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**3rd Session**

**4th Assembly**

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Official Report

**DAY 54**

**Monday, November 7, 2016**

**Pages 2970 – 3048**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**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*

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(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*

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
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Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant  
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Law Clerk  
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

*Box 1200*

*Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0*

*Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266*

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Monday, November 7, 2016****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickey, Mr. David Joanasi, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, 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. Mikkungwak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

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

Before we begin, we wish a very happy birthday to one of the ministers, Mr. George Kuksuk. (interpretation ends) Happy birthday.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 218 – 4(3):  
Public Accounts**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the Public Accounts of the Government of Nunavut for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Despite the many pressures on our budget, with prudent management we were able to end the year with a surplus.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General of Canada has given the Government of Nunavut Public Accounts another clean opinion and this is the sixth year in a row we are delivering them on time.

Mr. Speaker, annually I have the opportunity to discuss the Public Accounts with the Auditor General of Canada and I must say that it was music to my ears to hear them say, "It's a good news story!" The Auditor General is very happy with the improvements our government has made over the years to our management of the Public Accounts.

I would like to make special mention to the fact that this year, for the first time in the short history of Nunavut, the financial statements and annual reports for all territorial corporations were completed on time. This is a huge step forward and shows just how much we have strengthened the financial management of the public purse across all territorial corporations and departments.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of hard work goes into preparing these financial statements each year, and it couldn't be done without the professionalism and dedication of all of the finance staff across the public service. I would like to extend my

sincere thanks to them, in particular Susan Nichols, Claude Carter, and Roxanne Ruediger in my Department of Finance who led the development of the Public Accounts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members, the Inuktitut version of the Minister's Statement will be made available to you once it has been received by my office.

Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Minister's Statement 219 – 4(3): New Federal Funding for Housing**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon, Nunavummiut, (interpretation) people of Arviat and Whale Cove, and (interpretation ends) my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise to speak to you today about a new partnership and agreement that the Government of Nunavut has signed with the federal government to improve the housing situation in Nunavut.

The new Social Infrastructure Fund Agreement will be administered through the Nunavut Housing Corporation and sees significant increases in federal funding for housing in the amount of almost \$85 million over two years.

The agreement includes funding in four categories:

1. Dedicated to renovation of seniors' housing
2. Renovations and retrofits of existing public housing
3. Housing specifically to support victims of family violence, and of course
4. Construction of new public housing.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has developed a comprehensive implementation plan for this funding and I am pleased to share with you today some details of where the new money will be spent.

I can tell you that the majority of the funding for renovation of seniors' housing will be dedicated to improving the conditions of the two elders facilities in Iqaluit and Arviat.

In regard to the funding for shelters for victims of family violence, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working closely with the Department of Family Services to identify renovation work on two non-government owned and operated shelters that would benefit significantly from this funding.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to share the fact that the funding dedicated to renovations of existing public housing units will be going towards a mould remediation project. We all know that mould is a serious problem in some homes and we are eager to dedicate this funding to that specific issue.

Mr. Speaker, the funding for new public housing construction will be used to construct over 185 new units across the territory over the next two years. Construction allocations were once again made based on the level of



relative housing need in each community, so the communities with the greatest need will see new construction.

Mr. Speaker, the new funding was announced as part of the federal government's March 2016 budget, and I can proudly say it was the result of intensive lobbying efforts made over the past three years.

Most significantly the Nunavut Housing Corporation partnered with its counterparts in Yukon and the Northwest Territories to develop a tri-territorial business case for increased funding for housing in the north. The funding streams included in the agreement directly reflect the arguments made by the three territories in their lobbying document.

While this funding is a significant accomplishment, it only begins to address Nunavut's severe housing crisis. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to work hard with colleagues within the GN and with Nunavut stakeholders to build a strong business case for increased funding to improve the housing situation for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 220 – 4(3):  
Government of Nunavut's  
Creation of Climate Change  
Secretariat**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it is with great pleasure

and excitement that I announce the creation of the Government of Nunavut's Climate Change Secretariat.

As of November 30, the Energy Secretariat of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the Climate Change Section of the Department of Environment will merge into a new Climate Change Secretariat within the Department of Environment. This new secretariat will be responsible for managing climate change adaptation and mitigation programs and policies for the Government of Nunavut.

The creation of the secretariat is timely as the provinces and territories are currently working together on finalizing a pan-Canadian framework to address climate change, and countries around the world are preparing to meet and discuss implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut have an important voice and a critical role to play in these national and international discussions regarding climate change. Inuit knowledge and extensive research have shown us that the Arctic is the global region experiencing the most rapid and severe effects of climate change. As such Nunavummiut are among the people most impacted by climate change around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Climate Change Secretariat will help to ensure that the Government of Nunavut is able to effectively participate in national and international climate change discussions, policies, and programs. It will also serve the people in our communities across the territory by providing resources and

programs that respond to local needs, build local capacity, and increase local resilience to the effects of climate change.

I am proud to say that the creation of the Climate Change Secretariat demonstrates Nunavut's commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Minister's Statement 221 – 4(3): New Power Plant for Taloyoak**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has recently completed the construction of a brand-new power plant for Taloyoak and it is now in full operation.

Mr. Speaker, Taloyoak's new power infrastructure is a landmark achievement for Nunavut as it is the first plant to be built from the ground up by QEC. Built to last for 40 years or more, the new power plant is equipped with four new fuel-efficient generator sets that can produce up to 1.7 megawatts of power.

In consideration of the community's well-being, the plant has been fitted with a hospital grade silencer that significantly reduces sound pollution. It

also features demand side management technology to help run the plant at an optimal level, resulting in less emissions and operational costs.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this project is also a very important achievement on the path towards QEC's committed vision to supply Nunavummiut with sustainable electricity because the new plant will be able to integrate renewable energy systems, such as solar or wind power.

(interpretation) A reliable supply of electricity is an economic enabler and this new critical infrastructure paves the way for Taloyoak's economic outlook and its success as a community with a sustainable energy future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 222 – 4(3): Winnipeg Art Gallery: Inuit Art Marketing Pilot Project**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 25 the Winnipeg Art Gallery, or WAG, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the Nunavut Development Corporation, opened a new retail gallery at the Forks in Winnipeg called WAG at the Forks.

WAG at the Forks is a three-year pilot project aiming to market and promote Inuit art.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the department is providing the Nunavut Development Corporation an additional \$75,000 per year for the next three years to support the pilot project. We anticipate annual sales of up to \$500,000 at the WAG at the Forks location by 2019.

Mr. Speaker, this retail gallery is a strategic way to present and promote Nunavut and Nunavut artists domestically and to international visitors. The Winnipeg Art Gallery is also partnering with Canadian Arctic Producers and the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association on an artist-in-residence program that will engage a wider audience for Inuit art and culture.

These initiatives are raising awareness of artists, increasing art sales, creating more opportunities for Nunavut artists, and increasing the economic impact of the arts in Nunavut. (interpretation)  
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 223 – 4(3): 2016  
Nunavut Food Price Survey**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon to my colleagues, people of Kugluktuk,

and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues about the most recent Nunavut Food Price Survey. Earlier this year the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, with the help of government liaison officers, completed the 2016 survey for the fourth year in a row.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Food Price Survey collects information to help measure the difference in the cost of living between Nunavut communities as well as differences with other jurisdictions.

This year government liaison officers collected prices on a total of 141 items from local retail stores. This was a combination of 122 food and 19 non-food items. The data collected has been analyzed and is available online at the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics website.

Mr. Speaker, results from this year's survey indicate that prices in Nunavut are generally 2.1 times higher than those in Canada. Prices of retail items range from 1.2 to 3.7 times the Canadian average.

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

Mr. Speaker, our goal is to see all Nunavummiut have access to nutritious, affordable food and to ultimately reduce hunger in our territory. I invite all members to find publications and tables from the current and past Nunavut Food

Price Surveys on the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics website to learn more about this important endeavour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

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

#### **Member's Statement 395 – 4(3): Appreciation of Support in the Time of Need**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my appreciation on behalf of my family who have been going through and are still experiencing hardship today.

When we were experiencing difficulty in our community, everyone was very helpful. We had to do some quick fundraising during the weekend to help send some family members to Pangnirtung. I'm thinking of you and I send my love to you.

I do want to thank each and every one of the people who were able to provide support and to those people who came to check in on us. I thank them very much. On behalf of my family members, I thank you all and all the people who supported us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Member's Statement 396 – 4(3): Nunavut Health Care Cards**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased to rise today as my wife, Eva, and my son Lewis are here to visit with me as we work through the remainder of this sitting.

Mr. Speaker, last week when my wife went to collect the mail, she sorted through it and found one letter directed to my son Lewis, who is five years old. Lewis said, "I finally got mail. Somebody finally remembered me!"

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, my son had just received his updated health care card.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Department of Health and the hard-working staff of the Health Insurance Division for making sure that all eligible residents of Nunavut receive their up-to-date health care cards. My son Lewis also thanks you.

Mr. Speaker, having an up-to-date health insurance number ensures that Nunavut residents are covered under our health care system. It also means that if a Nunavut resident is in another jurisdiction, health care workers there can provide services that will be covered under our health insurance program. It is an important piece of personal identification.

Mr. Speaker, since all Nunavut residents should have a health insurance card, I believe that it could be made even more useful as a piece of identification.

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

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 397 – 4(3):  
Celebration of International Inuit  
Day**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the residents of Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield, and Nunavut. Have a good day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words in celebration of Inuit Day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in 2006 at its 10th annual general meeting in Barrow, Alaska, the Inuit Circumpolar Council decided that it would annually proclaim November 7 as Inuit Day.

November 7 marks the birth date of the late Eben Hopsen, Sr., whose visionary work led to the creation of what is now known as the Inuit Circumpolar Council.

For almost 40 years, the Inuit Circumpolar Council has brought together Inuit representatives from across the world to promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level, to lobby for legislation and policy to protect the arctic environment, and to develop active partnerships in political, economic and social development in the circumpolar world.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian branch of the Inuit Circumpolar Council was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1984. The Canadian branch is led by a board of directors comprising of the elected leaders of the four Inuit settlement regions in Canada, including Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, today there are countless organizations and individuals who continue to work hard to lobby for the needs of Inuit. I would like to take this time to express my appreciation for all of these people who commit their time and efforts to improve the lives of Canadian Inuit and our fellow Inuit across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Inuit Day and applauding the work of the Inuit Circumpolar Council and all organizations and individuals who have made it their aim to improve the lives of Inuit across the world. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 398 – 4(3): Inuit  
in the Public Service**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of my community, the people of Quttiktuq, and my colleagues.

I rise today to talk about the time I missed a few days when I was first elected. Today is a very special day for me. On the third year as I look around

the House, I look at how we operated and take a close look at what work needs to be done.

One of the things that I have examined is Inuit employment seems to have reduced. It looks like the employment targets for Inuit just cannot be reached. I realize this is very difficult as I'm taking part in the government and I'm very passionate about it.

Mr. Speaker, when they ask a question why they are not hiring Inuit into the workforce, the answer is usually because they're not qualified or they're not educated enough. Although I agree with this, I know for a fact that Inuit are very capable and they are available in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I know that when we talk about this, we never agree with that, but I know that the number of Inuit in the workforce is quite low and it's way below our target. I, too, consider and think that Inuit are very capable of working.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. Mr. Shooyook, please proceed.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues, I thank you very much for accepting my request.

With that, we need to hire more Inuit in the middle management areas based on their abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I will now talk about what I have observed. There have been Inuit who never went to school, yet have acquired construction skills in Nunavut. They're not just merely capable; they are highly skilled.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit in the past, as I stated before, I talked about what I have reviewed or seen because I have seen an individual who has never gone through formal education who can operate heavy equipment machinery, construction of buildings, and electrical wiring. When I worked at Panarctic, I worked with an older man there. He had no formal electrician training, yet he did electrical work that requires a high amount of skill. He was so skilled that even some certified electricians were impressed by his ability and resourcefulness.

That is why, within this government, we need to be much more aware of the potential of Inuit to acquire skills. Mr. Speaker, today we constantly hear the phrase "Inuit have lower levels of education." That may be true with the western education approach. The Inuit approach to learning is by close observation. We are clearly capable of learning that is based on developing one's observation skills and to do so without the need for academic learning.

My wish is for this unique Inuit skill to be recognized, accommodated, and incorporated. Mr. Speaker, if we don't take that step, Inuit will never achieve the ability to do everything themselves. We will always be treated as second class labour. It is high time that the government finally make this recognition in full.

I want to close with this story I saw first hand. We had a mechanic in our community. He started out dismantling a windup clock and learnt the mechanics of the clock because he wanted to be a mechanic. When he became an adult, he continued and ended up being extremely capable, although he has since passed on.

There are many capable Inuit in most of our communities and our past is littered with stories of Inuit with almost superhuman abilities with no formal education. Our goal of reaching 85 Inuit employment will never be achieved unless we recognize that unique ability of Inuit. We need to bring this ability back to life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 399 – 4(3):  
Young Artists from Cape Dorset  
Paint Mural in Montreal**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy today that I am alive and I really felt my colleague's comments. Today is the celebration of Inuit Day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Cape Dorset youth who contributed to a mural project in Montréal this past summer.

Mr. Speaker, Saaki Nuna, Tommy Quvianatuliak, Johnny Samayualie, Salomonie Ashoona, along with mentors

Susan Rowsell, Parr Josephee, Seayenna Lee, and Aidan Price-Bottenberg, created a large colourful urban mural depicting arctic animals and images, which was quite gratifying to see.

Mr. Speaker, the project was facilitated by (interpretation ends) the Embassy of Imagination (interpretation) founders, Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson, who worked in collaboration with MU Montreal. They are an organization dedicated to brightening up the exteriors of apartment buildings.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the unveiling of the mural on August 9. The weather was extremely sweltering as it was the middle of summer, but it was still a very gratifying experience.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank and acknowledge the (interpretation ends) Canada Council for the Arts and Taking it Global, (interpretation) as well as the many generous donors whom I will not name due to time constraints. They donated cash and in-kind contributions.

Mr. Speaker, anyone can go and see the mural that was painted on the outside of the building if they wish to see it. They can go to 2360 Rue Ontario East, Habitation Coupal, Montréal, Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, join me in congratulating the Embassy of Imagination for another successful project involving Nunavut youth and I look forward to their future projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for

Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 400 – 4(3):  
Happy Birthday Wishes to  
Brother Joseph Mapsalak**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to say “good day” to the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, it is my younger brother Joseph Mapsalak's birthday today. He's the youngest member of the family. I wish Joseph Mapsalak a happy birthday if he's watching.

Mr. Speaker, a while ago now when he was still nursing, my brother whose birthday it is, was stuck with us on the land because of the ice in the summer. He was nursing and because we were only supposed to be gone for one week, he had no more milk left. I walked for three days to fetch him milk and I think of that once in a while.

He's an adult now with children of his own. He helps me a lot and I thank him. I wish him a happy birthday today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 401 – 4(3):  
Remembering International Inuit  
Day and Nunavut**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as well to celebrate Inuit Day, and I was quite pleased to listen to the comments from

the Member for the High Arctic, as Inuit have to work towards that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak to this issue as well since our fall session revolves around capital estimates for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be approving any large capital projects for infrastructure in the communities, we must ensure that we do not overlook any community.

We should try to be inclusive of those who are less fortunate, in particular when a capital project is being initiated in our communities as we have residents who are less capable than us. Residents with disabilities who can't walk, are mute, or are blind also live in our communities. We should ensure that their needs are addressed whenever any capital project is being contemplated for any community.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that we seem to keep forgetting as members speak is this fact I tend to return to, which is we are here as Nunavut MLAs only because Inuit negotiated our land claims agreement. If Inuit hadn't insisted on including governance as part of the claim, we would not have any representatives here in Nunavut. Due to this reason we have to remember our constituents who voted for the land claim, including Inuit with disabilities, as they voted as well.

Mr. Speaker, another matter is the Inuktitut language. Signage for workplaces should include Inuktitut as visible reminders and be prioritized. All documentation and reports should be available in Inuktitut because too many times in our work, only the English versions are available. We are constantly



told that the Inuktitut version will eventually get completed.

Even now, Inuktitut is treated as a secondary working language today. Inuit fought for Nunavut to ensure this challenge would be met and reversed, yet Inuktitut is too often treated as an afterthought. Let us remember these issues within Nunavut whenever we contemplate these types of projects in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 402 – 4(3):  
Tribute to Daisy Dialla**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): My apologies. Thank you and I share in the worldwide celebration of our fellow Inuit on Inuit Day.

Prior to commencing my statement, one of my granddaughters, Brianna, is celebrating her birthday. I wish you a very happy birthday, granddaughter. I know that you will be well-looked after.

I rise today to speak to the types of issues members talk about occurring in our communities and in particular related to work around our schools. I will be speaking publicly in this House about a person who contributed tremendously. I am referring to Daisy Dialla, who passed away during the month of September.

Further, her brother has worked here for several years. His name is Andrew

Dialla and I want that known. Daisy Dialla was born at Sauniqtuuraarjuk on June 2, 1944. Her father was Joanasie Dialla, who worked as a special constable with the RCMP, and her mother was Annie Dialla.

Daisy's grandfather was a Scottish whaling captain who was in charge of the Easonian, which shipwrecked near Kekerten Island. It was an old sailing boat and it is still located near Kekerten. Apparently that is the ship.

Daisy had five children, several of which were daughters, and she also adopted her very first grandchild. Out of her five children, two were adopted out and Daisy raised her daughters on her own as a single parent.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Mike, please proceed.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Yes, at the beginning of my statement I referred to school operations. Just when the school began to grow in 1976, Daisy began as the Inuktitut instructor who taught students syllabics and spoken Inuktitut.

Daisy was encouraged to apply by the late Annie Okalik, who was the mother of the member sitting next to me, Paul Okalik. She encouraged Daisy to take on that role and she worked for three years initially for the school board. As many of you know, funds used to be hard to

get for Inuktitut language instructors for both written and spoken dialects.

Daisy took about a year off and then returned to that position. She resumed her role in 1979 and she made a career of it teaching youth how to write and speak proper Inuktitut. She continued her work for 33 years.

While she taught there, she helped to develop many materials to make up the curriculum for teaching in written formats and she was a part of the Inuktitut curriculum group at the teaching and learning centre in Pond Inlet. She worked tirelessly on the Inuktitut language to ensure it would remain alive.

Furthermore, most Inuit from Pangnirtung and perhaps many from outside of the community knew that Daisy taught many generations Inuktitut classes. They are all fully fluent and literate in their language and many of them have held well-paying jobs.

Another area where Daisy was involved was the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, or the Inuktitut terminology committee under the government, and she continued in that role up until it became obvious that illness would be the cause for her resignation.

She was also involved in many other areas, such as the Alaniq Radio Society board for over 10 years, as well as the Pangnirtung Music Festival.

She had 24 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. She enjoyed being outdoors, fishing, clam digging, berry picking, knitting, sewing, and she took

pleasure in making traditional clothing for her children and grandchildren out of skins. She has left a large void in our community due to her role, hospitality, and welcoming spirit. She was also my in-law. Thank you.

This piece was written by Sandra Kilabuk, who is one of her daughters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 403 – 4(3):  
Congratulations to Daniel Quassa**

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

I'm proud to say that today is Inuit Day. Yes, Inuit are capable. Our youth are very capable today and I'm proud of them when they finish their studies.

My nephew, Daniel Quassa, lives in Pond Inlet now and today I'm very proud of him. He's a (interpretation ends) house maintainer (interpretation) and he has a (interpretation ends) journeyman (interpretation) certificate now. I'm proud of him and young people who go to school or take training to get trades. I would like you to carry on, and I'm especially proud of Daniel. Even though he's only 25 years old, he can now work at any housing organization in Nunavut. I want my colleagues to join me in congratulating him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 404 – 4(3): High Arctic Apparel**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet. I am Inuk E5-1519.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate two young individuals from Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Inspire Nunavut program, which has received funding from the Government of Nunavut, has been working with youth from Pond Inlet and Iqaluit to, and I quote, "use entrepreneurship as a tool to solve problems in their communities while also providing for themselves and their families."

Mr. Speaker, the organization aims to combine "the driving principles of traditional business with the mechanics of social entrepreneurship, while also integrating Inuit culture and values."

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Michael Milton and Jamesie Itulu have been collaborating on unique and inspiring designs for the product line of High Arctic Apparel.

Mr. Speaker, High Arctic Apparel is a small business that produces clothing for men, women, and children in a variety of styles, as well as other items such as mugs.

Mr. Speaker, High Arctic Apparel draws its design inspirations "from Inuit traditions, culture, values and tools."

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, a number of my constituents from Pond Inlet have been participating in the Inspire Nunavut program, and I look forward to sharing their stories with you and my colleagues in the months to come. I am proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 405 – 4(3): Celebrate International Inuit Day**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to stand and celebrate International Inuit Day. We all agree that Inuit Day should be every day in the great territory of Nunavut. Inuit Day is something that we live every day. We do have to celebrate that.

Mr. Speaker, I met an elder at the airport just a few days ago. She's from Coppermine (Kugluktuk) and she's the one remaining signatory to a petition that went to Ottawa in 1952. The Inuit of Coppermine were writing letters for a two-year period, writing letters to Ottawa, petitioning Ottawa for land and mineral rights. The Inuit were in the dark ages at that time, although I've got to say that Inuit have moved up in the society of the world at a rapid pace.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud about what Inuit have done in negotiating the land claims agreement. They have created

jobs for Inuit and so forth.

Mr. Speaker, there are many Inuit that signed the petition to Ottawa asking for lands and mineral rights way back then and I'm quite proud of the elders that did that. In fact I have some copies of the letters that I'm hoping we can put in the cultural centre of Kugluktuk. It goes to show that Inuit were thinking way ahead back then. They were thinking of owning land and mineral rights.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit have gone a long way in such a short period of time. Inuit are one of the biggest landowners in the world. We own Inuit-owned lands that are going to protect our future and our future generations to have a good life moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit haven't sat still. They have been working very hard and we have good examples here within our Legislative Assembly that negotiated the land claims agreement.

In other words Inuit Day should be every day for us, and I appreciate the fact that it was brought up by the member from Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. Inuit Day is every day for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 406 – 4(3):  
Happy Birthday Wishes to  
Grandson, Sebastian**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to

the people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, my colleagues, and our Premier. I'm happy that today is Inuit Day. It's like it brought us closer to home.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today because I am happy and glad that my grandson, Sebastian, is celebrating his birthday today. He is named after me and he is now nine years old. I want him to have a good day today and have a good birthday. Since he has my name and he is my grandson, I want him to have great abilities.

As mentioned by my colleague from the High Arctic, we have to follow what our elders said and apply it today and tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for being allowed to speak.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to recognize a long-time resident of Iqaluit who lives just down the street from me. I have gotten to know her very well over the years and I'm sad and excited at the same time to hear that she's in the process of moving to Ottawa. I just wanted to formally recognize Rosemary Keenainak. I'm sure you will be back frequently, so I look forward to hearing about your adventures in Ottawa and I

look forward to the education process that you will bring to the federal government. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I noticed Nancy Tupik had ducked away before the Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, but her sister, Becky Tootoo, my auntie, is in the gallery and I would just like to really thank her for joining us this afternoon and thanks for joining us for dinner last night. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To the residents of Nunavut and Baker Lake, please enjoy today as it is Inuit Day.

I wish to welcome my wife, Eva Mikkungwak, and our adopted son who is our grandson, Lewis Qahaluq Mikkungwak, to the gallery.

Just last week this person was recognized at the Jonah Amitnaaq School as she is also a teacher who has worked really hard and is the Baker Lake senior advocate of the suicide prevention group as well as being the oldest member. She has provided much-needed assistance to our youth in Baker Lake, so I ask that everyone welcome Becky Tootoo. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. I wish to take this opportunity to recognize a visitor today, my maternal niece, Rosemary Keenainak, who was previously a fellow resident of mine in various communities like Iqaluit, Nanisivik, and Pangnirtung.

Also another long-time resident of Pangnirtung who moved to Iqaluit and now lives here is Andrew Dially, who is interpreting for us today. I wanted to acknowledge him.

As our fellow Inuit are generally very hospitable and welcoming, I would like to welcome all the visitors to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the visitors who were just recognized. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 547 – 4(3): Using Nunavut Health Cards as IDs

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I noted the fine work of the Department of Health

and its staff in ensuring that all eligible Nunavut residents received an up-to-date health insurance card.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on how his department works with other entities within the government, such as divisions within the departments of Family Services, Education, and Community and Government Services to ensure that all eligible Nunavut residents have a health care card? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like the member said, there is a lot of collaboration amongst different departments when you're making sure that all our residents have the appropriate health card so that they can receive services here in Nunavut as well as in other jurisdictions in Canada through shared service agreements.

It's kind of complicated; I can be here for a little while if I wanted to get into all the details. First of all, when infants are born, there's an automatic process that is done with the parents to make sure that their child is registered for medical health. When you're taking employment to Nunavut, specifically with the Government of Nunavut and other employers, there's a process that when you move here, you have to fill out your medical insurance card so that you can access benefits.

I'm not sure how much detail the member is looking for. We work collaboratively across the whole territory to make sure that we identify people. I

just saw a number. I'm going by memory, but it's a little over 37,000 people that currently have health cards in the territory of Nunavut. Keeping track of all of that is an arduous task at some points.

The members recognize the amount of hard work that goes in from health officials to make sure that people get their cards and replacement cards in a timely manner. I thank the member for acknowledging the hard work that the Department of Health goes through to provide those to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In many jurisdictions across Canada, health care cards include a photograph of the individual who is identified on the card. As a result, the card can also be used as a form of identification. Can the minister update this House on what considerations have been given to including photographs of Nunavut residents on their health care cards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I've had numerous discussions with my officials at the Department of Health since I took over this portfolio at the end of June, the topic of redesigning our health cards has not been one of the topics that I have discussed with my officials.

That being said, there are a number of different options for Nunavummiut to access photo identification. There are the general ID cards that are available with the parent or guardian's consent from 12 years of age. All infants and children are eligible to get a Canadian passport. Most times for children under 12, they don't necessarily need photo ID unless they're travelling outside the country.

At this time I don't envision that being one of the main topics of discussion that I'll be having with my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister seems to have read right into my final supplementary.

As many of my colleagues will know, trying to assist a constituent who needs a picture ID in order to travel can be a very frustrating process. Having a health care card which can also function as a form of government-issued photo ID would be a very useful item for Nunavut residents to have.

Will the minister commit to working with his colleagues to investigate the possibility of including identifying photographs on Nunavut health care cards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the member's creativity in exploring different ways of providing photo ID. This government

currently does have practices in place through general ID cards. As well there are federal options available to provide picture ID.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has just recently rolled out new cameras in all their stations to be able to help people take appropriate pictures and they are in the process of streamlining the process for general ID identification.

I don't see the value in duplicating resources through the Department of Health. We have a lot of initiatives that we have staff working very hard on and I don't see the fiscal responsibility of duplicating processes that currently exist. I do applaud the member's creativity in looking at maybe how health cards could enhance the ID process, but I believe that has already been taken care of by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 548 – 4(3): Client Travel Policy**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it has been noted many times in this House that a number of Nunavut residents who need a level of care and treatment that is not available in Nunavut must be cared for in other jurisdictions. These individuals are far away from their home and families. The government's travel

policy for adults in residential care indicates that they may receive one visit from two family members once a year.

Can the minister provide an update on how often the government's travel policy is reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those individuals requiring care in other jurisdictions, the Department of Family Services usually takes care of the arrangements if the individual has to have specialized treatment or if an elder cannot be taken care of or treated in Nunavut.

In regard to your question and the government's travel policy, it says here that two family members may visit per year. That's how it is set up at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy states that an adult client can only be visited by one family member. That's what the policy indicates and I know it personally.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, many individuals are in residential care because they cannot live independently and need more care than can be provided in Nunavut. For some individuals, even though they may be considered adults by their age, their disability leaves them in more of a childlike state. The Client

Travel Policy for children in residential care allows them to have two family visits per year.

Can the minister clarify whether the Client Travel Policy could be applied according to a client's need rather than their age? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can look into this matter and see if that is possible or if it can't be changed. At this time I cannot respond to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to urge the minister to look into this matter because the clients experience hardships.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are often told that decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis. I am sure the minister will agree that for those individuals who must travel away from their families, homes, and territory to receive care, their needs are unique.

Will the minister commit to reviewing the Client Travel Policy to ensure that Nunavut residents in long-term residential care get the family visits that they need? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for raising that issue. There are different types of care provided depending on the needs of the patient and some patients are not capable of looking after themselves because of mental or physical disabilities. I can indeed look into the question the member raised on visits and I will look into the types of care required and whether that would include this request. Due to the complexity of each case, I would have to revisit the issue of visitation and that is how I can respond at this moment. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 549 – 4(3): Dust Control Initiatives**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I realize winter is upon us, but today I'm going to ask for an update on dust control.

Mr. Speaker, during our recent spring sitting, my colleague, the Member for Baker Lake, asked the minister a number of questions concerning dust control in Nunavut. In his response, the minister stated that his department would be "looking at different options, and might possibly even be doing a pilot project in Nunavut on one of the new options that's available."

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the department applied a new solution on the roads in Iqaluit this past summer as a part of a pilot project to address dust

control. Can the minister confirm that this pilot project took place and can he describe the results of this pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm to the member that the project took place, half of it anyway. We tried out this new dust suppression. It was tried out in Iqaluit. Due to the weather and other issues the test was inconclusive here in Iqaluit.

The other place where it was supposed to be tried out was in Arviat and it was postponed until next year due to weather. With this product that was going to be tried, there has to be no rain and it has to be no colder than, I believe it was, plus five. Those conditions were not met in Arviat, so it was delayed until next year.

Here in Iqaluit there were other issues where the results, I'll just say they were inconclusive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the update. Not to sound like a broken record, but dust control in Nunavut communities is a challenge that all communities have and are facing.

Can the minister indicate if his department has considered introducing any new solutions for dust suppression

in Nunavut's smaller communities in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These products that we tried out, the tests weren't final, so more tests will be done next year. The same company does have another product, again, that they have out that was not out this past year. We will be doing tests again next year.

I can't commit to which product it would be for dust control, but I'm aware that dust is a major issue in all Nunavut communities and at times it's probably even a health issue. We are going to do our best to try to come up with a practical solution. We will be testing this product again next year in Arviat. Now there's the possibility of testing the new product next year when it comes too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If he's ever looking for a community to test products in, I'm willing to volunteer my community at any time.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that paving all of the roads in Nunavut would be very expensive, but I often wonder how much it has cost our territory to spray calcium chloride every year in 25 communities.

Can the minister give us an idea of how much it costs to supply the equipment, solution, human resources, and training for the application of calcium chloride in

a community for one particular year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct that paving all the roads is very expensive. It's approximately \$1 million per kilometre to pave in Nunavut.

As for the cost of calcium, I can't tell the member exactly how much each community gets, but it's part of the municipal funding formula that each community gets. It's rolled into their road maintenance money that the communities use to maintain their roads. It's part of the funding formula. It's not a set amount per community, but it's roughly between \$18,000 and \$30,000 per community that is funded towards buying the calcium. That does not include the equipment. That's roughly how much is spent per community on the product, but it's not specifically for calcium. It's just part of the municipal funding formula. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 550 – 4(3): Screening for Diabetes**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the other day I asked some questions in the House regarding the

development of diabetes across Nunavut. While I appreciate the minister's responses, it is not clear to me that our health service is putting enough direct focus on this disease.

It has been well documented that diabetes is a growing concern in aboriginal communities where a rapid change in diet and lifestyle have brought about significant changes to health and well-being.

Can the minister provide an update on what specific screening and diagnostic programs are in place to identify the onset of diabetes in Nunavut's population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Across the territory in the community health centres there's general screening that goes on when people bring forward any health concerns that may be related to diabetes.

There are some specific dollars that are associated to the department as far as the treatment, but what we're trying to focus on is mitigating the measures before it occurs, making sure that people are educated in healthy diets and making sure that we work with food security. We work with different community groups to be able to provide country foods. As a government we work very hard to make sure that people... . Through poverty reduction roundtables, there are different things that we are working on to make sure that people are eating healthy.

I acknowledge that there are cases in Nunavut of diabetes and I have brought this up in the past as a regular member myself. With regard to specific screening, it's done at the community health centres. When people attend the health centre, if they have any symptoms or any indications that diabetes may be a concern, they're tested and the results are shared with the patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that in 2013-14 the federal government provided specific funding of approximately \$62,000 to Nunavut's Department of Health for a diabetes screening project. However, it does not appear that any additional funding was provided for this project in subsequent fiscal years. Can the minister clarify why federal diabetes screening funding is no longer provided to the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak to what programs that the federal Department of Health is going to provide funding for. That's one of the arguments that I brought forward to the table, along with a lot of my colleagues from across the country of getting stable funding.

When we get these programs funded for a short period of time, it makes it very difficult for us to ramp services up and then we're forced to scale it back when

that funding doesn't come through in subsequent years. That is the whole argument when we look at the Canadian Health Transfer of making sure that we've got long-term, stable funding so that we can provide continual services and address any oncoming needs with the flexibility.

I can't speak to why the federal government decided not to promote diabetes funding. It's something I can look into with my officials to see if there is a way where we can revitalize some of that funding. I do know that there's a lot of focus on mental health and community care. Maybe there are dollars we can access through different programs that are coming available once we learn the criteria from the federal government on how we can go about getting some of these funding proposals approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was screened for diabetes at a clinic in Ottawa as part of a routine series of tests that I never got here in Nunavut. Identifying a disease in its early stages so that it can be addressed and treated helps individuals to avoid serious health problems down the road.

Will the minister commit to evaluating the cost of introducing a diabetes screening program for Nunavut and maybe even submitting a proposal for renewed funding for this project from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hicke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said in my earlier response, it's absolutely something that I can discuss with my officials to see how we can access other pots of money or other programs that are available through the federal government or any other third party entity that may have monies available for programming such as this.

I do want to emphasize that when testing for diabetes, it is a fairly simple blood test. If somebody feels concerned that they want to get tested, it can be done at any community centre. They test your blood sugar and if there are any concerns, then they can go for more extensive testing. I would encourage all members of the public, if they feel that there may be some challenges with their blood sugar levels, that they get tested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 551 – 4(3): Inuit Employment in the Public Service**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my question is directed to the Premier.

Since the establishment of the Nunavut government, there has been an Inuit employment plan. There was an agreement with the departments to make sure that they hire Inuit.

According to the written documents that I have reviewed and analyzed, we have

not reached the target level of Inuit employment, although I understand that it's due to the lack of education.

I would like to ask the Premier what his position is to make sure that we prioritize hiring Inuit to make sure that they are put into the middle management positions or higher positions. Are they going to remain in their lower positions for a long period of time? That's the first question I want clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I wish to thank my colleague for asking about that matter. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, again it's one of the things that as a government we're trying to increase that number of Inuit employees throughout the whole system, throughout the government. As I have indicated, we do have a very good partner, which is Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Through their lawsuit settlement, we do have funding available to increase our training capacity and a number of different programs that we are doing right now.

Mr. Speaker, although it has been very difficult to get to the numbers that we had hoped to get to, Nunavut has a population of 85 percent Inuit and certainly we want to get to that level where we have 85 percent Inuit employment. Not only that, we have other different programs where we want Inuit to be promoted into the managerial levels, senior levels, and even at the executive levels. When I say

“executive,” I'm talking about ADMs and deputy ministers.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to try to increase those numbers. It has been difficult, but I feel optimistic. With our partners at Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, there is an opportunity there for long-term funding. As I have said in the past, myself as Premier of Nunavut and my colleague, Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa, we're directors in the Inuit training corporation of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. That's one of the things that we really look forward to because, through better training, long-term planning, and multi-year funding, there's no doubt we will be increasing the numbers of Inuit within the workforce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier for giving me a better understanding. I now ask another question to the Premier related to his government and the recognition of Inuit abilities, which I believe has to be acknowledged. When Inuit become adept at a particular job, what does your department do in those cases?

Has any Inuk been let go due to their demonstrated inability to undertake the work as a systemic barrier? When an Inuk shows skill in their position and are familiarized with the job, are they promoted to a higher position? Is that your goal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
The Hon. Premier, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I was extremely pleased when our colleague from Arctic Bay invited me to his community. When we went there, I saw many Inuit with jobs at the old Nanisivik mine. I was quite happy that many people had boats, vehicles, and other equipment they could purchase. When we visited the community back then, it was always good to see many Inuit who worked at the mine, who assisted their relatives through their work.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm really pleased that the MLA for High Arctic invited us to Arctic Bay, his hometown. Again, I don't have any specifics on whether a beneficiary has been given a lower position because of their lack of education or in fact I'm not aware of any Inuk beneficiary being fired from their positions for a lack of education.

Mr. Speaker, I worked at an oil patch for 13 years and through the normal process of training, I trained Germans, Americans, and Italians how to drill for oil and gas. I'm quite optimistic and I'm quite happy to say that Inuit can do well when it comes to ensuring that they can optimize training. We do have to optimize training and get more Inuit in our workforce, there's no doubt. Through proper training and perseverance, there's no doubt we will have Inuit in the majority of the positions.

Again, when we talk about Inuit in just about every level of positions, last year I was really pleased that there were two

beneficiary pilots flying an ATR. Both the pilot and the co-pilot were Inuit. That's something that all of us have got to be proud of. Mr. Speaker, there's room for improvement and that's what we strive to try to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier as he just made my pride surge with his response and now I expect to see this occur in our future.

I would like to ask the Premier this supplementary question about the positions that his department is looking at in terms of upper management positions. You stated that plans are in place now within this land claims agreement and although I know it doesn't allow for any movement below 85 percent, what seems to be the issue stopping Inuit from reaching this target?

I further encourage our Premier to review departmental positions, such as the lower level positions where Inuit observation skills can be utilized to learn the duties. I wonder if consideration has been given for lower level positions not requiring intensive paperwork and whether you are prepared in your role as Premier to initiate a pilot project to see if Inuit can work in these positions in the near future.

Also, since we are close to our final days as elected representatives, many Inuit are very passionate about ensuring more Inuit are hired in the upper management levels to alleviate our concerns. What is

your position on using Inuit observation skills as the Premier? Would you support that type of initiative to place Inuit in positions and train them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am very happy the member asked those questions. This government has made efforts to create initiatives such as the one he suggested in the past, but success wasn't always forthcoming. However, with respect to the issue of Inuit skills, I do believe in their abilities and their capability to work.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are committees that were formed to work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut, with our government here, to increase and implement some of the things we are all trying to do. We want more Inuit in the workforce. We want more Inuit throughout all levels, not just in middle management or executive supervisors. We want more Inuit.

I have some numbers that are in Kugluktuk, the place where I'm from. I do know that the hamlet has 170 employees within the hamlet and 120 of them are permanent. At this point I don't have the breakdown of the content of the beneficiaries within the hamlet.

Most hamlets do have a high number of Inuit working there. The housing corporation and other Inuit organizations, including the HTOs, run programs and I understand that in some

of the programs they do hire a lot of local Inuit. There's training taking place in some of the HTOs and from what I understand, it is scientific training, water quality training.

Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt with the help of everybody involved that we will increase the number of Inuit within the government and not just within the government but in our communities and in the federal government. We do have over 300 students in university and college at this point and they are working on getting their diplomas and their masters. There's no doubt we will soon see these graduates working in these offices within the Government of Nunavut.

Although every position is critical to Nunavummiut and the government, we do want to see Inuit in the supervising positions. With the numbers of our students taking masters, certification, and diplomas in all levels, there's no doubt the number of Inuit within the government is going to increase, not just in the Government of Nunavut but throughout our territory, including the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 552 – 4(3): Medical Travel Policies**

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok** (interpretation): Hello to my fellow Rankin Inlet residents and Nunavummiut.

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

Mr. Speaker, in response to questions from my colleague from Baker Lake last week, the minister indicated that medical travel clients are given information and a phone number to call if they are stranded at the airport due to flight delays.

Can the minister clarify whether elders and other clients on medical travel are given any food vouchers or calling cards to use in case they do get stranded while travelling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there's a delay in travel, then people are provided with food vouchers. Typically when you're in travel or en route, there's food provided on the airlines. You're directly going from point A to point B and there are people picking you up at the airport when you land to make sure that they are bringing you to the appropriate boarding home where there is food available.

Like I had mentioned, if there are delays of two hours or more, there would be food and temporary accommodations located for them to be able to rest and have an opportunity to eat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When elders and other medical clients are travelling to and from their

appointments, they often do not have money or coins to use to call the number provided for medical travel if they have a problem. In many large hub airports direct lines are installed to services such as taxi companies.

Can the minister update this House as to whether any consideration has been given to installing a direct line at the Rankin Inlet Airport for medical clients who are travelling though and may be stranded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't had any conversations along those lines. There are toll-free numbers that are available for medical travel patients to phone, so they can use any pay phone or if one of the airlines would allow them to use the phone, it is a toll-free number. I can take a look at it. I'm not sure the feasibility of how often it would be used to make sure that it would be warranted, but like I stated, there is a toll-free number available so that there is no cost or a need for a calling card for people to be able to call Medical Travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister should be well aware that this time of year the toll-free line or the direct line would probably be useful because of all the delays, weather delays, and cancellations.



Mr. Speaker, it can be extremely difficult and uncomfortable for elders and others who are stranded for extended periods at the airport through no fault of their own. Will the minister commit to looking into what resources, other than just a phone number, can be made available to medical travel clients in case they are stranded at an airport while travelling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We do have a number of staff that wait by the phone to make sure that any necessary changes can be made to accommodate the weather or flight cancellations such as that. We do have a very clear policy that if somebody is delayed for two hours or more, they can have access to a place to stay, a place to go to, and where food could be provided.

With regard to identifying further resources that could be used, I know we are doing not a full review, but we're looking at identifying efficiencies within the Medical Travel Division. We have been making some subtle changes to help improve using the MEDITECH system that tracks people's appointments. It's something that I can talk to my officials to see if they can include an analysis of what types of delays lead to any additional costs or unforeseen discomfort for our medical travel patients when they're travelling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 553 – 4(3): ID Requirements for Travelling**

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

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware in the Baffin region, we have to travel through Iqaluit no matter where we're going when we're travelling down south. Iqaluit is a major hub for the Baffin region especially.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, next year the new airport terminal building will probably be in use, according to the information that was provided to us. Mr. Speaker, once the new terminal building is in use, we will probably have the same procedures that are used in the south and everyone going through that airport will need photo ID. I think that's the way it is today, but it's especially the case when travelling to the south and it's not really used if travelling between communities. Once that new terminal building is in use, will everyone need to go through the same security measures as down south? 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. I also thank the member for asking that question. We're expecting to open the new airport in August of next year. The airport operations we follow today will not change and it will be status quo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is being more and more the case as we are operating like down south, especially in that you need photo ID for boarding an airplane as proof of identification.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister emphasize to the Department of Community and Government Services that it's very inconvenient to get photo IDs? If we want to get photo ID, we have to go to Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I really empathized for a passenger because they had no photo ID. As an example, there was a person at the airport in a wheelchair who didn't have photo ID. I was there at the same time and the person could not speak English. Mr. Speaker, he was told by an agent that he needed to go have his picture taken for new ID and the person is physically disabled.

Even though we may not have any physical disabilities, we don't know where the facilities are to get photos taken without having facilities in the community. It must have been impossible for some of the would-be passengers. We don't get enough services within our smaller communities. Perhaps they should make photo ID services available in all communities, maybe within the hamlets. 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 that question. As I have stated, there is a need to have licences or photo ID, especially when travelling down south where that kind of ID is required. For travel within Nunavut, that ID is not required yet and probably won't be required in the near future.

At this time getting photo ID in the communities is one area we are constantly trying to improve. We requested funds for that purpose within our capital estimates and ID cameras for driver's licences and general ID were purchased. We don't have employees directly responsible for that in the communities, but the (interpretation ends) government liaison officers (interpretation) were trained on how to correctly take photos and to provide better services to the communities. This was to ensure they serve local residents in that capacity and they are starting to deal with that more and more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for explaining that. People who are not as able as we are should get better service. It must be really hard for people who are not able to speak or have a physical disability to have to come to Iqaluit to have their picture taken. Even those of us who are able-bodied have a hard time coming to Iqaluit to have our picture taken as it is very expensive to get here.

Can all the communities be checked to make sure that they have proper cameras so that the service can be improved?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. Right now all government liaison officers already have cameras and they can take pictures in the communities.

We're trying to connect the GLOs through a computer network. Once that's done, we will be able to produce temporary ID cards before the actual ID card arrives from the south. They won't come from Iqaluit. There will be some deadlines put in place, but if the ID cards don't come into the communities right away, they can use that temporary ID that will be accepted by the airlines. Right now they are able to produce a document which doesn't include a photo and they have been doing that everywhere else.

The photo ID cards are reviewed in Iqaluit before they are mailed out to the communities to make sure that they don't contain any errors. That is the process right now. However, once the computer network is up and running, the whole process will be easier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 554 – 4(3): Winnipeg Art Gallery Project**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation regarding the Minister's Statement she made earlier today.

Mr. Speaker, the minister reported that the Winnipeg Art Gallery will be marketing and promoting Inuit art. We are also aware that the Nunavut Development Corporation used to have a gallery in Toronto where they sold Inuit art, but it is now closed. My first question is: will Inuit sculptures and prints being sent to the Winnipeg Art Gallery be made available for sale at the retail gallery there? 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. I also thank the member for asking about that. The Nunavut Development Corporation's work in marketing art is still going on in Mississauga, but the one in Winnipeg will have a temporary art exhibit. What also makes it different from the Toronto gallery is the fact that there will be an artist residency program at that facility where artist will produce their works of art. It is supported financially by the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. It will support carvers, other artists, and also promote the selling of art. Many people will visit the gallery where they will be able to see

artists in action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. The minister also said that “The department is providing the Nunavut Development Corporation an additional \$75,000 per year for the next three years...” Can the minister tell us exactly what that \$75,000 per year will be used for? 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 that question. This is just a pilot project that we will be funding for three years. The Nunavut Development Corporation will be receiving \$75,000 annually for the pilot project to present art at the Winnipeg Arts Gallery at the Forks. We expect that about \$500,000 worth of Inuit art will be bought per year in Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. The minister also reported that there will be carvers on the premises demonstrating carving. Can you tell us more about that? We know there are many capable artists in Nunavut in different disciplines that can produce many different things, including fine art. If anyone is interested in being a part of

that, where can they apply to participate and how long will these demonstrations take place for? 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 that question. Yes, I can tell you about the work that is being done at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. They will be showcasing art at a very popular place. We expect that they will get more than 4 million visitors per year and anyone goes there to go see the artwork.

Carving is not the only art that is presented down there. There are many stores and all sorts of different activities taking place at the Winnipeg Art Gallery where they showcase diverse art forms, from big pieces to smaller pieces of art that are displayed.

Anybody who is interested in demonstrating carving or making art can apply or talk to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to tell them about their backgrounds and art skills. Artists can approach either the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, Arctic Co-ops Ltd., or the Winnipeg Art Gallery. We expect that this will create nine jobs with respect to art and other work. We have good expectations about this project and the fact that it will create jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Motion 039 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period**

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

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

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

**Question 555 – 4(3): Office of the Fire Marshal**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, whose department is responsible for the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The minister recently tabled the fire marshal's 2015 annual report, which indicated that two of the office's assistant fire marshal positions were vacant.

Let me first ask the minister: can he update us today on the status of his department's efforts to fill the vacant assistant fire marshal position in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The position of assistant fire marshal is not that easy to fill. There are many qualifications and experience that are needed. We have been trying to fill that position and we have been unsuccessful to date. That's the only update that I can give the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The most recent annual report of the Office of the Fire Marshal indicated that a total of 1,015 fire prevention inspections of schools, health facilities, and other buildings took place in 2015. Can the minister clarify how many of these inspections took place in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail of how many inspections are done in each community ready at my hands, but I can certainly get that information and pass it back on to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The most recent annual report of the Office of the Fire Marshal indicated that \$10.5 million of damage

was suffered as a result of a fire at the North Baffin mine, which I presume is a reference to the Mary River facility.

Let me ask the minister this: can he clarify how often the Office of the Fire Marshal visits mine sites such as Mary River or Meadowbank to provide fire prevention inspections and training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how often the fire marshal visits mines and exploration camps and other stuff, but if we had both assistant fire marshal positions filled, I guess the number of visits would be more often. That is our goal, to have these positions filled.

As for the mining companies, I assume they have their own fire departments there that take care of their fires and their inspections, but they do fall under us too and probably fall under the Mines Act too. There are probably many pieces of legislation that would cover fire protection in the mines. I can't tell the member how often they go there. If they're asked to come, I assume they would go there. As for exactly how many times mining camps are visited, I don't have that information with me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 556 – 4(3): Management of the Public Service**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the *Public Service Act*.

Mr. Speaker, we are told that the government has a healthy workplace. I have three very simple questions for the minister.

Can the minister tell us today approximately how many employees of the Government of Nunavut are currently away from their jobs on some form of long-term sick leave or disability leave? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I asked Mr. Okalik to table some information on the Public Service Commission of the Yukon. I was expecting a bit more information than a downloaded document that I could have easily got myself. It could have assisted me with the work I have to do with the public service.

As Mr. Okalik knows, most ministers don't carry those detailed level of stats in the House, but I can assure Mr. Okalik that any employee who is away on long-term disability is afforded many benefits. They receive treatment and there is workplace accommodation when they return to work.

I can assure Mr. Okalik that the Government of Nunavut is no different than most other governments and most other employers in Nunavut and around Canada. We have a number of many positive policies and directives to assist our employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have question period, I wanted to find out how many employees are currently away from their jobs on some form of long-term sick leave or disability leave. I would like to ask the minister: can he tell us today approximately how much it is costing the government on an annual basis to temporarily staff positions with casual employees or contractors in circumstances where the positions' full-time employees are away on sick leave or disability leave? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Okalik knows, my office is always open. He has been the Premier and minister for many years. He knows that if he wants that detailed level of information, he can come and ask the minister and we can bring our staff. We do it regularly. I do it all the time with my other colleagues and I'm quite sure I can do it with Mr. Okalik if he requires that information. We also have the opportunity during Committee of the Whole. We can bring all the information and all those statistics to the House and to standing committees.

Again I assure Mr. Okalik that the Government of Nunavut values their employees. We have a full range of programs; sick leave, medical leave, maternity leave, paternity leave, and all kinds of benefits for the government employees that we make available to them. As I said, we value our employees

highly and we continue to develop policies and programs to assist our employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that I won't get an answer right now, but perhaps he will respond at later date. I would appreciate it if the minister can tell us approximately how many formal investigations into allegations of harassment or bullying in the workplace are currently being undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Okalik and all Members of this House would know, we introduced the ethics officer in the House here last year. He is an individual who investigates workplace harassment cases. He received a number he investigated. He found that only one was valid and the rest were cases where the individuals could have dealt with it through their supervisors or deputy ministers.

The deputy ministers understand that when a workplace harassment complaint comes to them, they have to deal with them. They can't ignore it. They deal with it and they do. I have reminded my colleagues on this side to stress, if that happens, that if there are any workplace harassment complaints out there from GN employees, make sure you deal with it through the proper steps. Go to your supervisor or manager. If that doesn't work, go to your deputy and if that

doesn't work, go to another deputy. Of course I'm always available to deal with them.

To remind GN employees, frivolous complaints are not necessarily workplace harassment. An employee being asked to come to work on time or do their job is more performance management than workplace harassment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 557 – 4(3): Language Teaching in Schools**

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

The importance of preserving, promoting, and passing on the Inuit language to the next generation of Inuit was raised in two of the formal resolutions that were passed by both elders and youth at the recent annual general meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that our education system is designed to graduate bilingual students and I recognize that our students need to be bilingual to function in the modern world. However, I believe that much more must be done to teach the Inuit language in our schools.

Can the minister tell us today approximately how many Inuit language teachers are currently working in our

public schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. I agree with you wholeheartedly that the Inuit language should be taught in the schools. Of course that is our practice to date as we live in Nunavut and it is the first language of most Nunavummiut.

I can't give you a number, but I can tell you that the NTEP program has produced approximately 500 graduates since its inception. This year there are approximately 80 students who are currently taking the NTEP program in eight different communities and here in Iqaluit.

I can't give you any numbers, but I can tell you that all Nunavut schools have Inuit language teachers. If you can recall, we also use Inuit elders who are recognized by the DEAs. We have elders who are instructing in the schools. With proper support, they teach students how to read and write syllabics. We also have elders who are counsellors in all of our schools. I can't give my colleague an approximate number of how many Inuit language teachers there are, but we do have Inuit language instructors, support staff, and elder counsellors available in all of our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate approximately



how much the government spends each year on training programs to develop new Inuit language teachers? 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 asking those questions as it is important to me. Although we haven't done this every year, last year we had what are called (interpretation ends) learning coaches. (interpretation) We have 43 learning coaches who teach reading in the schools. Most Nunavut schools all have learning coaches.

I can't tell him exactly how much has been spent to date, but we would like to see more Inuit language instructors in the adult learning centres. If my colleague can recall, we're looking into the types of courses through NTEP and working together with Arctic College. We're looking at how we can provide instruction effectively in both Inuktitut and English. We're currently having that review done with the Department of Education and Arctic College.

I can't provide a number, but that's what we're doing with the Inuit language of instruction at Arctic College and at the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although he didn't respond to my first question, I'll ask the minister my final question and I'm sure

he will be able to respond as to how much it will cost.

(interpretation ends) Our elders play a vital role in preserving our language. Can the minister tell me how many elders are currently working in our schools to teach our language? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question, especially as it relates to the elders. To date we have been asking the DEAs to provide additional names of elders so that they can work with students in the schools. Each of the community DEAs can submit names to me and we do want to see more elders being involved.

Since the Inuit language is very important, we are looking for people who are truly bilingual in Inuktitut and English, and they don't necessarily have to be an elder. We do have funding for Inuit language and I can give you the details. We receive funding from Culture and Heritage for Inuit language and cultural programs. In 2016-17 we received \$1 million from the Inuit Language Implementation Fund. We receive the funding from that department and allocate the funding annually to be used by our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 558 – 4(3): Fuel Rebates and Subsidies**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

The government's 2017 budget and main estimates will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly in February or March of next year.

I do recognize that the world price of oil has dropped over the past two years, but it is still not cheap to heat our homes in the Arctic.

Can the minister indicate what criteria he will use to determine whether or not to offer a fuel rebate program for private homeowners in Nunavut as part of his next budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. As Mr. Mikkungwak knows, that was a rebate. Yes, I'm looking for the word "rebate," to rebate some fuel. It is not a program; it's a one-off depending on the year. Right now based on what I know with the weather, it doesn't look like we're going to have a very cold winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the 2013-14 fiscal year the government provided \$897,000 to Nunavut homeowners under its Fuel

Rebate Program. If my pocket calculator's batteries still have any power left in them, it works out to approximately 1,795 homeowners receiving a \$500 grant.

I do recognize that very high income homeowners may not need a fuel rebate grant from the government, but many homeowners in Nunavut, including constituents of mine in Baker Lake, live from paycheque to paycheque.

Would the minister be open to considering a modified fuel rebate program that provides more support to lower income homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for lobbying on behalf of his constituents. I, too, am a homeowner and I know how much it costs for fuel. Mr. Speaker, as I alluded to in this House last week, the Government of Nunavut is facing some very challenging times coming up. We lost \$40 million in TFF funding over three years and we had to finance internally the Cape Dorset high school. That's \$40 million.

We're ratifying the collective agreement. We have negotiations coming up with the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Nunavut Teachers Association next year. There are many pressing demands. I don't know if I could get that amount of money for rebates into our budget. We're already working well into our budget that we have to provide to the standing committee in the next month or

so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the minister tabled the government's most recent annual report on grants and contributions, which I have started to review with care. I was very pleased to note that \$315,000 was provided to seniors during the 2015-16 fiscal year under the government's Senior Fuel Subsidy Program, which is administered by the Department of Family Services.

Can the Minister of Finance indicate the extent to which the Department of Finance works with other departments to design such programs as the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Finance works very closely with all departments, whether it's Family Services or the Department of Justice, my other department. They do come forward to us for advice and help on programs and services that we provide to Nunavummiut.

On that particular program, I just don't have all the specifics, but through the Premier's Office, we do support the elders and seniors in Nunavut, particularly those who have homes. I do know that in Cambridge Bay we have some seniors who own homes and it is very difficult for them, especially when

they finish working and they're retired. I know we do work very closely with all departments.

It's not like the department just goes and starts up a program or service. It has to go through a rigorous analysis. They have to come to Finance and introduce it to Finance. Possibly they discuss it at the Deputy Ministers' Committee or a Central Accountability Committee meeting. There are so many committees in the government, but there are committees that work these things up internally in the government to give to the Department of Finance for final analysis, and then it goes forward to the Financial Management Board. That's where it would get consideration to go in a budget or through the main estimates process or through a supplementary appropriation during the year.

There is a lot work, thought, and consideration that go into all our programs and services to provide to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. 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 North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

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

**Committee Report 017 – 4(3): Bill 21,  
Write-Off of Assets Act, 2015-2016**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 21, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 21 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 21 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** It is agreed and Bill 21 has been moved into Committee of the Whole.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents****Tabled Document 224 – 4(3): 2015-  
2016 Annual Report on the  
Tobacco Control Act**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Chief Medical Officer of Health's 2015-16 *Tobacco Control Act* Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 225– 4(3): 2015-  
2016 Public Accounts**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the Public Accounts for 2015-16. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Tabled Document 226 – 4(3): QEC  
2014-2015 Contracting,  
Procurement and Leasing Activity  
Report**

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the contracting, procurement and leasing activities for the fiscal year 2014-15. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Tabled Document 227 – 4(3): 2016  
Schedule for the Student Loan  
Fund for the year ending March  
31, 2016**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Schedule for the Student Loan Fund for the year ending March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 228 – 4(3): 2016  
Council of the Federation Summer  
Meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon,  
July 21 to 22, 2016**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2016 Council of the Federation Summer Meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon, July 21 to 22, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. The Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtoq.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Motion 037 – 4(3): Extension of  
Review Period for Bill 19,  
Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtoq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Bill 19, the proposed *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, received second reading on June 8, 2016;

AND WHEREAS Bill 19 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

AND WHEREAS Rule 68(1) provides that bills referred to a standing committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of

the committee or 120 calendar days pass from the day the bill was given second reading;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee has been giving careful consideration to this important piece of proposed legislation;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee requires additional time to complete its work;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 19 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

**Motion 038 – 4(3): Extended  
Adjournment**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until February 21, 2017.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

#### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

#### **Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a question regarding fire today, so therefore I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

#### **Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 16, and 21 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 16:10 and  
Committee resumed at 16:36*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, Inuit, members, and Nunavummiut watching the proceedings on TV and listening to the radio.

I would now like to ask the Minister of Health if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have two officials I would like to join me, please.

**Chairman:** My apologies, Minister Hickes. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the follow items to deal with: Bills 14, 16, and 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 14, followed by the review of Bills 16 and 21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 14?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 14 – Public Health Act –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. Now Minister Hickes, I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

**Chairman:** 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.

Thank you. For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, your right, I have Mr. Jonathan Paradis, a policy analyst with Department of Health, and to my right, Colleen Stockley, the Deputy Minister of Health.

With the Chairman's indulgence, I do have some further information from some of the questions on Friday when you will allow me to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before we open up the floor for the members, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had committed to the committee to bring some further details back from some of the responses I made on Friday and I would like to follow up with that commitment.

Just to confirm, there are five environmental health officer positions that are currently filled. Those positions are located in Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. In addition to that, there are two environmental health specialists based in Iqaluit to offer support to the environmental health officers.

There was a question regarding the number of inspections and sites visited. Currently for the communities that don't have any physician visits occurring regularly, since April of 2015 all communities have had at least two visits and many have had more. During their visits, the environmental health officers visit a wide range of sites. Among other things, they inspect drinking water treatment plants, sewage systems, landfills, restaurants, anywhere that sells food such as a grocery store, arenas, schools, health centres, and long-term care centres.

In addition to that, like I had mentioned, they do inspect daycares. One of the things in particular that was brought up with daycares was with regard to the inspection. They inspect daycares for food safety, bathroom facilities, general sanitation, and how toys are cleaned.

One of the other questions that were raised was "What are some of the most common infractions that are identified?" Some of them would be ensuring temperatures are appropriate for the handling and storage of food and that appropriate handwashing and dishwashing facilities and protocols are in places. I would like to make a note that operators are very cooperative and those issues are usually fixed immediately.

I hope this information is valuable to the members, and I am pleased to answer any further questions on Bill 14. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickee. We will now continue with the review of Bill 14, the *Public Health Act*. Do members have any questions? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was absent because I wasn't able to be here.

I would like to ask questions about the contents, especially clause 25 in the bill dealing with water. If it's not from a municipal government, the water supply has to be approved by an environmental health officer in accordance with the regulations.

The river here serves as an important source of drinking water and we deliver it to our elders. How is that going to be handled in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickee.

**Hon. George Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. When we're talking about potable water, we do testing before and after treatment. I do realize that most communities have local water sources that they use for either ice or water distribution to elders. Although it's also recognized that individuals may have personal preferences, it would make it very difficult for the Department of Health to test every body of water in the territory.



That being said, our environmental health officers can provide people a sample kit. If people want to take a sample of their water source just for their own peace of mind, they can bring in samples and we will test them and make sure if there are any concerns, they're made aware of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll say it in English.

(interpretation ends) "No person, other than a municipal corporation, shall operate a water supply system for the purpose of supplying water to the public or in an institution or camp unless an environmental health officer has approved the water supply system in accordance with the regulations."

We sometimes have men's groups here in our community delivering water to elders. How would this function with good, well-meaning organizations supplying much needed, desirable water to our elders? How would this regulatory power function with this group?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of different things. The water supply system itself is more intended for municipal water systems or water systems in camps. That being said, there is a section within this legislation that covers a protection for donation of

water. That is in this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It says, "...an environmental health officer has approved the water supply..." The group will have to get that blessing of the environmental health officer at this point. I would like to know how that will function with the various groups that supply water to our elders here.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the protection of donation of water from those sources that are outside in an established camp or municipality, that's where the protection would lie for those groups within the donation of water aspect of the bill. Again, like I had mentioned earlier, if they have concerns or if they would like to get samples of that water tested, they're welcome to provide that to Health and we will test it for them. There is nothing stopping people from those groups providing water to elders or ice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm sure we will review this again in the future if there are problems with it.

The minister indicated that anyone can provide them with a sample to be tested. Can the minister or his staff tell us who or where we bring the samples to? Who

do we call if we have water samples that need to be tested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anyone wants to pursue that, they would contact our environmental health officers and they would be able to facilitate that testing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear a phone number. Can you provide us with that phone number? I know my fellow residents are concerned about the water that they take. What number should they call? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I had mentioned, there are only five environmental health officers currently. They're located in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Pangnirtung. I don't have the direct contact information with me right now, but I could provide that to the committee. If necessary, if there's that much of an interest in it down the road, once this legislation is enacted, we could look at maybe making a public service announcement along those lines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have many different environmental health officers, those who monitor food and those who monitor

water. It would be good if my constituents can be given a phone number where they can check for water, meats, and other kinds of food safety concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes, that was just a comment, but if you want to comment on it. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will provide that contact information to the member and explore ways to make sure the message gets out to the public. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any more questions? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome and good afternoon. I want to talk a little bit about food safety. One of the things that we're seeing more and more with Facebook is that we see people selling food online. Under food safety, I'm wondering: does that fall under this legislation at all if people are selling cookies or cakes or cooked meals? Where does that fall under this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that, we take a risk-based approach where, when somebody is doing a bake sale or something along those lines, there wouldn't be actual permitting or an inspection unless concerns were raised. A full investigation could be ordered if there was a circumstance where people were getting ill from a product, maybe from a bake sale or donated food. There are

protections in place for people that are donating food, but unless there's a concern, we wouldn't follow up with it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you saying that unless somebody gets sick, there's really no enforcement in that area? You have to be sick before this legislation would be used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, like some of my responses on Friday, when we're looking at legislation such as this, the actual wording in the clauses is generally kept vague and we deal with specifics within the regulations moving forward. There again that would be an opportunity for us to address that specific concern.

Typically there wouldn't be a need for an environmental health officer to inspect every bake sale or craft sale that's going on unless there's a reason for concern with people getting sick. We would want to trace it back to find the source of it to make sure that it doesn't occur any further. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that comes to my mind when you're talking is the risk of when people are starting to sell fermented meat because the risk of botulism could be there if it's not done properly. How is that covered under this Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically it's the same way unless there's an issue that's raised of a health or safety concern, and then we would initiate an investigation to make sure if there was some type of contamination, we would have the authority to take possession of whatever food it is that is unsafe and have the authority to destroy it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's after the fact, really. If something has happened, then this legislation would kick in.

I want to go on to the institutions here that sell food. Can you maybe explain how institutions are covered for food safety under this Act? How can we be sure that the food that we're being served at the restaurant is safe for us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to partially re-address the member's question earlier about dealing with it after the fact. It is after the fact, but I think from a standpoint, we don't want to put barriers in place for people to be sharing food with the community from successful hunts. That's not the way we envision the Department of Health's oversight into sharing of food in that manner. We just want to make sure it's done safely.

If we're dealing with specifically from the member's question, if I was thinking

of my earlier responses at the same time, when we're dealing from a food safety in a restaurant atmosphere, there are regular inspections from our environmental health officers that look at all factors of the facility, as we discussed on Friday. They're not just going in and looking at the kitchen. They're checking to make sure food is stored at the right temperature and they're checking to make sure that proper sanitation protocols are being followed.

Again, if there ever is an issue that arises, we have full investigative authority that we can go in there, find the source of the contaminant, remove and destroy it if necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If one found a bug in their food that was served to them or a cigarette butt, would that constitute a contaminant that would be an issue under this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you were to find a foreign substance such as you mentioned in your food, your first recourse would be to report it to the environmental health officer and then they would do an investigation. There could be any number of reasons of how it could have got there. Washing procedures may not have been followed properly or it could have piggybacked into the community from the original source, from the suppliers. They would want to do a full

investigation to find out how it occurred, for one, and make sure that all proper sanitation methods and cleaning of food and utensils is followed properly to make sure it wouldn't happen again. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. For the benefit for all of us, can you tell us how often you have inspectors go in and inspect restaurants and other public places that could have a real impact on our health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I had mentioned in my response earlier and maybe the member might have just been coming in when I was talking about it, since April of 2015 every community has been visited a minimum of twice. They go in and look at all the facilities within the community during that visit. In communities where the environmental health officers are located, inspections are done more frequently.

As far as the number, it does vary year to year depending upon the visits going around to the communities and the availability of time, but there are regular inspections. I'm not going to say it's once a month or twice a year or three times a year. It can vary on a year-to-year cycle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What advance notices do you give these institutions that you're coming to inspect them? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I missed that question. Could the member repeat it, please?

**Chairman:** Repeat, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering what advance notice is provided to the institutions that the inspectors go and visit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The goal is to inspect each facility twice yearly. On an annual basis there are over a thousand facilities that are inspected and there is no prior notification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any reports generated from these inspections and, if so, is it something that we can see or is there a reason why we couldn't see those reports? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are just general tracking reports unless there is an incident or a concern where a detailed report would be made. To be honest, I would be very cautious of making that information public. There are privacy laws. We would have to discuss that more with the privacy commissioner and the privacy people within our policy

[division] to see if there's a way to draw that information out in a useful way. Again, we could maybe outline some of those details within the regulations once this legislation is approved and passed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just feel that it would probably help with the rumours that sometimes go around about different institutions that serve food and they say, "Well, if you go in their kitchen, you're not going to want to eat there." There are people that go into kitchens and they have to go into kitchens because either electrical, plumbing, or something else happens in the kitchen. Other people from the outside of that business might go in and then they see, perhaps, how some food is being stored and that. It raises concern without it really being proven. Having some of these reports might really help in showing that inspections have actually been done on some of these institutions.

I know that in Toronto, when you go there, there's a "Pass" sign. They have a green sign that says "Pass." That means it has been inspected. You feel comfortable going in. You know that your food is going to be served the way it should be served and stored the way it should have been stored. I'm just thinking along that line of just creating a little bit more certainty amongst the public that where you go out to eat has actually been inspected because we don't always know that as the public. We have no idea that you're doing inspections. How would we know that? This is what I'm getting at. I think it's worth your while to make some of

these... . You don't have to go into all the details, but perhaps you can say that these entities had been inspected. I think it would go a long ways.

I wanted to ask you while we're talking about these different things, but I also want to get your ideas on how you plan to monitor and enforce this legislation, especially when it comes to certain things like the issues that we were just talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I hate to sound like a broken record, but once this legislation is approved, that's when we could get started working on the regulations that will actually have a full scope of monitoring and reporting.

Again, most legislation like this one has a very broad basis within the law that we narrow the focus with the regulations to make sure that we're fulfilling what the bill is intended to do. That's where we get into the details, like your question on privacy and making note of inspections. This bill does allow us to do that.

It's just a matter of how we flesh out the regulations associated with the legislation to make sure that we're covering our bases in a way that's achievable, measurable, and we can continue to monitor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I'm going to go on to sanitation where we talk about sewage systems. We have a lot of problems in Nunavut, I think, when it

comes to operating and maintaining proper sewage systems. Some municipalities don't have a proper sewer system. In fact I think it flows into the sea.

This bill, under 28, it says the municipal sewer system is going to sanitation. I'm wondering: if communities are in conflict with this legislation, how do you go about helping these communities and working with them so that they meet the requirements under this legislation when they haven't for years? How are you going to change that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government is working on that continually with their water licensing requirements that have components of that within the waste disposal.

There have been some timelines directed to the government to be able to make sure we're adhering to these legislated requirements on wastewater. They do inspections to make sure that in places where... . I have heard it discussed here just recently of not necessarily having a sewage lagoon but a water system that looks after the waste naturally through a marsh type system where it filters the water and cleans it as it treats it.

With regard to direct disposal in any body of water, that's where again, when we have the legislation in place to give us more authority, the chief medical officer will have the authority to order things to be repaired. Again, it goes into what's sometimes feasible in a timeline.

There have to be some realistic expectations.

If the chief medical officer of health comes in and orders Kimmirut to fix their water system, we all understand the capital planning process; it can't happen overnight. We need to make sure and have some level of comfort that those results are being monitored. Again, this legislation gives us a little bit more authority and ability to follow through with that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I just think about the past and how long it has taken, we haven't moved very much in terms of our solid waste and how we deal with it all because it's so expensive. Then we have this legislation that is going to come in if we pass it and there are going to be a lot of hamlets in conflict with this legislation. That's why I ask. Sometimes we could write all the rules, but in reality it's very hard to enforce them. Like you said, it's going to take a lot of time, I think, to work with hamlets over that.

The other issue that I did want to talk a little bit about are cemeteries, funerals, and all that. Under 36, you go into the safe handling and that. One of the complaints I have heard quite often from the communities is that there are no proper morgues. There are no morgues for the handling of bodies. That is sometimes very difficult and a very delicate issue.

How will you enforce some of these rules if you don't even have a morgue to start off with? I remember the late Mr. Pearson telling me where they stored

bodies here for a while was at the First Air freezer. That would probably go against what it's saying here. How are you going to deal with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that question. It's a very important one. That is dealt with in this legislation that the department will create clear guidelines so that we can support community-based morgues, provide education to the operators, provide advice if needed, and ensure that the environmental health officers do conduct inspections of community-based morgues when they visit those communities.

We want to make sure that deceased people are transported and stored safely to make sure that we're adhering to not just the health criteria but from a dignity standpoint to make sure that human remains are stored appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I'm going to go on to something else that I really don't know too much about and that's why I'm going to ask the question. That's about warnings of risk to public health. Under No. 50, "Duty to warn and protect," when would this come into play? Can you give us an example of a situation where the chief public health officer would need to warn the public about something? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list is pretty long where the chief medical officer of health does have the authority to put in a warning. It is for a couple of different reasons. One is to make sure the community's safety if it's an outbreak of something that is contagious. Igloolik recently had one of E. coli where they made sure that the warnings went out for boiling water. Sanikiluaq had a boil water advisory in the last few days.

The purpose of this legislation is also to make sure that there's no political interference, that I can't quash the chief medical officer of health from putting out a warning for health-related reasons because I don't like it politically. It gives the authority to the professionals. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I'm wondering then: what would you do in a situation where, perhaps, somebody had some kind of disease and didn't want to be treated? How would you warn the public but at the same time take into consideration the right to privacy of that individual? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever you make such a disclosure, you want to make sure that you're not stigmatizing a group or community, to make sure it's done in an anonymous fashion as possible. That being said, if somebody does have something that puts the public at risk, there is a requirement of treatment. If

necessary, the chief medical officer could order the treatment for the individual. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have 51 seconds left, so I will use that 51 seconds to ask you this question. Mr. Hickes, Minister of Health, what do you think is going to be the most challenging part of this legislation to enforce? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** I don't think it's going to be matter of a challenge to enforce. I think personally, when we establish the regulations, we want to make sure that we're encompassing all potentials. To me I think where the challenge is going to be is to make sure that we're covering all circumstances that could arise, so that the legislation and the regulations fit together in a harmonious way so that we can monitor.

With anything you're trying to do and almost anything we do as a government or as a society, you need to be able to measure and monitor things, especially laws and regulations that are related to health. Going forward, I don't think the challenge is going to be the enforcement side of things; it's going to making sure that we're covering all our bases in the analysis side of things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that responds to the question.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Oh, I don't have any other questions. Thank you.



>>Laughter

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasié.

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

I'm not certain if it has been touched up on or not, but in dealing with this bill, does it cover anything with respect to... ? There are issues with people in public housing with, let's say, mould and it affects their health. Is there something in here that speaks to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's actually a good question. There would be a normal process of going through the local housing organization to do their own inspection on mould. If people and tenants feel that it's not being recognized or maybe it's not being inspected appropriately, they can go to the environmental health officer and request an inspection. I hope that covers the member's concern. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. We hear especially of respiratory illnesses, namely, for infants or people that have certain diseases that are heightened when there is either mould or other types of substances in our buildings or that sort of thing or even for that matter, if it's in public buildings or offices. That's why I asked that question and thank you for responding to that.

The other thing, my question was under the governance portion. You say that every community can set up wellness committees. I understand that the department provides grant contributions for their operations. Is it something that perhaps you want to solidify moving forward, having not block funding but stable funding for community health wellness committees to be able to support the department with this legislation in public health and other issues of concern? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This legislation basically allows us to continue with an ongoing practice. We already have these community health and wellness committees that are established. I have spoken to a couple of different groups that have been in the process of training and working on developing their community wellness plans. We already do provide funding to these organizations and we also provide funding for a lot of the programs that they run. This just enables us to continue with the ongoing practice of what we're doing already, which I think we're doing quite well as a matter of fact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. I guess like a lot of things, there are some communities where some committees work better than others, and then there are turnover issues or many things at play.

With respect to community wellness, I think that's something we want to try to focus on and trying to have good investment towards programs that promote a healthy lifestyle. I'm looking forward to some of the work that the department and the committees will be doing moving forward.

Moving on to another topic, under Part 7, I noted there are provisions for protection of whistleblowers. Can the minister kind of explain how this new protection would work once the legislation is in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, when we complete the regulations, it will help encompass again some of the details on the whistleblower aspect of it. At the end of the day I know the intent of it is to make sure that somebody who brings forward a health or safety concern doesn't receive any type of punitive measures taken against them for bringing forward a health and safety concern.

We also want to make sure that we are covering our bases within the regulations to protect from malicious reports as well. Using Member Angnakak's question earlier, talking about public perception sometimes of an eating facility, of people talking about how you wouldn't want to go in that kitchen, we also want to make sure that we're protecting those enterprises from malicious reports as well that if somebody brings forward a concern, it's founded and substantiated. We will want to make sure that those people are protected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We will now begin the clause-by-clause review of Bill 14. Please go to Bill 14 in your legislative binder.

Thank you. Do members have Bill 14 in front of them? Thank you. Bill 14, *Public Health Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 24. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 25. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 26. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 27. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 28. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 29. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 30. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 31. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 32. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 33. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 34. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 35. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 36. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 37. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 38. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 39. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 40. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 41. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 42. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 43. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 44. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 45. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 46. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 47. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 48. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 49. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 50. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 51. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 52. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 53. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 54. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 55. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 56. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 57. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 58. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 59. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 60. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 61. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 62. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 63. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 64. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 65. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 66. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 67. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 68. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 69. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 70. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 71. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 72. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 73. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 74. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 74.1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 75. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 76. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 77. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 78. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 79. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 80. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 81. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 82. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 83. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 84. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 85. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 86. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 87. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 88. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 89. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 90. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 91. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 92. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 93. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 94. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 95. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 96. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 97. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 98. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 99. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** And clause 100. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we have concluded Bill 14?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 14 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to echo some of my comments earlier on how collaborative it was working with the standing committee, even though I was only one minister part of it. This has been ongoing through, I think, three different ministers.

I'm very happy and proud to have accomplished this piece of legislation with the collaboration of the standing committee putting forward recommendations and motions that fit the intent of the legislation, that we're able to work all the suggestions in. I appreciate the support from the standing committee and my colleagues on getting this legislation through.

I know there's a lot of work behind the scenes from policy staff and legal experts to get us to this point today. I think it's a culmination of a lot of hard work. When we sit here in the legislature and go through a piece of legislation in a couple of days, it doesn't do it justice of how much work was entailed. I personally thank everyone that was involved in putting this legislation to this point and getting it approved in the

Assembly. I would like to thank all the staff involved, my witnesses with me here today, and the committee and colleagues. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

We will now proceed to the review of Bill 16. Before we do, we will take a five-minute break to set up.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:30 and resumed at 17:38*

### **Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Welcome back, committee members. We are proceeding with the review of Bill 16. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation if she has officials that she would like to appear before the committee. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman:** 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, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Sherri Rowe,

my Deputy Minister, and to my right is the Director of Policy, Matthew Bowler.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Welcome to your staff. Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to appear before the Committee of the Whole to review Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act*, with my colleagues.

Bill 16 meets a strategic objective set out in *Tunngasaiji: A Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut*, 2013 and reflects *Sivumut Abluqta's* commitment to developing the tourism sector.

(interpretation ends) The original *Travel and Tourism Act* was not drafted for Nunavut and is more than 28 years old. The proposed amendments will ensure that this Act reflects the present state of tourism in the territory, including that commercial passenger vessels such as cruise ships are appropriately regulated.

The main goals of the amendments are to:

- Promote quality tourism services;
- Promote public safety;
- Maximize the economic benefits from tourism for Nunavummiut;
- Ensure tourism development aligns with local priorities and Inuit societal values; and
- Bring the Act into line with current Canadian and international tourism legislation.

In 2015 the Department of Economic Development and Transportation held a series of consultations in seven communities with stakeholder organizations as well as through online surveys, conference calls, and webinar sessions. These consultations led to 15 recommendations for amendments to the Act.

The current legislation fails to adequately capture commercial passenger vessels and pleasure craft. The amendments will allow for the drafting of new *Marine Tourism Regulations* to ensure the responsible development of marine tourism.

The amended Act will provide for a regulatory power limiting the number of passengers that may disembark in a particular community from a commercial passenger vessel. The *Marine Tourism Regulations* will allow us to limit the number of passengers that may disembark and will allow us to require that operators of commercial passenger vessels and larger pleasure craft file pre- and post-trip reports or comply with other duties.

The proposed updates to the Act reflect a concern for public safety and community perspectives, for example, by allowing for the creation of Restricted Tourism Areas.

These updates also support a regulatory climate that will help foster economic development opportunities for Nunavummiut. Appropriate legislation and regulations can encourage tourism operators to improve their businesses by establishing professional standards for guides in the territory, as well as through adequate oversight of wilderness tourism



activities.

I am confident that this Act will encourage growth in the tourism sector in a manner that is acceptable to communities and will increase economic opportunities for Nunavummiut, whether that is through small outfitting businesses, locally owned hotels, or international cruise ships.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act*.

As members will recall, Bill 16 received second reading on June 8, 2016 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

The standing committee supports the principle of the bill, which is to modernize the legislative framework within which the government regulates matters related to the tourism sector in Nunavut. The standing committee is also mindful of the government's recent announcement concerning the transfer of certain responsibilities from Nunavut Tourism to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 16, a

total of four motions were moved to amend the bill, all of which received ministerial concurrence.

For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the two major amendments to Bill 16.

Clause 17 of Bill 16 has been amended to provide that the minister's report on the administration of the Act is to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis. The standing committee anticipates that the contents of this report will be of significant interest to all Members of the Legislative Assembly, as well as the general public and stakeholders in the tourism sector.

The other major amendment added a new provision to the bill which will require regulations respecting commercial passenger vessels and pleasure craft to be made within one year of the coming into force of this section of the legislation. As Nunavut experiences an increasing volume of cruise ship traffic, the timely development of these regulations becomes more critical in respect to such issues as regulating the number of passengers who may disembark in a community at any one time.

I am pleased to note that the standing committee and the minister undertook a thoughtful and productive dialogue during her recent appearance concerning issues related to the tourism industry and its impact on the territory.

One of the major themes that emerged during the standing committee's deliberations was the importance of

building administrative capacity in all Nunavut communities to ensure that the provisions of the legislation can be effectively enforced, including any restrictions or prohibitions on activities resulting from the designation of Restricted Tourism Areas.

Another theme was the importance of developing a consultation process under subsection 14(1)(n) of the legislation regarding the designation of Restricted Tourism Areas that respects the role of elected municipal councils in making formal recommendations to the minister concerning such designations.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 16, as amended and reprinted, to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. T. Sammurtok. The floor is now open for general comments. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I have a question about your opening comments. Cruise ships are starting to come up more and more in our waters and we get concerned about them and we talk about them. Thinking about the future, how is it going to be managed by our government? That is my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): I tried to press the

button when someone else was pressing their button, Mr. Chairman. I apologize.

I think there is a misunderstanding. Did he ask when this Act would come into effect or what was the question? I would like him to clarify his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, can you clarify your question? Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking about the cruise ships that take tourists up through our oceans. They're beginning to come in the summertime through our waters and we get concerned about them. How are they going to be managed in the future? I hope my question was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is going to have to create regulations under the Act that will deal with cruise ships. We have to create regulations to address the concerns coming from the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question as I don't have many questions. I just want some clarification. That is why I'm asking questions.

The cruise ships are big and they carry passengers. They can even carry over 1,000 passengers and that is a great number of people to arrive on one ship. They go into some communities that have smaller populations than the ship's population. What if something were to happen? I just want clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand your question. These cruise ships carry passengers or tourists. Once we make the regulations, we will consider your community and determine how many passengers your community can handle at a time. The passengers may have to take turns going ashore. That can be included in the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials. My questions are based on the minister's opening comments. There are no page numbers, but on the first page in the English, my first question will be in regard to the *Marine Tourism Regulations* that will be created to address cruise ships that carry tourists. It states, (interpretation ends) "appropriately regulated." According to whom? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These regulations that we would create would be done with the communities in mind and through agreements with the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are all aware I already asked a question to the minister about this and you know that cruise ship tourism really affects Pond Inlet. As Pond Inlet and the surrounding area are beautiful, more and more tourists want to come and see it, and it's no wonder.

However, many of us have concerns about the proper management of tourists. We're always thinking about this. We see that whenever cruise ships are landing anywhere near Pond Inlet, tourists can get off the ship and then they walk around anywhere they want. Wherever there may be artefacts, they aren't even supervised because there are so many of them. Here we are, Inuit of Nunavut, and we are told, "Don't touch it. Leave it the way it is."

Who is monitoring all of these cruise ship passengers? Who is going to keep these passengers from removing artefacts from the ground and make sure they're not collecting our precious artefacts that Inuit are not supposed to touch? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what the

Inuktitut word is for (interpretation ends) tourism officers, (interpretation) but they would be responsible for that in the communities.

These regulations are not completed yet, but once they are drafted through our staff at Economic Development and Transportation, they will agree with what the communities need so that the regulations can be pertinent and as good as we can develop for the communities. We will consult with the communities to see what they want in the regulations before we pass them.

We don't have much authority to handle the places where these cruise ships go, but what we can handle is when they are getting off the boat in a community, we can limit the number of passengers that come off at the same time.

What I am talking about is the regulatory responsibility involving other entities, including the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Impact Review Board, (interpretation) the Department of Culture and Heritage and the Department of Environment through the Nunavut government. Federal departments also have regulations. We will keep the cruise ships informed as to what the different regulations are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She said that they would be monitored by regulations. Do these ships need approval for anchoring anywhere, whether it's within a community or surrounding areas? If they are going to be dropping their anchor, do they need approval for that from such

entities that you just referenced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The GN does not have the power to regulate cruise ships that are used solely or partly for navigation. It's a matter of exclusive federal jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. Can she answer my question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** I thought I answered it by saying that if the ships are solely used for navigation, it's a matter of federal jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you for that information. What I'm trying to ask is: for all the ships carrying tourists that are going to be anchoring anywhere, whether it is by a community or a surrounding area, do they require any kind of approval? If they require approval to anchor their ship, then who makes that decision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We cannot tell them where to anchor through regulations. What we can

do is if they are going to get off the ship, then we can apply the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand correctly that they can anchor anywhere they please? However, you can tell them, “If you anchor in a specific area, you may not disembark.” Can you tell them that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for wanting to have this important information clarified. The answer is yes. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The following is just an example. They drop their anchor in a place named Sannirut and a few hundred passengers disembark and begin to tour Sannirut. Who will be monitoring these tourists to make sure they are not touching or taking any historical artefacts? If there were 500 tourists, whose job is it to look after them all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m not familiar with the place Sannirut, but I believe it’s just an example. We have tourism officers and if they apply the regulations as they are

supposed to, then we would use wildlife officers and conservation officers from the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. Do I understand correctly that the tourism and wildlife officers will be aboard the cruise ship and travel to each community as well? Will they follow to each community to monitor the tourists? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To ensure Mr. Enook understands the answer clearly, I will have our Director of Policy, Matthew Bowler, respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Bowler.

**Mr. Bowler:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two of the elements of the cruise regulations that we’re looking at are the requirement to file itineraries and that will help us know where cruise ships are going and we will be able to impose a code of conduct on cruise ships.

I recognize that doesn’t answer the question of whether we will have tourism officers, but those are two provisions that will allow us to better understand where cruise ships are going and what they’re doing. It will apply as a standard to them to follow and there can be some consequences if they don’t adhere to that standard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I was making myself very clear.

Even if we know where the ship is going, it doesn't make much of a difference if we can't do anything about what they should be doing like leaving artefacts alone. It doesn't make any difference if we know where they're going. You said that you would know where the ship was. That's not my concern and that's not my question.

My concern is that when they go on land, who will be monitoring them? If there were going to be 500 passengers in Sannirut or anywhere on the land, who would monitor their activities? Are you now going to have a monitor who will make sure that artefacts are not disturbed once they have returned to the ship? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for those questions. We can set a code of conduct that will apply to the cruise ships. If there are any sites you don't want disturbed, we can tell the cruise ship company in advance under the code of conduct and we can also tell them that they should have a guide with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there always tourism officers or monitors on the cruise ships?

Do you already have those monitors on board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the monitors are not on the cruise ships at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Are you going to have monitors once this legislation is enacted? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't thought about setting that out in the regulations. If passengers were going to go on land, then the tourism guide would be there and also community concerns could be outlined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just using Pond Inlet as an example. Prior to the cruise ship coming in, possibly a 100 miles away from Pond Inlet, if they want to land and they have received approval, you indicated that somebody would be able to get on board as a monitor once they go on land. Does that mean that they would have to go to Pond Inlet to get the monitor and then they go to the site that they would like to visit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Rowe.

**Ms. Rowe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are the things we will be looking at doing as we're drafting the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Rowe, can you repeat? You didn't have your mic on. Thank you. Ms. Rowe.

**Ms. Rowe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are the things we will be looking at as we're drafting the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) And that's precisely the problem that we have. (interpretation) Once the regulations have been drafted, our concerns are not always applied. When you don't say we will do this or we will not do that, you're not even going to think about us when you're creating the regulations.

It's something that's very hard that I would like to see. You might also have to think about getting more employees and I know that it's going to be hard for you to apply those kinds of regulations, but it's something that's very important to our community. The bill might be good, but when you start putting the regulations in, all the goodness is taken

out. It's going to have a huge impact on the communities and please remember that as I will not forget it.

Mr. Chairman, I have another question. One of the main goals is to "Ensure tourism development aligns with local priorities and Inuit societal values." Exactly what does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can my colleague identify where it is in the bill? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, it's in the minister's opening comments on page 1. It says (interpretation ends) "The main goals of the amendments are to..." (interpretation) In Inuktitut, "The main goals of the amendments are to" and I read the fourth one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): The fourth main goal in my opening comments relates to tourism regulations and policies, which we want feedback on from the communities and their views on these issues that I spoke to and what they want promoted or not, those kinds of things.

The consultation on the local views on this and other matters referred to under policy development within the Nunavut government is where these issues arose from. As an example, the need to be

hospitable and welcoming, as well as the need for further training is where the policy addresses these concerns as brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Minister and your officials, please feel welcome.

It is well known that Baker Lake is beautiful and that we also have two beautiful heritage rivers. We usually get tourist from Europe and the United States. My first question is: it states in your opening comments on the first page that you will “Maximize the economic benefits from tourism for Nunavummiut.” How would it benefit ordinary citizens of Baker Lake if this bill is enacted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We think this bill will benefit the communities. We are going to be thinking about tourism safety guarantee. It would include a safety net and it would also be up to par with industry standards (interpretation ends) so that the tourists are not misrepresenting their service or that they do not “misadvertise.” I think that the regulations would give more of a standard, and also the tourist experience would be more reflective of the environmental beauty, as you mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for her response. Last year during the summer, outside of Baker Lake, there were American tourists who had a canoe accident. When they first started from the lake, they capsized and they had to go through the Kazan River. They wanted to canoe through there.

Earlier on you talked about the people who will watch the tourists. For example, for canoeists outside of Baker Lake, I know search and rescue and the Department of Community and Government Services are responsible for that. If this should happen, would you be working with the Department of Community and Government Services once this legislation is implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the Government of Nunavut, search and rescue is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Community and Government Services. Marine search and rescue is the responsibility of the Canadian Coast Guard. We have some anecdotal evidence that from time to time tourists, both guided and unguided, require search and rescue and this costs the Government of Nunavut or other public agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we look at this Bill 16, *Travel and Tourism Act*, in your opening comments also on the last bullet it indicates, “Bring the Act into line with current Canadian and international tourism legislation.” As I indicated, we do have tourists that are coming into Baker Lake, whether it be from Europe or the United States. Would these have an impact or would there be improvements in reference to this particular bullet line item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m not sure I follow the member, but I’ll try to answer. The *Travel and Tourism Act* will provide for the authority to regulate matters applicable to guides, outfitters, and tourist establishments, as well as the development and management of the industry.

The *Travel and Tourism Act* was inherited from the Northwest Territories and has not been amended since 1992. The content and actual practices of the tourism industry in Nunavut have changed greatly, and in certain areas the *Travel and Tourism Act* has become outdated and no longer reflects the reality of the tourism industry in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For example, the canoeists that go to Baker Lake come from the United States or Europe. With this new amended

legislation, it will be more for Nunavummiut and made in Nunavut. I’ll ask this question. I know that there are quite a number of canoeing tourists. After this legislation has been passed, will there be an improvement for tourists and canoeists coming from the United States or Europe? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As tourism is one of Nunavut’s priorities in the economic sector, this is going to put the current Act in line by updating it. It will allow for the creation of new *Marine Tourism Regulations*, which is not possible under the current Act.

Creating *Marine Tourism Regulations* enables the GN to properly regulate and account for commercial passenger vessels as well as the pleasure crafts that the member is talking about, especially at a time when bigger cruise ships are showing up, showing an interest in visiting Nunavut and public perception of marine tourism is increasing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): I’m not talking about cruise ships, but it’s evident with the current mine development occurring, there will be more shipping traffic in Baker Lake. The question that I was just asking about is regarding canoeists, not motorized vessels. They’re just canoeing and they use oars to row. I’m trying to find out if there’s going to be an improvement for Baker Lake after this bill is passed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe what he's talking about would fall under "pleasure craft," but at this time under the legislation, we can't tell anyone when to come and when not to come. Once the regulations have been drafted, we will be able to regulate that they let us know when they will be coming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation):

Thank you very much. That's clearer now. I would like to thank the minister.

Below that, it states that "the Department of Economic Development and Transportation held a series of consultations in seven communities..." I just want to find out which communities you visited. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Iqaluit was consulted through a community meeting from September 22 to 24 during the (interpretation ends) Baffin trade show. (interpretation) We held a community meeting on September 25 in Pangnirtung. We held a community meeting in Rankin Inlet on September 28 and 29 and attended the (interpretation ends) Kivalliq Trade Show. (interpretation) We then met with the community of Nauyasat on September 30. We went to Pond Inlet on October 5. We went to Cambridge Bay October 15

and held a public meeting. We went to Gjoa Haven on October 16 and held a public meeting.

We also held a meeting in Iqaluit on October 23 with the Government of Nunavut. We discussed these matters during the tourism meeting and held consultation meetings with the tourism operators. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation):

Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for providing that information. I would like to urge the minister that when drafting the regulations, please consider Baker Lake carefully because Americans and Europeans come there. There are a significant number of canoeists and tourists who go there.

This might be my last question, but it will depend on your response. In your opening comments, if this legislation is passed, it states that it's going to "Promote quality tourism services" and "Ensure tourism development aligns with local priorities" of communities that are visited. What exactly does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. As I stated, once the regulations are drafted, we would consult with the communities and work with them to come up with the regulations.

As I stated, I could use what you say in relation to canoeists or in smaller boats that take tourists out. We would have to find out what kind of regulations communities want to see, such as when the tourists are coming into the community and whether they have to inform the community first before they come. This could be accomplished through these means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. Her response is very clear. I'm just encouraging her department to consider Baker Lake when they draft the regulations because there's high interest from tourists coming to the community. The small, single-engine planes landing in the water usually land in the community, so I'm urging your department to think about that too. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Was that just a comment? Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Ell-Kanayuk and your officials. While we're reviewing *An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act*, you stated that you heard from different entities in the communities and you did consultation work through an online survey, conference calls, and webinar sessions. Did you also hear from tourism operators? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I stated earlier, we did that consultation work with stakeholders and tourism operators. We also consulted with (interpretation ends) other establishments, (interpretation) if I say it in English. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps I didn't hear you, so I apologize. What did you hear from the stakeholders or tourism operators? What was the main reason to amend the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our officials also did telephone surveys from people in the communities and business owners. They discussed numerous things. I can talk to you about many things, but the main ones are they asked for more information on the legislation and regulations. I'm not sure where to start as there are many topics.

(interpretation ends) The idea of setting minimum standards was met with a mix of support and hesitation. Many conversations turned towards implementation. There was concern about the current state of the Nunavut tourism industry and its unique realities. Supporters said that the minimum standards would create assurances about the level of service availability.

Some other things were discussed. Economic benefits to communities were identified as a reason why tourism industries exist in Nunavut. There was a solid support for economic benefits to be a priority.

Licensing was also discussed by the tourism operators that take visitors out on the land, on hikes, and bring them to some of Nunavut's cultural and environmental sites. These topics focus on land-based tourism activities guided by licensed outfitters and local guides.

I'll just stop there, Mr. Chairman, as I could just go on with that list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can she state currently how many different types of licences do tourism operators in the communities have to acquire? Will this legislation that we're trying to amend add more licences that they will require? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think we're trying to add additional types of licenses through the bill, but I can look into that. At the moment there are two types of licences and we're not trying to add any more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going to another

topic, I think one of the recommendations, according to what you're hearing, is that there should be additional taxes for tourists that come up to Nunavut. How much have you thought about that and would you be including them in your regulations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had discussed it, but we're not going to deal with it. We don't expect to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even if you're not going to deal with it today, will it be dealt with in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if this is something they wish to consider in the future, they are able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the report you did on what you heard about amending the legislation, I also read that on page 9, tourists and community residents don't understand each other enough. For instance, tourists don't understand community traditions enough, or community residents don't

understand where tourists come from and what they plan to do. Perhaps you can elaborate further on how it would be added to this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask my Deputy Minister, Ms. Rowe, to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Rowe.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): I'll have Matthew Bowler respond to that instead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Bowler.

**Mr. Bowler:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The idea is to add, through the *Marine Tourism Regulations*, a code of conduct which we would prescribe to cruise ships and cruise ships would need to abide by this code of conduct. It could include, for example, cultural awareness training for passengers on the cruise ship. As part of our licensing of the cruise ships, we would want to see a copy of the materials that they were using or some kind of summary of the program that they had to do this, to make sure that passengers were sensitive to residents and their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have you identified who would provide the cultural awareness training to passengers? For

example, I would think they would provide this training before they're brought into a community in terms of how they should conduct themselves, such as the code of conduct that he mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Rowe to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Rowe.

**Ms. Rowe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we're looking into is actually providing to cruise ships a pamphlet or booklet, giving them information on things to do and not do when they're visiting communities in Nunavut. It is something we will be looking into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing those materials. I imagine they will be available in the near future.

There are also hotels for people travelling to Nunavut from various places around the world. I'm wondering if hotels would be able to charge extra fees to hotel guests. Does this legislation not include that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Matthew Bowler can respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Bowler.

**Mr. Bowler:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the current bill does not allow for a tax such a hotel room tax or destination tax. Certainly we have looked at this and it's our view that in part, we would end up mostly taxing ourselves because most hotel stays are ultimately paid for by the Government of Nunavut or a large proportion of them. It would be costly to administer. As we have seen, the City of Iqaluit, for example, is talking about a voluntary program and that might be the best way forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. Another topic that I wanted to ask about, which Mr. Enook raised earlier, is on artefacts in Nunavut. Many of these artefacts are located at sites outside of communities and are not identified as parks or restricted areas, but this bill in front of us will allow identification of areas that tourists can go to but have restricted areas, for example, limit the number of passengers going on shore.

My colleague from Tununig said that we are told not to bother or disturb archaeological sites. I know you stated that you work with the Department of Culture and Heritage and Inuit Heritage Trust. Looking at this bill, have you already identified which areas will be restricted areas for cruise ships, "If the cruise ships are going to go to them, this will be the limit on the number of passengers"? I hope I'm clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, marine tourism regulatory bodies include organizations like the Nunavut Impact Review Board, as well as the GN Department of Culture and Heritage, the GN Department of Environment, as well as federal departments. Individual cruise ships have to go through relevant regulatory authorities to ensure that a particular cruise ship is abiding by the appropriate regulations in our territory. I hope that answers part of his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm going to read from the bill. It says, "Restricted Tourism Area." It says, "The Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Minister, may, by regulation, designate an area as a Restricted Tourism Area if, in the opinion of the Minister, it is necessary to limit, restrict or prohibit activities in the area..."

I'm trying to see if the department, with their partners, whether it's NIRB or federal or Culture and Heritage or Inuit Heritage Trust, all the different... Inuit Heritage Trust has a stake in artefacts. Have you listed areas that you want to restrict before we enact this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This portion of the Act is just for an emergency Restricted Tourism Area and it can only be enforced for a 30-day time limit. It's not

the same power as a regulatory body like the Nunavut Impact Review Board, who may restrict an area more permanently.

The Restricted Tourism Area can be requested by a community and it would be covering areas that the community considers sensitive, such as a hunting ground. Depending on how it was established, this kind of area can be limited to a number of tourists or prohibit commercial tourism completely. It could also be for safety reasons.

The process of creating a Restricted Tourism Area would likely be a community organization that would request a Restricted Tourism Area, or ED&T could review the request and conduct necessary consultations with other stakeholders, as well as ED&T concludes that on a balance of the restricted area, whether it's warranted or not. ED&T could prepare a regulation for the creation of the Restricted Tourism Area.

At this point nothing has been discussed to date about a Restricted Tourism Area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before I go to the last person on my list, we will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:50 and resumed at 19:00*

**Chairman:** I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. The next name on the list is Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. I want to ask for further clarification. The minister and her officials kept

repeating that certain communities will fall under this legislation as it's being implemented and that they will be consulted on a regular basis. Even though it will be structured that way, I'm already coming up with more concerns and I want information in order to clear up these concerns.

In relation to the question asked by Mr. Joanasie about item 4, it seems to say that if communities want a certain area to be restricted, then they must seek prior approval from the minister. That is what it appears to say. Why is it that we have to seek approval by the minister if it is assumed that we are better informed about our own communities and surrounding areas and that we would be able make decisions ourselves? Why are you all of a sudden saying you know better and say that communities have to seek prior approval in order to have certain areas restricted?

Perhaps I'm misinterpreting this section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would want to hear from the communities first. That is what it says. We would not make any decisions before being approached by the communities. I hope that's clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. I understand that, but it's just the language used or the wording in that section. It seems to say that communities have to receive approval from you, the

minister. Alternatively, will the communities be able to say, for example, “We don’t want people to go to a place called Nunngarut”? Will you approve it right away if the hamlet or the HTO requests that? Obviously, they’re more knowledgeable than you are. Does it say that we will always have to receive approval from your department every time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to make this quite clear, it seems we’re thinking on two lines here. If a community wants a certain area completely restricted from tourism activity, there is a (interpretation ends) regulatory process (interpretation) that can be taken. As an (interpretation ends) intervener, (interpretation) we could approach the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Impact Review Board (interpretation) if a community wants a particular spot restricted.

What we are trying to get approval for are (interpretation ends) Restricted Tourism Areas. (interpretation) It’s just for temporary purposes such as for 30 days to set up something like that. It would be a temporary ban for up to 30 days. It won’t be for an infinite period. If there is a safety issue or if the ice is dangerous for outfitters taking tourists out to the floe edge or if a destination spot is dangerous, then we could do something.

The community would have to tell us about an area before we can place restrictions on it. I hope I’m understandable. The community would

have to tell us why they don’t want cruise ship operators going to an area for a specific period of time. We wouldn’t just ban it outright. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m not trying to delay things here as it’s just a simple matter of seeking comprehension.

The wording in section 4 states that an area can be restricted for certain reasons. The wording in this section doesn’t actually involve areas within the communities, right? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. 4 in the bill would be one of the regulations and it would say that an area would be temporarily restricted. We can temporarily not give wilderness tourism permits in the interim. We can also temporarily ban unguided activities for tourist destinations. We can set up restrictions like that in the interim.

As to No. 3, we can ask the commissioner with regard to the regulations. If we come up with an agreement with the communities and understand the reasoning, because the communities are more knowledgeable, then we would have to agree with the communities. We would not just make regulations on our own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.



**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm having a hard time understanding. Maybe if I ask it this way, you will understand me better. As an example, just outside of Pond Inlet, let's say there is a piece of land called Nalluat, Nunnguvik, or Sannirut. If the Hamlet of Pond Inlet or the HTO were to say that they don't want visitors to go to one of these places, would you ban it following the wish of the people of Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. I understand, but just so that I'll understand it even better: can we do this annually so that for 30 days every year, we don't want tourists to go to the same spot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review starting on page 1 of Bill 16. Please go to Bill 16 in your legislation binder.

Are you ready? Got your binders? Thank you. Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19.1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we have concluded Bill 16?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 16 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my staff and officials for working on this bill and to all of you for asking good questions and clarifying some of the clauses of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thanks to you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

### **Bill 21 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016 – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will now begin the review of Bill 21, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*. Minister of Finance, please proceed with your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 21, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*.

Bill 21 authorizes the write-off and write-down of certain government assets as follows:

- \$14,680,209 for the Peter Pitseolak School building in Cape Dorset which was destroyed by fire;
- \$175,720.17 for the evaporation and shrinkage of petroleum products within the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services;
- \$408,240.08 for write-down of five housing units that were damaged by

fire and will require extensive repairs;

- \$617,687.70 for various Qulliq Energy Corporation power plant assets which are either obsolete or beyond repair;
- \$1,289,672.55 for the Pangnirtung power plant which was destroyed by fire; and
- \$10,040,743.44 for the Iqaluit hydro project costs which no longer meet the criteria for work in progress and so must be expensed.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will now take questions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments?  
Mr. T. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 21, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*.

The standing committee recognizes that Bill 21 has been introduced to fulfill certain statutory and accounting requirements. The standing committee acknowledges the government's efforts in this regard.

The most significant item in Bill 21 is the proposed write-off of \$10,040,743.44 in expenditures associated with the Qulliq Energy Corporation's proposed Iqaluit

hydroelectric development project. Information provided to the standing committee by the government indicates that these costs were incurred over a ten-year period between 2005 and 2015.

On September 23, 2014 a televised hearing was held by a standing committee of the Legislative Assembly concerning the 2014-18 corporate plan and the 2012-13 annual report of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

During his appearance before the standing committee, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's lead witness publicly stated that, and I quote, "To date, we have spent about \$9.5 million doing these types of studies. To go to the next stage, to get it to an environmental assessment stage, we're probably going to have to spend another \$6.5 million. So that would mean that we've got about \$16.0 million all in before we even start anything and before we even get regulatory approval. Depending on the site, to build a hydroelectricity site can range anywhere, let's say, from \$300 million to \$400 million and it could be even higher than that."

Information provided to the standing committee by the government indicates that the proposed Iqaluit hydroelectric development project has been put on "permanent hold."

The standing committee urges the government to table a comprehensive report in the Legislative Assembly that details the expenditures and findings associated with the Qulliq Energy Corporation's work to date on the proposed Iqaluit hydroelectric development project.

The standing committee also urges the government to formally and publicly clarify the rationale for placing the proposed Iqaluit hydroelectric development project on “permanent hold,” and to formally and publicly clarify the circumstances in which it could be restarted.

With respect to the write-off of petroleum products inventory, the standing committee continues to encourage the Minister of Community and Government Services to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the operations of the Petroleum Products Division of the department.

The standing committee continues to recommend that this report include detailed information concerning rates of fuel evaporation, shrinkage, spillage, and theft in Nunavut communities, as well detailed information concerning inventory management practices and innovations.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 21 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. T. Sammurtok. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): I move that we report progress.

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

now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 14, 16, and 21 and would like to report that Bills 14 and 16 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kuksuk.

>>*Laughter*

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism*

*Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and Bill 16 is ready for assent.

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 the Management and Services Board will meet tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for November 8:

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

- Bill 29
- Bill 30
- Bill 31

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 21

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 14

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 8, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:26*

