



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 3

Friday, May 25, 2018

Pages 98 – 125

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Joe Enook, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Labour

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Education; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Joelie Kaerneck
(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

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(Rankin Inlet South)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, May 25, 2018**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasia, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>House commenced at 9:04

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Joe Enook) (interpretation): Mr. Netser, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Good morning, (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and members. Good morning, Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, especially our elders in Nunavut. We wish you a good day.

Mr. Netser, the search and rescue volunteers as well as the person who is being searched for are in our thoughts. I hope they have a good day.

Speaker's Statement

Before we proceed with the orders of the

day, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the alteration that has recently been made to my official Speaker's robes. We try to showcase anything that we can use in Nunavut in the Assembly and that is good.

Thanks to the skill and artistry of the talented seamstress, Nicole Camphaug, who is a staff member here, the robes now incorporate traditional materials from Nunavut. The buttons are crafted from caribou antler and the tabs are fashioned from sealskin.

>>Applause

I am very proud of these robes, which represent the authority of the Speakership, and also reflect the traditional skills of our territory's people. I especially thank the seamstress. Thank you, Nicole.

>>Applause

Let us now proceed with the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The first one will be the Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 006 – 5(2):
Notice of Budget Address**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I would like to inform the House that on Monday, May 28, 2018, I will be delivering the Budget Address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 007 – 5(2):
Nunavut Agreement 25th
Anniversary Hamlet Contributions**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge an important milestone. Today, May 25, 2018, marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Nunavut Agreement.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge an important milestone. Today, May 25, 2018, marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Nunavut Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, it's incredible to think of what has been achieved in this period of time. I am proud of what we have accomplished and excited about our future as we head towards our goals.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this momentous occasion deserves to be celebrated. As such, I am pleased to announce that all of Nunavut's 25 communities will receive a \$5,000 grant to celebrate this special day.

Since the creation of our territory, our traditions, language, environment and way of life have become renowned around the globe. We have shown ourselves to be dynamic and innovative, using Inuit ingenuity to navigate a modern world.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I remember working alongside so many

brilliant minds to create our territory. It was our hard work, passion, and determination that led to the creation of Nunavut. The challenges and obstacles seemed overwhelming, but our common goals pushed us forward. (interpretation) Our common goals pushed us forward. The Government of Nunavut has laid out the vision to grow and succeed through our mandate, *Turaaqtavut*. We have purpose, we have goals, we are inspired, and we are passionate.

On this anniversary, I encourage you all to celebrate our successes and look towards the future with optimism. Celebrate this on the 25th anniversary of the Nunavut Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 008 – 5(2):
Support for Active Harvesters
Program**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide an update on a new support program that my department has developed as part of the new *Support for Harvesters and Wildlife Co-Management Policy*.

Harvesters provide valuable samples and information to my department, which contributes in a variety of ways to decision-making in Nunavut's wildlife co-management system.

My department has initiated a new Support for Active Harvesters Program that will offer compensation to our local

harvesters for supplying eligible samples and information to our wildlife management staff.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that the funding is in place for this new support program and it is anticipated to be ready for implementation before the fall of 2018. At the core of this program, our wildlife research staff will be requesting samples as part of ongoing research and monitoring programs within the territory. Our conservation officers or other designated officials will be available at the community level to collect these samples from our successful hunters.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that there will be great benefits from this program as our biologists and local hunters work together to support wildlife management decisions, which affect all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Angnakak.

**Minister's Statement 009 – 5(2):
Nunavut Celebrates Nurses**

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everybody. Welcome to the House.

Mr. Speaker, during the week of May 7, as part of National Nursing Week, the Department of Health recognized the hard work and important contributions made by Nunavut's nurses.

The theme for National Nursing Week this year was "Yes, this is Nursing."

This year's theme recognizes that information technology is changing the nursing profession and improving health care delivery. Our nurses are using information technology to help deliver health care to Nunavummiut throughout the territory, which supports care closer to home.

Mr. Speaker, nursing in Nunavut is often challenging work. Our nurses work long hours and make many sacrifices to serve Nunavummiut. It is important to remember the hard-working nurses across our growing territory.

This year the Department of Health used the #YesThisIsNursing on GN social media pages to recognize our nurses and to thank them for their work. It was gratifying to see the many positive and uplifting comments made from the public for our Nunavut nurses. I encourage everyone to take the time to offer a word of thanks and encouragement to nurses in your community.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Nunavut Arctic College annually recognize the top Nunavut nursing students in their class with the Queen Elizabeth II scholarships. This year we recognize the following honorees: second year students Maybelle Enuaraq and Amiel Hernandez; [third] year students Oopik Aglukark and Samantha Cooper; and fourth year students Maria Fellen Atienza and Mavis Ell. Please join me in congratulating the Nunavut nursing students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the vital role that Nunavut Arctic College plays in training Nunavummiut nurses and building a

health care system we can all be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 010 – 5(2):
National Trade Corridors Fund**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to update the Members of this House on the submissions Nunavut put forward under the National Trade Corridors Fund.

As the members are aware, in the fall of 2017 the Government of Nunavut put several projects forward for consideration under this program.

Mr. Speaker, there are many priorities for transportation in Nunavut, and I am sure the members from every community can name a project they would like to see put forward.

On May 16 the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs was in Iqaluit to make an announcement on one of our submissions. I thank my colleague, Minister Kusugak, Minister of Community and Government Services, for participating in the announcement in my absence.

This was our only successful proposal under this program, but it will fund 75 percent of the cost of planning and design of five of our long-term priority projects through one agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the members that pending approvals and signing of the agreement with Canada, we will be in a position to replace aging air terminal buildings in Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Kimmirut, and Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 011 – 5(2): QEC
Apprenticeship Graduates**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning, visitors in the gallery, my fellow colleagues, and to my constituents in Cambridge Bay and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to celebrate with you the achievements of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent apprenticeship graduate. Mr. Sateana Goupil earned his certificate of qualification and certificate of completion on April 20, 2018. Sateana is now pursuing his skilled trades career as a journeyman power systems electrician in the QEC's department of operations.

After completing four levels of in-school technical instruction for 960 hours at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and over 7,200 hours of on-the-job learning, Sateana has made an impression, not only with his colleagues but also in the classroom. His instructor praised him for his commitment and positive attitude that brought harmony

and a cooperative atmosphere to the learning environment. Sateana has aspirations of moving into a leadership role, a sentiment supported by his instructor, who felt he was an “exemplary example and had proven competency to make him an outstanding leader and team player.”

The QEC would like to acknowledge the support Mr. Goupil received from his career development officers and the Apprenticeship Certification Unit within the Department of Family Services to help him realize his achievement. Through this partnership, the QEC has developed the apprenticeship program in an effort to fill trades positions with Nunavummiut and in particular beneficiaries. The program plays a key role in the advancement of a skilled workforce representative of our population.

We are very proud of Sateana for his hard work and we thank him for being a positive role [model] to others who may now consider entering a rewarding career in the skilled trades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Members’ Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 019 – 5(2): Baker Lake’s Outstanding TASK Students

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate a group of hard-working and hard-training students at beautiful Baker Lake Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the Trades Awareness, Skills and Knowledge week, also known as TASK week, gives students at the Baker Lake high school an opportunity to get hands-on experience and instruction in the mechanics, welding, culinary arts, electrical, plumbing and hairdressing fields.

With support from the Government of Nunavut, instructors from Agnico Eagle Mines and Nunavut Arctic College introduced students to their disciplines and show them the ropes with hands-on tasks. Some of the Red Seal journeymen and apprentices who worked with the students were former Baker Lake students themselves.

Mr. Speaker, this event is a wonderful opportunity for our high school students to get a real feel for the kinds of careers that are available to them in the trades. The experience, working alongside successful tradesmen and tradeswomen from Nunavut, can be highly motivating as well as inspirational.

Mr. Speaker, a significant number of Baker Lake students took part in TASK week and some students really stood out. 2018’s Outstanding TASK week

students were:

- Plumbing – Mordecai Ukpaticu;
- Electrical – Hope Tookoome;
- Culinary Arts – Carla Rose Kaayak;
- Hairdressing – Hattie Amitnak;
- Welding – Sally Paungrat; and
- Mechanics – David Martee.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all the TASK week participants in their efforts and in encouraging them to continue with their education, their training, and their choice of career. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I am very proud. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Member's Statement 020 – 5(2):
Recent Graduates at Whale Cove
College**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. I rise today to recognize students in Whale Cove. I say "good morning" to the people of Whale Cove who are watching the proceedings.

A Nunavut Arctic College community learning centre was just recently completed in Whale Cove. It has just recently been opened and it's already being very much appreciated in the community. I would like to congratulate first of all someone who is well known, Agnes Turner, who was the instructor of those students. The graduates are:

- Annie Malaiyah Milortok,

- Laurent Alikashuak,
- Deanna Kriterionluk,
- Sarah Igviksaq,
- Priscilla Sheetoga,
- Martha Nanauk Arualak, and
- Suzie Amitnaq.

I would like to congratulate these graduates for completing their education and I encourage them to keep furthering their education because it's very rewarding.

I would especially like to acknowledge Malaiyah Milortok, who was recognized for helping her fellow students. To use this example, several elders would be invited and while they were in the classroom, she would provide resources and serve the elders, offer them coffee and tea, and would offer any assistance as required. I therefore extend my congratulations to Malaiyah.

I also wish Whale Cove residents some encouragement and support. Keep up your studies as more courses will be available in the fall semester, so please apply for those that interest you. Nunavut Arctic College offers courses that can positively impact your life, so please keep up with your education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Member's Statement 021 – 5(2): High
School Graduates in Gjoa Haven**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning, community of Gjoa Haven.

I rise today to congratulate three students that graduated in Qiqirtaq Ilihakvik School. Yesterday they had their celebration and I encourage them to further their education. Like Mr. Main said, it doesn't stop at grade 12. You can go to Arctic College or go to university to further your education.

I would like to name the three people who graduated:

- Savannah Eleehetook,
- Brent Puqiqnak, and
- Sonia Ullulaq

I ask my colleagues to congratulate the three students that just graduated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 022 – 5(2):
Issues around Nunavut and Iqaluit**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of letters were tabled from different hamlets and municipalities yesterday. The four MLAs for here in Iqaluit recently met with the hamlet and council here in Iqaluit and a number of different issues arose.

First I would like to highlight there is always a perception around the territory that Iqaluit is the capital city that gets everything. I just wanted to make a note that in Canada, 20 percent of the landmass is Nunavut and a little over 20 percent of Nunavut's population is in Iqaluit. I just wanted to make a note. I know we all have competing interests for

our limited budget dollars, but in the capital city you get a lot of bang for your buck, Mr. Speaker.

I just wanted to highlight some of the topics that came up and there are a lot of similar issues that we see across the territory that we know we're all here working for to make improvements upon.

There are even some of the positive things that come out there are still concerns with, such as the net metering of what options could be provided to residents and what type of cost-benefit, cost-return analyses to be able to help people make decisions with accessing alternative energies.

Water availability I know is a concern in a number of communities and Iqaluit is very high up there because of our growing population. We're very concerned of our water availability.

Daycare spaces: there are so many people that are working or are wanting to work that have challenges with daycare spaces in the city.

Homelessness: there's a business case coming forward from the City of Iqaluit through the shelter. When it comes out, I was assured that all members would get a copy of it. I appreciate all members taking time to look through the homelessness issue here in Iqaluit, as at least half the members of the men's shelter here in Iqaluit aren't from Iqaluit. It's a territorial shelter in some respects.

Waste management plan: I know there's some work being done with our waste management landfill situation being relocated right now.

I just have a couple other things to mention, Mr. Speaker, so I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

One of the interesting things that came up was self-sustainability, not just as a territory but as the City of Iqaluit. There was some information that was new to me. I have been in this game for a little while now, but I'm still learning more and more every day, Mr. Speaker.

With self-sustainability, Iqaluit being the only tax-based revenue community in the territory with the City of Iqaluit, 85 percent of their revenue comes from a tax base. When you look at the numbers of per capita funding of what we give to municipalities and what we give to different hamlets and the City of Iqaluit, I think there really needs to be more focus on the municipal funding formula for taking into consideration the tax base and the limited tax base that the City of Iqaluit has to work with.

A vehicle levy on importing and disposal of vehicles: when vehicles come into the city, they end up at our landfill at the expense of our city.

There are a number of different things that were mentioned and I felt it was a very good dialogue. I'm sure my other three colleagues would agree with me that we may not often meet in the city

council meetings, but there is always an ongoing dialogue with our mayor and with our council. I look forward to further developing and further working on issues that the city brings forward to us as legislators.

Just in closing, I would like to acknowledge Minister Ehaloak's recognition of Sateana Goupil, who is a constituent of mine. I know how much hard work and how much pride he has taken into achieving his journeyman status and how much work his partner, Opal, played in that. I just want to acknowledge Sateana and Opal on all their hard work. It has come to fruition and I look forward to seeing him grow further in his career. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 023 – 5(2):
Traditional Sealskin Clothing in
Pangnirtung**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Good morning, colleagues and the people of Pangnirtung. Good morning to you.

The Speaker made a statement about traditional material and sealskin that are used to make clothing in Nunavut.

I would like to recognize someone who has been an instructor for a long time, but who is a very skilled seamstress at the Attagoyuk middle school and high school in Pangnirtung and she started teaching students how to sew. In 2016-17 they made efforts to fundraise to

provide a sewing program. They raised between \$6,000 and \$7,000 with the students for the sewing project.

Both boys and girls were taught how to make sealskin jackets, pants, and hats. A total of 21 students have completed the course to date. We had a showcase last year where they displayed the sealskin garments produced at the end of their course. Even the boys are wearing homemade sealskin jackets in our community, and the female students are sewing with sealskins. When they are encouraged, they can grow exponentially and graduate if they receive more encouragement because it breeds success. I would like to congratulate all the students and the instructor in that course.

They have fundraised again this year and they put forth a request for funding to the Department of Economic Development. They were approved for \$16,500 and the district education authority also provided financial contributions. They are planning for next year's sewing program in the spring. There are nine students who are participating in that project and we will see additional students.

I would like to congratulate the instructor, Jeannie Nakashuk, for initiating this project so that students can make clothing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Member's Statement 024 – 5(2): 2018 High School Graduates in Constituency

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Welcome to the visitors in the gallery.

I rise this morning to congratulate students from Igloolik who completed grade 12. There were seven graduates:

- Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq,
- Isaiah Qattalik,
- Sakku Angotautok,
- Rasheena Airut,
- Joey Irqqaqsaq,
- Edward Tapardjuk Jr., and
- Nadine Kripanik

Those are the grade 12 graduates from Igloolik and I congratulate them all.

Again, in Hall Beach there was a unique course where there were 23 kindergarteners who graduated to grade 1.

>>Applause

We also had grade 12 graduates in Hall Beach. I'm proud of you and urge you to further your education:

- Aldred Qayaqjuaq,
- Geneva Pikuyak,
- Ayla Innualuk,
- Angela Kukik,
- Jamie Pikuyak,
- Savanna Pikuyak,
- Nathan Ukalik, and
- Koivu Qanatsiaq

I would like to congratulate the grade 12 graduates in Hall Beach and in Igloolik. What I'm mostly proud of are those 23

kindergarteners who have graduated to grade 1 in Hall Beach. They are too numerous to name, but please know that there were 23 of them.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 025 – 5(2):
Constituents Attending Nunavut
Arctic College**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituents. There were two individuals from Kimmirut who graduated from the College Foundations program at Nunavut Arctic College. They would like to take the Teacher Education Program. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Ooloosie Judea and Padluk Judea, who worked very hard to complete their courses.

We are in dire need of teachers in Nunavut. Even though they are only two individuals taking the Teacher Education Program, they will add to the number of Nunavut teachers. Education is very important and it can provide opportunities for people in the communities. They don't necessarily need to stay in their community as they can pursue higher education outside of Nunavut. The need for education must

be given serious attention.

I would like to congratulate those two individuals for completing their education and for being good role models for younger people in their community. We are proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. There are none. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Let me start before I let my colleagues recognize visitors.

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

My colleagues, I would like to acknowledge people in the gallery, (interpretation ends) a distinguished group representing the Fulbright Arctic Initiative. This initiative brings together a network of scholars, professionals, and applied researchers from the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden for a series of three-seminar meetings and a Fulbright exchange experience.

The scholars will be focusing on two thematic areas: resilient communities, such as ours, and sustainable economies. Fulbright Canada is hosting the initial meeting in Canada with sessions in both Ottawa and Iqaluit. The group is in Iqaluit from May 23 to 26 where they will be engaging with the community and setting the direction for their research. Welcome to Nunavut and welcome to Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have the pleasure of recognizing a constituent of mine, Dr. Gwen Healey. Dr. Gwen Healey is the executive and scientific director of the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre here in Iqaluit.

Dr. Healey was born and raised here in Iqaluit, and it is in the community that she continues to live and work with her family. As I mentioned, she is the executive and scientific director of the research centre and received her PhD in public health from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Drawing upon existing community strengths and resources and strengthening capacity to conduct research in the north is a key to addressing a number of health concerns presently and over the coming years. For this reason, Gwen founded the research centre with the late Andrew Tagak Sr. in 2006. To this date the research centre has conducted many major research initiatives on behalf of our territory. I wish them luck in their future endeavours, as I'm sure does everyone else here in the House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I still won't be able to catch up to my member from Kugluktuk in how many daughters she can recognize in the House here, but for the first time as yesterday I welcome my oldest daughter, Hope McLennan, to this House.

Now for the first time I've got all three of my daughters here in the House. I would like all my colleagues and everyone here and watching to recognize them: my youngest, who will always be my baby, Sarah Hickes, and Lily Hickes, who always keeps us on track just with her kind heart and phenomenal spirit, and the newest yet oldest addition to the family, Hope McLennan.

We were watching a few home videos last night, and I would like to acknowledge her mom, Heather, for the great foundation that she gave Hope and the incredible young woman that she is and has yet to grow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Hickes, I must say it is nice to know that you have three daughters who will keep you in line.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the individuals you had acknowledged. I, too, would like to recognize every visitor in the gallery and welcome them. They come from various

parts of the globe. I will be giving a presentation to them this evening.

(interpretations ends) I would just like to again acknowledge and welcome everyone who is in the gallery, and I look forward to meeting with them this evening. Certainly I would like to welcome each and every one of you to the Nunavut territory, the newest confederate partner in Canada. To that, again I would just like to welcome each and every one and welcome to our House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Let us proceed with the orders of the day. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 035 – 5(2): Household Allowance for Civil Servants

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance and they concern the issue of recruitment and retention initiatives for the public service.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have spoken on a number of occasions about the need to look at ways of providing support for employees in staff housing to become homeowners. I have spoken about the need to reform our *Staff Housing Policy* to make it easier for lower income employees to access this benefit. I believe that improvements in both these areas would make it easier to recruit and retain employees, which

would help us make some progress in filling the over 1,300 vacant positions across our government.

As the minister is aware, the current household allowance for employees who are homeowners or who pay the full cost of market rent is \$400 per month. My question for the minister is: why has this amount not been increased since it was first incorporated in 2009? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking about the household allowance. The rental rate is still the same and has not been changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to mention that I believe that the rental market rate has definitely been increased considerably and continues to do so.

With that being said, I'll continue on to my next question and I'll focus on the retention of our existing employees. The current policy regarding the household allowance indicates that it's only available to indeterminate and term employees. However, as the minister is well aware, there are many long-term casual employees who are homeowners or who pay full market rent. My question for the minister is this: why aren't these employees eligible for the household allowance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For the casuals, they're not eligible because they are in those positions as casuals. For indeterminate and term, there are definitive dates or indefinite dates for indeterminate and for terms, they're definite. For casuals, it goes on for every four months. It's difficult to try to administer for trying to pay casuals into that.

I just want to state that our government has been trying and has been moving towards for those long-term casuals to try to get them into indeterminate positions. I'm glad and happy that we are moving along in that front and we will continue to try to convert as many long-term casuals. We know there are long-term casuals and in some cases they're in positions that haven't been identified by the department. We are taking steps to ensure our departments to address the long-term casuals and make them into indeterminate. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish the government the best of luck in converting those large amounts of casuals into indeterminate positions.

My last question goes back to the issue of recruitment. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that the Department of Finance awarded a contract worth

\$298,502 to a southern headhunting company for the purpose of "recruitment of senior-level positions." Mr. Speaker, \$298,000 would cover a year's worth of household allowance payments for over five dozen employees.

My question for the minister is this: how many senior-level positions were actually recruited as a direct result of the contract that was awarded to this headhunting company? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Lightstone, as you know, we are asked to keep to one topic and you're almost on the verge of talking two different topics. Would you be able to rephrase or stick with your original line of questioning? We're now talking about two different things. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my apologies. My intention was that all of my questions were along the lines of recruitment and retention, which is the first half was recruitment and this final one was on retention.

With that being said, I will follow up with my second supplementary question. As my fellow Iqaluit MLA, Mr. Hickes, had indicated, the collective agreement article 51.01 states, "Where the Employer anticipates the period of temporary employment to be in excess of four (4) months, the employee shall be appointed on a term basis and shall be entitled to all provisions of the Collective Agreement from the first day of his...employment."

Again, as our over 1,300 casual employees that we're relying on to assist in the day-to-day operations of our

government are still forced to pay full market rent or the cost of their homeownership, I ask again: although it states that casuals that have been casuals for over four months are eligible for all the benefits that are provided to term and indeterminate employees, why is it that the household allowance is not provided to them as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, (interpretation ends) for that phrasing of the question. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For the definition of the household allowance, casual employees are excluded in this program. When they are in the casuals, that's the term that's being used. There are over 100 casuals that we convert into permanent positions currently for just about every year now.

If there are long-term casuals that want to be converted, I encourage them to talk to their supervisors and discuss that with them. I encourage the supervisors to make sure that they go into the right steps. As colleagues, we are aware that for the casuals, some of those are filling positions that are vacant. We encourage our departments to advertise those vacant positions so that we won't necessarily have those casuals. Ideally, for those casuals, we would hire them into that position.

We do have a hiring process where there are different tools that we use and the most common tool that we use is through open competition. When there is an urgent need for positions, they get into those casual positions. There are a

number of ways that our wonderful staff can take steps into these positions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Question 036 – 5(2): Rankin Inlet Utilidor

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

In recent weeks many of my constituents in Rankin Inlet have expressed their concerns to me regarding water quality in the community and the condition of our utilidor. Many residents have sent me photographs of seriously discoloured water that they are using for cooking, bathing, and drinking.

Can the minister assure the House that the municipal water supply in Rankin Inlet meets the standards that are prescribed in the national *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my fellow resident of Rankin Inlet for asking that question. As a representative for Rankin Inlet, I get similar questions. Let me first state that the water in Rankin Inlet doesn't affect all of the buildings. Some of the houses have clear water. It's only a portion in which the

water quality is bad.

I'll add a preamble. When they are working on that, I don't know what is causing the discolouration. It's either mud or sand that gets into the pipe. It mixes with the rest of the water. We use utilidor and we don't get water delivery. Some units have brownish water. We're asking the residents of Rankin Inlet who notice brownish water to let the water run for a while to get the brownish water out.

Regarding the quality of water in terms of Canadian standards, a staff member from the Department of Health who deals with water quality is looking into that right now. To date I have heard that there is no safety issue with the water quality. It looks bad when you are drinking it, but that's how it is right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 10, 2017 the Department of Community and Government Services issued a request for proposals for a feasibility study of Rankin Inlet's water infrastructure and treatment system. The department's RFP stated that "The system is over 40 years old and is showing its age. The design of the system does not meet current codes and standards...the condition of most system components are past their service life and are at risk of critical failure...there are many health and safety risks that must be addressed in the near future."

Mr. Speaker, the final report from this

feasibility study was scheduled to be completed in March of this year, over two months ago. Can the minister describe the key recommendations that were contained in the feasibility study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently working on the Rankin Inlet water utilidor system requiring replacement. Previously, sections of the utilidor system were renovated, but now all those sections need to be replaced due to expansion and thawing of frozen sections. With the ongoing repairs, it leads to increasing maintenance costs to constantly dig up and cover up the underground pipes, although they aren't deep underground, and it freezes in all the seasons other than summer. The maintenance costs continue to spiral upwards. With respect to how we contemplate replacing the utilidor when ongoing repairs are needed for the water source and utilidor, that work is ongoing.

However, regarding issues related to Rankin Inlet's water source, I want to inform the residents to run the water through their pipes until it clears up. We are also studying the associated costs, as running the water to clear it up isn't without cost, as the water isn't free. Regarding the costs of this directive we will know within this month as an opportunity will open for that review of what the costs are for running the water to clear it up. This is part of our study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The final report from the feasibility study was to be completed in March, which is two months ago. Will the minister commit to providing both the municipal council of Rankin Inlet and myself with a copy of the final report from the feasibility study? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that was our goal at the end of checking out the feasibilities to include the municipality to ensure that they know exactly what's happening with what the issues are with the water system in the community and what the next steps, goals, and objectives are of remediating some of the issues there. I would be more than happy to share it with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Question 037 – 5(2): 2018 Northern Lights Conference and Trade Show

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to ask questions to our Premier concerning the Northern Lights Conference in Ottawa, which has been discussed in the media and in this House.

Many Nunavummiut disapprove of our government's largess in funding certain

conference costs at this event. In light of Nunavut's many residents living on the edge of poverty and those suffering from food insecurity, the CBC article stated that \$64,000 was the figure, over \$60,000 for the GN hosting (interpretation ends) Nunavut Night (interpretation) celebrations alone. Additionally, over \$15,000 was spent on meals for the event and here we have hungry Nunavummiut in our territory.

It even states here that the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Food Security Coalition (interpretation) report of 2014... . I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) "While food insecurity affects populations worldwide, it is a particularly urgent public health issue for Nunavummiut. Rates of food insecurity are at critical levels in the territory. The Inuit Health Survey reported that nearly 70 percent of Inuit households in Nunavut are food insecure. This is over eight times higher than the national average and among the highest documented food insecurity rates for an indigenous population in a developed country."

Mr. Speaker, my question for the Premier is: at this Nunavut Night event where over \$15,000 was spent on finger food, how was the issue of food insecurity in Nunavut communicated to the people present? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking about that again. The news media has played on this issue almost on a daily basis. Nonetheless,

what I can speak about to my colleagues for their information and which I have spoken to in the past is the (interpretation ends) Northern Lights trade show (interpretation) is an event that takes place every two years ever since this initiative was created down in Ottawa.

Also, the purpose of this event, for the information of my colleagues, is to try to showcase Nunavut and expose our territory to a wider audience outside of Nunavut in the south. It's not to just Canada but to a global audience as well. This is general information pertaining to Nunavut demographics as well as the employment sectors at play. There are many pertinent reasons for attending Northern Lights in 2018.

An estimated 5,000 plus visitors came to the booths. As well, we weren't the only funders for the evening event. Our partners included the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, as well as the northern premiers for the three territories. Even the premier of Newfoundland and Labrador as well as federal ministers attended this event.

Additionally, related to this matter, as per my earlier statement, we try to promote Nunavut, especially to visitors who may be ignorant of the circumstances surrounding our territory and its creation. Please note that we derive many benefits from this event.

I wish to point out to my colleague that the funds we spent are totally separate from the budget allocated for food security initiatives or for income support purposes, as this amount wouldn't make a dent in our challenges. The funding

was specifically earmarked for this event from various budgets. These are two separate matters. We have funds specific to (interpretation ends) food insecurity (interpretation) initiatives and no funds allocated for food security were used, and we are well aware of the plight of many residents.

We will continue to support the various departments and ministers working hard on this file. This event has no impact on the food security funding as it has specific funding allocated for it. As I stated earlier, this event takes place only every two years and we try to raise awareness of Nunavut, and this is a benefit to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier. Yes, we are well aware that attending the Northern Lights trade show is of benefit for Nunavut. Of course those meetings during that time are very important, but what I'm trying to say is that our government is spending too much money on things that don't produce results.

(interpretation ends) To sum it up, my feeling is that government-wide there is too much money being wasted, and this is a prime example. There is no doubt that there was important work that was done in Ottawa during that event, but the question is: could our government have done it cheaper?

An Hon. Member: Of course.

Mr. Main: I will pose a question to the Premier regarding the cabinet's

attendance. It is my understanding that the full cabinet attendance was mandatory. Going forward, looking ahead to the next Northern Lights event, will the entire Nunavut cabinet attend the next Northern Lights event?

An Hon. Member: Why not?

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Why not, eh?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He spoke in English, so I will give my response in English. (interpretation ends) Again thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to point out again the importance of attending Northern Lights for this territory. Again, it wasn't just the cabinet that participated in this forum.

It is a very important event and, as I said, it only takes place every two years and it gives us an opportunity to show what Nunavut does, what it needs, and what areas we are moving forward to. It gives groups and businesses from outside of Nunavut to try and certainly we urge them to invest in Nunavut. That's the whole purpose of Northern Lights and certainly I think this time around we did it.

For this particular event, as you know, we were a new government; we were just starting, and it gave us an opportunity to introduce our ministers to all of these various partners and groups that we as a government deal with and want to deal with. It gave us an opportunity to introduce those interest

groups to our ministers. This also gave us an opportunity to meet various federal ministers. Certainly we don't take this lightly at all that we didn't go down there just for that event; we went there for a purpose.

Again, for your following questions, as I said, this was just an introductory and we are here for the next four years. As I said, there will be another one in two years' time and certainly that will be different, of course. I'm not saying that it was mandatory. I said that it would be ideal if you, as a minister, can go down and do this introductory to these various groups. For the next Northern Lights, it will be different and I can assure you that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier. I'm encouraged to hear that maybe going forward, things will be different. I would just like to ask for a clarification. Was cabinet attendance at this event mandatory? I have multiple sources telling me that it was indeed mandatory. Were cabinet ministers given the choice to attend or not to attend, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Quassa, I'm going to give you an opportunity as to how you want to reply to the question. I think that's borderline cabinet confidentiality, but I will allow the Premier, if you want to respond to that question. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I already said that it was not mandatory. My ministerial colleagues understood that very well. I just suggested that it would be better if they attended the Northern Lights Conference so that we can see who the organizations are and they can see who the cabinet members are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 038 – 5(2): 2018 Northern Lights Conference and Trade Show

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have just recently been told by our colleague from Baker Lake that my nephew has been found and he is okay.

>> *Applause*

I thank the people of Baker Lake who worked very hard during those operations. All Nunavummiut work very hard to search for individuals who are lost. We are very grateful today.

I rise to also supplement my colleague's questions. Joanasie from Naujaat indicated that he watches the proceedings and I say "good morning" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, following up on my colleague's questions on the Northern Lights trade show, the response to Mr. Main's written question indicates that \$385,000 was spent at this event. On page 4 of 8, on item 5, it indicates other expenses at

\$87,554.25. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, our Premier usually indicates that we have to be transparent as a government to the people of Nunavut. I would like to ask the Premier if he can explain what that \$87,000 was used for, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated previously, we met with different representatives and various organizations. As an example, on January 31 we had meetings with the minister responsible for INAC, along with the president of NTI attending, and this was at the House of Commons. On February 1 a meeting with NWT Premier McLeod was arranged. On the same day we met with the representatives of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Again on February 1 we were able to go the House of Commons wherein we were acknowledged during our visit. Further, on that same day we met again with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Minister Bennett, at her offices. On February 2 we met with Suka Frederiksen representing the Home Rule Government of Greenland, who is a minister in their government.

I can speak to different things as we attended various events and meetings, as well as the dates when these meetings took place between our federal ministerial counterparts and their deputies, who attended the appropriate meetings specific to their departments. As an example, we didn't go to the tradeshow just to visit the various events; we took this opportunity to meet

with various government officials. Our reasoning was to explore any and all avenues there, whether it be funding or program availability. That is the thinking behind the saying of having to spend money to accrue more revenue. This is where part of our aim was.

There were different matters I could speak to, but I wish to respond only to the question posed. There were different issues dealt with under these funds which were put to good use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the (interpretation ends) written response, (interpretation) the \$385,000 was expended by different government departments in Ottawa. Media coverage was extensive on this, especially by CBC, who I presume got the information through an ATIPP request as they are the ones that released that information.

Mr. Speaker, \$572,000 was the total amount spent according to the media. Why such a big discrepancy between these two amounts? This government has spouted its commitment to transparency, yet only \$385,000 is the amount spoken to in response. We heard through CBC news that for the same event it was (interpretation ends) over half a million dollars. (interpretation) Are they trying to pull a fast one on us, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As government we are being transparent and aren't hiding anything, so members know. Clearly, as a public government, we have to adhere to standards. If my colleagues desire more detailed information on these expenditures, they can visit the website under (interpretation ends) the Department of Economic Development and Transportation (interpretation) and review the report outlining what the expenditures were and the (interpretation ends) return on investment for Northern Lights 2018. (interpretation) This is where you can see the exact details on a computer. Also, as I previously stated, this government is transparent in every regard and with these figures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As regular members we are provided rather modest budgets for our expenses. I was informed that if we were to go over our allotted budget within a fiscal year, the overage would be deducted from our indemnities as per usual government practice. I wonder, since this government seems to have an oversized pocket, whether overages in budgets are reimbursed by those who cause them, or is there no accountability for this fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of us should be aware that budgets for the year are approved by the entire House for the

upcoming fiscal year. If the budget isn't approved, then we would not spend those funds as only approved funds can be used for initiatives like this. For instance, each separate department has a budget for the minister's use which they report on during the budget review in this House. Upon approval, the budget can then be used for operations, as we all know.

After the funds are approved, we are able to start using budgets, whether that is here at HQ or regionally in any community. All members approve the budgets here in the House for the annual operations of each department for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as reporting on the past fiscal year. The funds have to be approved here. As ministers, we can't approve funding; only members of the entire House can approve budgets for an upcoming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 039 – 5(2): Faster
Emergency Medical Travel
Needed**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my colleagues, our government, and the people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, I will be directing my question to the Minister of Health. My question regarding health isn't positive.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is a vast territory and in the case of a medical emergency, it is important that airplanes cover the distances to pick up patients and get

them to where they can receive medical care as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, in one case this year a constituent waited seven hours for the medevac plane to arrive and by the time they got to Yellowknife, it had been 10 hours. In another case of the same year it took so long for a constituent to be medevaced from the community to the regional hospital that by the time they got there, they were passing blood.

Can the minister clearly explain what is being done to ensure that people who require emergency medical care get to see medical professionals as quickly as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is worrisome to hear, but I know that sometimes more than one patient requires emergency medical travel at the same time. When the nurses know that a patient requires emergency medical travel and there's another emergency case in a different community, they discuss which patient has priority to go on medevac.

Sometimes there's a shortage of medevac aircraft. If the patient is in Kugaaruk, sometimes we have to use an airplane from this area if the airplanes in Yellowknife are being used. When the airplanes closer to your community are busy, we have to use another airplane coming from this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, medical clients in the Kitikmeot region are usually flown to Edmonton or Yellowknife for emergency medical care. Can the minister indicate what kinds of aircraft are used to provide emergency medical transportation from Kitikmeot communities to a hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm reading the contract for the Kitikmeot. They have a contract with (interpretation ends) Aqsaqniq Airways and Medic North. (interpretation) I'm mistaken. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry. Strike that; that was expired. Keewatin Air was awarded the new contract for the Kitikmeot region and began servicing the region on December 1, 2017. That's for the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, the question of what type of aircraft is used for emergency medevacs has been asked before. It seems that slower types of aircraft are being used. Will the minister commit to ensuring that faster planes will be used when contracts for emergency medevacs are next reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're going through a review right now, as the member knows, and I think everything under medical travel is being looked at. We have Lufthansa helping the Government of Nunavut to look at what models we need to use when it comes to medical travel.

I'm just reading here. I don't have the type of aircraft in my briefing notes for the Kitikmeot region, but Keewatin Air, which services the Kitikmeot, in my briefing note it has two King Air and a Cessna as the aircraft type. I don't know if they're the same ones used for your region.

All the routes and the problems that we have encountered, everything will be looked at. If there are problems, we need to fix them. I think there is a real interest there on our behalf, on behalf of Nunavut and the government that we want to fix some of these gaps. That's why we're going through this extended review. We hope to have that completed by next month and we will go from there.

I would also like to invite you and encourage you to come and talk to me if you have specific things that went wrong with some of your constituents regarding medevacs. I would be interested in speaking with you about them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 040 – 5(2): Number of Case Files

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

My first question is: how many GN employees currently have cases open with the WSCC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Excuse me; I'm trying to figure out which minister is responsible. I believe it is Minister Akeeagok, please.

>>Laughter

Hon David. Akeeagok: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for questioning that. I don't have the specific numbers of how many files are open that are related to the government that are Nunavut government employees, but I can commit to getting that information for the member. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

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

Mr. Hickes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Sorry. He doesn't get asked too many questions under that hat, so I don't blame you, Mr. Speaker.

In the minister's research I was wondering if he can also, at the time he's getting me the numbers for my first question, [get] the numbers on how many of those are stress or workplace

related. I do have a second supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon David. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is a portfolio that I don't get a whole lot of questions, and I entrust the commission, which is joint between the NWT and Nunavut. It's an arm's-length commission that does wonderful work for our workers. We do table on an annual basis and I'll look to see if that level of information is in that. If not, I will work with the president and get that information relayed to my colleague. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the minister is: how does he follow WSCC investigations into HR matters related to the Government of Nunavut, and how does he deal with situations where a WSCC investigation may conflict or differ from Finance-HR investigations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon David. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That is a very good question and, having two portfolios, is one that we need to find the right balance.

When a commission or any investigations are taking place with any of our employees or with workers that are hurt, I leave that to them through the processes that have been developed.

That's one that I deal very closely with and entrust the commission to do. They do have very good, qualified inspectors looking into this. They do come up with decisions and when they do, then as part of the legislation, we have to follow them. When it conflicts with our *Public Service Act*, which provides another process for our public service, those investigations are done, and if there is anything conflicting, then one or the other needs to follow the ones that are being heard.

There are employees that go through different processes and if they go through the workers' safety and compensation, those are the decisions I leave with the workers' compensation. When it comes to the *Public Service Act*, those are vetted and there are different levels of process. If there are any grievances related that an employee is not satisfied with the decisions our government makes, it goes up a tier system. For level 3 grievances, it comes to the minister, myself, and those I review closely and seek advice from my staff for those and come to a decision.

With workers' compensation, that is at an arm's length and it's something through the legislation that allows them to do that. I respect their decisions when they come. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 041 – 5(2): Baker Lake Airport

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

Before I pose my question, for Baker Lake residents who took part in the search and rescue, thank you very much and have a wonderful day.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of (interpretation ends) EDT and they concern the airport in beautiful Baker Lake, also known as YBK.

Mr. Speaker, one of the documents that I tabled during yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly was a letter from the Municipal Council of Baker Lake concerning the extension of the airport's runway.

As the minister is well aware, the community anticipates that such an extension would encourage airlines to consider enhancing their service to the community.

Can the minister indicate how this request will be addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have many runway extension requests in Nunavut and Baker Lake is amongst them. We have other runways that are way too short. We have other higher priorities. For example, we have been working on the relocation of the Pangnirtung Airport because it's in the middle of town. The commonly used aircraft by the air carriers can't come in fully loaded because the runway is too short.

Right now Baker Lake's runway is approximately, I think, 4,200 feet and my understanding is that the common aircraft that are used in Baker Lake right now, the runway is adequate for the airline that comes into Baker Lake and for the aircraft that that airline uses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister can probably anticipate what my next question will be today...

>> *Laughter*

...and I anticipate a little turbulence ahead.

>> *Laughter*

As the minister will be aware, his department made a formal presentation to the federal *Canada Transportation Act* Review Panel on June 23, 2015. One of the GN's recommendations was that all Nunavut airports should be "... upgraded to the GPS Instrument Approach Procedure that is appropriate for each individual airport."

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised this issue during our recent winter sitting, department officials identified a number of technical obstacles involving the terrain that surrounds the airport. Can the minister indicate what specific actions need to be taken by his department and what specific actions need to be taken by NAV CANADA to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember one time where the member wanted to blast a hill by his runway to make more room, and generally we don't blast hills away. Right now Baker Lake does have, to the best of my knowledge, a GPS approach. They do have GPS approach in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I'll name off the communities. Since the study was complete, NAV CANADA has made improvements to GPS approach instruments in Baker Lake, Arviat, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Arctic Bay. Mr. Speaker, these are the next communities that NAV CANADA will be looking at: Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, and Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, NAV CANADA is responsible for all the airport approaches and all the guidelines that we adhere to in Nunavut, and we work with NAV CAN, but NAV CAN makes the decisions on which communities get what type of navigational instruments and approaches.

Mr. Speaker, just to add another note, we talked about extending the runway in Baker Lake. In their letter from the hamlet they say that "If your department could revisit the matter and plan to extend the runway, if required, to allow jet service to our community..."

Mr. Speaker, both of the airlines use Boeing 737s and they are phasing out the ones that are certified for gravel runways. Pretty soon there will be no

jets that will be able to land on gravel runways. The company, Boeing, is not supporting the equipment to equip their Boeing planes to run on gravel runways anymore. In the future all 737 aircraft, and that's the most common jet aircraft used in Nunavut, will be landing only on paved runways. They will not have the ability to land on runways once the gravel equipment on these aircraft is past its useful life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for his response. I guess we will see a whole new fleet of airlines coming our way in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other documents that I tabled during yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly was a letter from the Municipal Council of Baker Lake concerning the need for a ramp to be installed at the airside of the airport terminal building in order to improve the facility's accessibility for people with mobility impairments, including those who use wheelchairs. Can the minister indicate how this request will be addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm in receipt of that letter and I fully agree with the member that there should be a wheelchair ramp. For reasons that we don't know it was omitted, but we're going to correct it. By the end of this year there should be a ramp in Baker Lake on the airside of the terminal building. I apologize to the

people of Baker Lake that it was omitted. It's a requirement. We need to have it and we will have it in their building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towntongie.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 018 – 5(2): Feasibility Study Rankin Inlet Water Infrastructure-Treatment

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the feasibility study on Rankin Inlet water infrastructure-treatment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeegok.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 – Notice

Bill 05 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – Notice

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, May 28, 2018, that Bill 4, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also have another notice. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 28, 2018, that Bill 5, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Moving on. Motions. Moving on. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 06 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges, 2018 – First Reading

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Minister Kusugak, that Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>Laughter

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

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour, please raise your hand. Thank

you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 6 has been read for the first time.

Moving on. First Reading of Bills. Moving on. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items to consider today. Report of the Committee of the Whole. As there was no Committee of the Whole, there is nothing to report.

>>Laughter

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there are meetings this afternoon of the Standing Committee on Oversight commencing at half past one, followed by a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at three o'clock. Both meetings will take place in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 28:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions

10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Responses to Petitions
14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motions
17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
 - Motion 4 – 5(2)
19. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
20. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 6
 - Bill 7
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
22. Report of the Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

>>*Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Before we adjourn, have a good weekend. We celebrate with the people of Baker Lake and we especially thank the search and rescue volunteers in Baker Lake and all local search and rescue organizations, as they are very important.

>>*Applause*

I thank the interpreters and our pages. I hope all Nunavummiut have a good weekend and be safe.

This House stands adjourned until Monday, May 28, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 10:58*

