Centres. Let me just find it here.

(interpretation) I apologize, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe if you want to move on to another member, I'll find that specific page that I'll ask questions on.

Chairman (interpretation): Okay, I'll get back to you once you raise your hand again. I'll move on. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask a question in regard to the parks, but my colleague already asked the question.

I'll move on to another topic in regard to having a vehicle, even a bigger vehicle or, as the minister mentioned, (interpretation ends) a side-by-side. (interpretation) We have a boat in Kugaaruk. It's quite heavy too. In the summertime an individual usually takes the boat in and out of the water using a small Honda. The tide is quite high and although it's not like Iqaluit, our low tide shoreline is quite far. I believe that your department should consider what kind of vehicle is best suited to use to launch the boat and return it to the trailer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, for the wildlife officers who have a larger boat on a trailer or even if it's not on a trailer, then we can look at coming up with some kind of arrangement with a contractor or someone to assist them in putting their larger boats in and out of the water.

We are also looking at getting UTVs for some of the communities because some of the communities do have them, but that's only if they have a boat and a trailer. Not all communities have a boat and trailer. Some of them only have boats. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was quite fast.

On November 2, 2015 during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of your department's 2016-17 capital

estimates, you indicated that the next communities scheduled to have their wildlife offices replaced included Gjoa Haven, Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Taloyoak, and Igloolik. Can you confirm if your office will be replacing the wildlife offices in those communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our 2017-18 budget will not include construction of wildlife offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why is your schedule written like that even though your capital estimates indicated that the next community is scheduled to receive a wildlife office? Is it due to a lack of funding? My understanding was that, as indicated, these communities would receive wildlife office replacements. Is it because there is lack of funding that you won't be building these replacements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. We wanted to construct wildlife offices annually, but because of lack of funding, we won't be constructing wildlife offices in 2017-18. We will know by the next fiscal year in 2018-19 if wildlife offices will be constructed, but for 2017-18 we won't be replacing

old offices due to lack of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Moving on. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I believe I can ask questions on pages I-3 and I-4. The first question I would like to ask is under small capital.

>> *Laughter*

That's the terminology I am familiar with now.

I would like to welcome the Minister of Environment and his officials.

The minister may be well aware of what I'm about to ask. Baker Lake has two heritage rivers, the Thelon River and Kazan River. What are your department's plans for these two rivers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On these here, we're still in IIBA negotiations. It's a heritage river; it's not a park. It's a slightly different category and negotiations are between the federal government, NTI, and us. Heritage rivers, like I said, are not in the same category as parks and special places, so we're still at the IIBA negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Although I understand that the funding will be used for that, what are your plans for those two heritage rivers? Are you going to involve the local residents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be premature for me to even come up with a plan yet. The IIBA is not even negotiated yet, but the plan would definitely involve the communities that are involved in the surrounding area. Right now we will just do the first step first. We will get our IIBA and then we will come up with a plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In 1990 the rivers were recognized as heritage rivers and they're still heritage rivers. In your substantiation sheet the funding in the line item is marked as class "X." Can you explain why it is listed as class "X"? Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be an "X" because we don't know what we're going to do yet, Mr. Chairman. Until we know exactly what we're going to do, we can't figure out how the money is going to be spent. The money is there for the planning of it of the park, but until the IIBA is settled, we can't start the planning process. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Today is October 31, 2016. In your substantiation sheet it stated that you're planning dated April 19, 2016. That's how it is written. In the 2017-18 and 2018-19 fiscal years up to 2022, you have plans to work on that. What are your initial plans with those? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are asking for the money, but there's no IIBA and until there's an IIBA, we can't actually do the planning and we have no control as we are only one part of the process for IIBAs. The best explanation I can give is we have to have the money in place in case the IIBA is settled. Otherwise we would have to wait a whole year again and come up in front of you to ask for money again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On the same line item, Baker Lake North, what are the plans for the Back River? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be in the very same

category. I believe it's a heritage river too and the IIBA negotiations have to be settled until we can do any work. It's in the same process and we just have to wait for the IIBAs to be settled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the two heritage rivers and also the one that is in the works, when they're going to be working on those two rivers, the Department of Environment will be working on the land. Do you know if the federal government, the Inuit organizations, or the Inuit of Nunavut know where the special places are? Of course it's going to have to have an effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the member's question correctly, whenever there are Inuit-owned lands involved, it's another part of the equation that has to be worked out for the purpose of the IIBAs. We are aware that if there are any Inuit-owned lands involved, it makes the process just a little bit longer because there is another party to the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having been a KIA land inspector prior to being elected, I'm pretty familiar in some essence, but my

question here is, and I'll rephrase it: Department of Environment, are you fully knowledgeable and aware of the two heritage rivers, if they are on Crown land or Inuit-owned land? The other being Back River, which is another development in the works, is your department fully knowledgeable of what lands they sit on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would be fully knowledgeable because a background study would have to be checked. We don't just say, "Oh, there's a good river. Let's make it a heritage river." There is a lot of work involved before it gets to be classified as a heritage river. Yes, we are fully knowledgeable on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. The reason why I'm asking questions on this subject is that we now have the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and we have the Nunavut territory. These three are going to have an effect on Baker Lake: the Kazan River, Thelon River, and Back River. Looking at the map, a part of that parcel of land belongs to the Kitikmeot. That is the reason I'm asking those questions. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear a question on there, but I assure the member that whenever there are any parks or heritage rivers or any stuff like that going on, all the affected communities would be consulted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at these three river development projects, under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement IIBA* obligations, do you foresee any non-compliance issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I see non-compliance issues, but I'm not sure what the member meant by that. That is why there are negotiations with IIBAs. If the member can clarify his question, I might be able to answer it a little bit better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. I would like to remind you that we shouldn't ask hypothetical questions. Maybe you can rephrase your question, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Basically my question here was: when you look at Crown lands and Inuit-owned lands, as the minister is fully aware, and me having a little bit of knowledge from my previous career, is your department fully aware or have you done your

background checks on possible regulations and Acts regarding Crown land and Inuit-owned land as you're doing heritage river developments on these three particular rivers surrounding Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when the background work is being done, all that is taken into consideration. Just on a different note, there is no legislation on heritage rivers, but all the background checks are done and we do our homework. If there's going to be a heritage river, then yes, you would have to find out who owns the land around it because, as we all know, Inuit-owned land is actually private land that is owned by the regional Inuit organizations. We do all the background checks before any decisions are made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I found the page I was on. It was on park centres and this is for \$25,000 for 2017-18. By looking at the substantiation sheet, are you able to say what equipment or what thing are you using this money for? It's for territorial parks; general maintenance and site development at Katannilik Park Visitor Centre, Kimmirut, Mallikjuaq Park Visitor Centre, Cape Dorset, and Vera Akumalik Visitor Park in Baker Lake.

I was in Kimmirut recently on one of my last visits and they had displays and I

think this might be the fund that was used from. Are you able to say what they will be using to buy this fund from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is right that these funds were used for that sign. We can't say right now what it will be used for, but it's for all the parks. We don't know exactly what we may need or there might be some kind of emergency repair or signage that might have to be done. That's why we can't state right now exactly what it's going to be used for because all the territorial parks have access to these funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will you find out what you will be using this fund for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We might know by March or April. It depends on what comes up. The proposals would be looked at from each park. I would think that there would probably be more proposals than the amount of money that is available because it's only \$25,000. All the proposals would be looked at and then they would decide on which proposals get priority funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'll move on to mobile equipment. There was an instance in Kimmirut where mobile equipment, I believe it was one of those amphibious vehicles, that unfortunately something happened and that vehicle ended up sinking and now it's under the Soper River in the park. Has the department looked at what they're going to do with that case and are there other types of vehicles in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not sure where that particular equipment the member is talking about went. It disappeared and it was never found and that piece of equipment was written off. That's about the end of the story. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But there are no other types of vehicles like that in Nunavut, is there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Is there? Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member is referring to an ARGO like six- or eight-wheel vehicles that are amphibious, we don't have any in our inventory, but I mean

they're available for purchase just like ATVs and snowmobiles. It's just a piece of equipment that's available, but right now we don't have one in any other offices and I don't think we really have plans to buy another one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I'm going to go back to office spaces where there are renovations and that sort of thing. During one of my recent visits to Kimmirut, the minister is aware that the wildlife officer position is sitting vacant and that building hasn't been in use and has been unfortunately subject to some vandalism. Is the department looking at potentially getting some surveillance of any type for their office spaces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look at it, but we don't have any plans to put any security system in any of the offices right now. Some of them do have a security system inside, so if there's a break and enter, then there's an alarm system. I don't know of any that have outside surveillance and, if it did, who would be looking after the video when the position is vacant? I guess it's something we can look at, but right now, in the near future, we have no plans on doing that. We would rather concentrate on filling the position so that we can have an officer in the community looking after the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I guess I'll just leave that as a comment since we have been dealing with other departments' big capital projects or buildings that we want to keep safe. Perhaps there are partnerships with other departments that can happen, so I'll just leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. We are on Environment. Program Management. Total Capital Estimates. \$2 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page I-2. Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that we have concluded the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, we have finished your department. If you have closing remarks, I now give you the floor. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my two staff here and all the other staff who

aren't here that helped to produce what we have here.

I would like to thank all the members for asking questions and being engaged. I have a job to do to present a budget and you guys have a job to make sure it's what the people of Nunavut want. We do the job together and get the job done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and his officials out.

Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time so that we can all go out trick-or-treating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Would you like to or are you making a motion?

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

Speaker: Item 20. (interpretation) 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 Bill 24 and would like to

report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Keith Peterson.

>>*Laughter*

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 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 20
 - Bill 22
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 24
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Tuesday, November 1, at
1:30 p.m. Happy Halloween.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:26*

