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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Quttiktuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)

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(Cambridge Bay)

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Energy Corporation*

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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention;
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Premier and my colleagues, good afternoon. Our fellow Nunavummiut, I say “good afternoon” to you. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Mr. Mikkungwak, thank you.

Let’s now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers’ Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements**Minister’s Statement 159 – 5(2):
Mould Remediation**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. Spring is

coming and the weather outside is beautiful.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the Nunavut Housing Corporation looks to the future, it does so with an eye for mould prevention. The housing corporation is testing new roof designs in Kugaaruk, Igloolik, and Baker Lake, beautiful Baker Lake...

>>Laughter

...to find better ways to prevent mould generation. In Arviat and Iqaluit the housing corporation is testing new designs for the exteriors of homes along with new mechanical ventilation systems. Mr. Speaker, this is a made-in-Nunavut approach specific to our public housing stocks, which face unique challenges as a result of our arctic climate. The hope is to build homes and prevent the spread of mould in our new homes.

In the meantime mould remediation projects (interpretation) are underway in Cape Dorset, Iqaluit, and Arviat. The housing corporation is also working with the Hall Beach Housing Association and the Kimmirut Housing Association on mould remediation in their communities. The work should be finished in March. This follows work in Taloyoak, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, and Kugaaruk.

(interpretation ends) Further to that, the housing corporation recently completed an assessment of the extent of mould in its housing units. The good news is that the majority of mould in homes can be taken care of by residents with a bit of soap and water. I call on all our tenants (interpretation) to help us do exactly

that. (interpretation ends) Those who have patches of mould smaller than a regular piece of paper can simply take a soapy sponge to the mould. If the patches are larger, tenants should call their local housing organization. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that mould can even be prevented before it takes hold. Consistent condensation creates the conditions for mould and should be reported to the local organizations.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Minister's Statement 160 – 5(2): Pink Day 2019

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People of Arviat, I say "good day" to you. My daughter, have a good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, every year on the last Wednesday of February the Government of Nunavut (GN), in collaboration with the Canadian Red Cross, celebrates the national anti-bullying initiative, Pink Shirt Day. This year's theme is "Be Someone's Hero."

Mr. Speaker, to mark this occasion, participants across the territory are encouraged to wear the colour pink on February 27 to show their support.

As a complement to ongoing bullying prevention programs in our schools such as "Beyond the Hurt," Pink Shirt Day provides students, staff, and the community with the opportunity to

discuss the issue of bullying, inspiring them to work together to change the culture around bullying behaviour by creating safe and respectful schools. Last year students from 17 schools in 15 Nunavut communities participated in Pink Shirt Day. My hope is to see more schools taking part this year.

Mr. Speaker, Pink Shirt Day is a great way to remind ourselves of *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*, to respect others, relationships, and caring for people. To that end, the Government of Nunavut is committed to fostering a harassment-free workplace, safe schools, and healthy communities. Even GN public servants will wear pink on February 27 to commit to a bully-free lifestyle at work, at play, and at home.

It's our actions both big and small that make a difference. By showing respect and standing up to bullying behaviour, you too can be someone's hero. On behalf of my colleagues and me, I want to remind all Nunavummiut that kindness is one size fits all. Let's work together to end bullying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 161 – 5(2): Nunavut's 2019 Outstanding Principal Award Winner

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Katherine LeBlanc, Principal of Maani

Ulujuk Ilinniarvik in Rankin Inlet, on being recognized as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2019.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Canada's Outstanding Principals is a nationally recognized award that honours the unique and vital contribution of principals in publicly funded schools. They also receive a four-day executive leadership training program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

Mr. Speaker, in the official announcement of Ms. LeBlanc's selection, it states that "In a short while, Katherine has transformed her school into a reflective, responsive to the community, safe, caring and inviting place to learn. Katherine understands the importance of sustaining cultural connections and pride in student and family heritage and traditions. Culture is embedded using digital literacies and supported in the Inuit language. Katherine provides instructional leadership in terms of embedding balanced literacy, working with staff to improve their knowledge and skills, and making time for collaboration."

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, like Ms. LeBlanc, all of our territory's principals spend countless hours mentoring and developing strong relationships with their school staff while also taking the time to reach out to parents and the community by warmly inviting them to participate in the education of their children.

Since education is a key part of our government's mandate, having dedicated

principals like Ms. LeBlanc help guide and provide the necessary skills and leadership our children and educators need in order to prosper in an ever-increasing global society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Minister's Statement 162 – 5(2):
Healthy Relationships/Pink Shirt
Day (February 27)**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow is going to be a great day as pink is my favourite colour. I think I can wear it every day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, building healthy relationships is an important step in reducing family violence in our communities. Today we continue to recognize the importance of building healthy relationships in observation of Pink Shirt Day, a national day of solidarity to end bullying.

Pink Shirt Day gives us pause to consider the impacts of bullying in our schools, and share innovative ways to support our children and youth in becoming positive role models for themselves, their peers, and their communities.

Uqaqtitsijii, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, it is important to commend the efforts of those working to end any form of violence in Nunavut, be it violence in the school, workplace, or

home. This year's Pink Shirt Day theme #BeSomeonesHero highlights those working to make a positive difference by promoting respect and kindness.

Together let's send a message that bullying is not tolerated in our schools, our workplaces, or our families any day of the year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 163 – 5(2):
Opening of New Power Plants for
Cape Dorset and Grise Fiord**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Cambridge Bay-miut.

Mr. Speaker, in 2018 the Qulliq Energy Corporation completed the construction and testing of two new power plants: one in Cape Dorset and the other in Grise Fiord. It is with pleasure that I announce both of these upgrades were completed ahead of schedule, within budget, and have successfully replaced existing structures that outlived their life expectancy.

>> *Applause*

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's consumption of diesel fuel is expected to decline as a result of equipping the new facilities with energy-efficient generator sets. In addition to meeting the long-term energy needs of the communities,

the new power plants are designed to accommodate the integration of renewable energy systems as technologies advance and funding becomes available.

Grise Fiord's new power plant is Nunavut's first-ever prefabricated power plant and I am pleased to say that it won a 2018 design award for Excellence in Steel Construction...

>> *Applause*

...from the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction. Marking new achievements for the corporation, this award demonstrates the Qulliq Energy Corporation's commitment to rebuilding aging infrastructure with new and innovative methods that can be adapted and deployed here in Nunavut.

Guided by our guiding principles *Ajiiqatigiinniq* and *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*, Cape Dorset's power plant was relocated outside the hamlet as a result of community feedback. The Qulliq Energy Corporation has ensured the new system utilizes newer, fuel-efficient generator technology that will reduce emissions and noise pollution in the community.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's priority is to rebuild our infrastructure while also opening new doors that allow for renewable energy integration in Nunavut today.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I would like to extend my gratitude to the residents of Cape Dorset and Grise Fiord for their support during the construction of these facilities. I look forward to celebrating

with each community during official facility openings this spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 164 – 5(2): The Grizzlies Nominated for Canadian Screen Award

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the film, *The Grizzlies*, shot in Kugluktuk has been nominated for a Canadian Screen Award. The film is based on a true story of Kugluktuk's lacrosse team and how the sport transformed the Nunavut community. It shows how lacrosse positively influenced school attendance and helped to reduce the rate of teen suicide in the community.

>> *Applause*

The Grizzlies premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. The winners of the Canadian Screen Awards are announced in March and televised on CBC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 256 – 5(2): Improvements at the Baker Lake Airport

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement concerning the Baker Laker Airport.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have been raising concerns in this House for a number of years about the need to make improvements at the airport to accommodate disabled passengers. The importance of this issue really hit home for me when my wife and I returned to Baker Lake last year following her medical treatment out of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record to say that I was delighted to recently receive correspondence from the Minister of Transportation confirming that the ongoing Baker Lake Airport Improvement Project will now include the "...addition of an airside ramp for the safe transportation of disabled passengers from the terminal building to the apron."

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, as we know from yesterday's announcement by the federal Competition Bureau concerning its concerns regarding the proposed airline merger between First Air and Canadian North, there are many issues and challenges facing the flying public in Canada's North.

Mr. Speaker, 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 no nays. Mr. Mikkungwak, please proceed.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, as we know from yesterday's announcement by the federal Competition Bureau concerning its concerns regarding the proposed airline merger between First Air and Canadian North, there are many issues and challenges facing the flying public in Canada's North.

However, the news about the improvements to Baker Lake's airport is very much welcomed by my community and the people with disabilities or health issues. I want to express my appreciation to the minister and his department for responding to the concerns that I have been raising on Baker Lake's behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 257 – 5(2):
Issues with Annual Sealift**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about shipments sent to our communities, especially for items ordered by the hamlet council for infrastructure projects on an as-needed basis, as it doesn't occur annually where ordered materials are shipped to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it creates a personal dilemma and a concern when ordered materials or supplies don't arrive, although they were ordered prior to the

shipments. It creates ongoing issues with the timing of a project.

This is particularly more so when the materials are ordered through the local hamlet's five-year capital plan, where they identify priority projects for infrastructure, heavy equipment, and such that are in these plans based on their priority ratings. They have to have these plans in place, as these plans are then reviewed by Members of the Legislative Assembly and we are required to approve these capital items or projects that will be shipped to various communities based on the priority listing of each community, and the departments all order what they need for the year.

This is particularly problematic when the hamlet ordered materials to be placed on the sealift shipments, as in some cases, the plans are made a whole year in advance so that the materials are ready by the following year. Sometimes when ordered materials don't arrive due to deferrals or lack of space, many construction projects, such as buildings or hamlet equipment scheduled to arrive into a community are delayed, and some projects are shut down until they can get replacement materials.

Sometimes, we as regular MLAs, at least in my case, seem to be telling half-truths when the capital projects haven't arrived into a community, especially when deferrals are made without informing the community. The materials scheduled to arrive sometimes require an emergency air shipping charter to ship these materials into the community and sometimes the materials never arrive into the community.

Mr. Speaker, if regular MLAs were the first avenue of information provisions related to any capital items within their constituency requiring deferral or delays, and if we received this communication, we could then inform our communities. As members, when priority lists are being made by the leadership, if we received the decisions forthwith, we would be able to communicate that with our communities. This can become quite problematic for members when no communication is sent to explain the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 258 – 5(2):
Amaruit Group of Pangnirtung**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. I say "good day" to the people of Pangnirtung.

I rise today to recognize a young person in Pangnirtung, Denise Nauyuq, who is a young woman. She initiated the local recycling program in 2017 for shipping empty soda cans for (interpretation ends) recycling (interpretation) to the south and how the resources could be reused.

Since the inception of this program, many young people wanted to participate and they now call themselves the Amaruit Group, comprised of Pangnirtung youth. They are a big asset to our community. They hold feasts or events in the community and have dancing and skating for youth. They hold a lot of events in our community.

I would like to recognize Denise Nauyuq, who started the program. The

board members are:

- Sipula Maniapik
- Susie Qaqasiq
- Tasha Partridge
- Wayne Nowdlak
- Wayne Michael
- Allan Alivaktuk
- Ame Ishulutak
- Carolyne Mike
- Grace Metuq
- Henry Nakashuk
- James Evic
- Janice Nakashuk
- Joey Nowyuk
- Melissa Akulujuk
- Nathan Maniapik
- Nicolas Mike
- Nigel Qumuatuq, and
- Rosemary Alivaktuk.

I rise to recognize this group for their tireless work in Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk, could you give us a copy of the list of names that you've got so we can include them in the *Hansard*.

Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 259 – 5(2):
Kugaaruk Plebiscite Result**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak, as well as my fellow members.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise

today to thank my constituents in the community of Kugaaruk for making their voices heard in yesterday's plebiscite that was held under the *Liquor Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of my community today. Turnout for the plebiscite was very high, with almost three out of four voters casting ballots on the question. Almost 300 people voted in the plebiscite.

Mr. Speaker, the issue before the community was a difficult one and it is important that we respect the different opinions that people have on this subject. However, the people and community of Kugaaruk have made a very clear decision to keep the current ban on alcohol in place.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many residents of the community feel very passionately about building a healthy future for the community, and I especially want to thank the young people of the community who spoke out about an issue that very much affects them.

Mr. Speaker, bootlegging and drug dealing continue to cause great damage to our people and communities. One of the tools that the Legislative Assembly has provided to the government with which to fight this crime is the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.

Later today at the appropriate time I will have questions on the status of the government's implementation of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in support of the community of Kugaaruk. (interpretation) Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 260 – 5(2):
Recognition of Devon Manik**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Devon Manik from Resolute Bay, who was sitting here at my seat during Youth Parliament and he was representing Quttiktuq.

I would like to recognize him for his dedication and I would also like to urge the youth of Nunavut to emulate him. He has submitted a request to attend the Students on Ice Program. He is 19 years old and has accomplished a great deal already. Starting this fall, he trained a dog team and is now going on dog team trips. He also took some people out to the land with his dog team. He is someone to be proud of.

I also urge the youth of today to be active and to participate in those types of programs. It would make a big improvement for the better in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 261 – 5(2):
Happy 39th Anniversary to Wife**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to voice my gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, today is our 39-year wedding anniversary after my dear wife and I got married, and she is sitting behind me.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I can truthfully state here that when we first got married we had no idea of our future, but we can now look back at the path we forged. We too went through difficult times. Nonetheless, due to our commitment to one another, these difficulties we experienced were ones we tried to overcome. Today I can stand here and represent my fellow residents.

While on this topic of gratitude, I want to mention some of my supporters who guided my wife and me through our difficult times. My dear older brother, Amauyak Netser, whenever I requested his presence, even if he was busy, he would come to visit me, especially when I was troubled mentally. As well, my late older brother-in-law who had married my wife's older sister, Tongola Sandy, was always standing by our sides to provide assistance, but he is no longer with us today.

Further, Mr. Speaker, even when we become adults, if our parents are still alive, we are still our parents' children. Even as adults, as long as we either have a father or a mother, we are their children at all times and they can't release that responsibility, and our parents continue to try to improve our lives. If we are willing to change for the sake of our parents and when we humble ourselves, there is always room for

improvement.

My dear late mother, whom I now understand and love more deeply in retrospect, would often visit us at our home. She never held back her advice and would scold either one of us when she felt we needed it. It is due to this guidance that we are no longer in that place of danger as our parents brought us up to become productive adults. As well, my late mother-in-law who is now passed would always pray for our continued development.

Today I am immensely thankful that our ancestors laid out that path for us to follow. We all have room to grow and as long as we are alive, one must never give up and remain resilient. Every hardship eventually passes, and my wife and I have also surpassed difficulties, so I am especially thankful today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Those of us who are here, we totally honour you and your spouse.

Members' Statements. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 309 – 5(2): Emergency Shelters

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have beautiful ears; it's my name.

>>Laughter

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there was a question from MLA Mr. Lightstone, and unfortunately I did not hear the question properly and I want to stand here today and answer it properly.

The question was:

Currently what communities have facilities for women and children fleeing domestic violence?

My response should have been:

There are five family violence shelters across Nunavut. They are located in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, and Kugaaruk.

In addition to family violence shelters, there are currently four safe homes across Nunavut. They are located in Arviat, Igloodik, and Pond Inlet.

Please note that the number of safe homes across the territory is a snapshot in time. The number of safe homes fluctuates frequently with homes opening and closing on an ongoing basis. Family Services' regional staff are continually working with interested community members to open safe homes and support them in this process.

If there is no family violence shelter, Family Services or Justice can arrange for stay within a safe home within a community. A community social service worker would arrange for transportation to a different community only in extreme cases as a last resort.

If the woman must remain in the community until transportation is

secured, the caseworker would assist in finding the woman a safe place, example, family members or community members who could support.

Also the caseworker works closely with the RCMP in situations of domestic violence. In certain cases, if an offender is removed from the house by the RCMP, a woman could remain in her home while receiving support from our caseworker. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been rising many times today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would like to welcome an individual I mentioned earlier, my wife, Mona Netser and Dodie, our eldest grandchild.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like you to welcome to the House; I would like you to recognize my wife, the lady who preps my steps, who gives pride to my stride, and after 39 years, she still continues to make my liver quiver.

>>Laughter

Please welcome to the House my wife, Ms. Mona Netser. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Netser, keep up the good work.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Welcome to you and your grandchild to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome two people from my constituency community of Arctic Bay who are here to attend Arctic College, my *aikuluk* Connie Kilukishak and Amanda Muckpa. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. To the people who were not mentioned, always feel welcome to your Legislative Assembly and please come here anytime.

>> *Applause*

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 340 – 5(2): Issues with Casual Staffing

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would just

like to give big congratulations to Mr. and Ms. Netser. I look forward to the day that I can give such a statement in the Assembly myself.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise with questions for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, in early December it came to my attention that a number of constituents that were employed as casuals within the Department of Community and Government Services had not had their casual staffing actions renewed.

Mr. Speaker, I'm aware it's normal for casuals to have their term end. What stood out in their case was that these long-term casuals were terminated not for performance-related issues but because they were working in positions that are not included in the department's official organization chart. Essentially these casuals were working in unfunded positions.

Mr. Speaker, these employees were let go prior to the holidays without cause and without much of an explanation provided to them. Further, these employees' last day of employment was on November 30, meaning that the long-term employees were not eligible for their continuous service bonus, which requires employment on December 1.

Mr. Speaker, my first question for the minister is: how many casuals have been let go for having the misfortune of working in unfunded positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I also thank my colleague for that question. Mr. Speaker, some employees from all departments have to be let go for various reasons and conditions that change in the workplace. I can't tell you today as to the number that have been released or their casual terms ending. This number that you ask about is hard to grasp. When the numbers are available, I will certainly forward them to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response, minister. I do look forward to seeing that figure at a future date, but in the meantime my second question is: what efforts were made by the department and by the minister to create these positions that these casuals were working in, and alternatively what efforts were made to transfer these casuals into positions that are currently funded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These positions he is referring to were terminated, and whether any effort was made to move the workers to another office and if any obstacles were faced in trying to move the workers elsewhere, as I told the member earlier, I don't have that level of detail and can't say which is what. Once the facts surface and are available, then

we can provide the information.

Now, with respect to the questions he raised, the information isn't readily available in written format, but if it were, I imagine my sheets of paper here would be doubled. I also thank him for his question about these positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first out the news from my constituents about their unfortunate situations, I couldn't help but feel for them. The manner that they were let go and the time that they were let go, I'm sure none of those employees had a very happy holiday.

My last question is: is this the kind of treatment that the Government of Nunavut's growing number of long-term casuals can expect from the newly appointed Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there was a cheap shot across the bow, I think I just felt it, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about a department that has many casuals and nobody in any department anywhere in the public or private sector likes to let go of their employees. Every effort is always made to ensure that we hang onto casuals as long as we can, even if they were not funded. Unfortunately things like this happen.

I assured my colleague that I will look into the matter and get those details when they are available. I would like to assure my colleague that in 34 days I will be the Minister of HR and that minister is not responsible for hiring or firing any departmental staff. Mr. Speaker, I feel for them. There is never a good time to let people go, but never a bad time to hire people.

Mr. Speaker, I assure him that the new HR department that will be formed on April 1 has nothing to do with what transpired on November 30 and I assure him I will look into the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 341 – 5(2): Bus Warehouses

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a happy anniversary to my younger sister and Patterk. I say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

I am recalling John Tatty today as Kakak, my oldest aunt, will be laid to rest today. Annie Manilak Tatty will be interred today, so you are in my thoughts and we share your pain.

However, my question is for the Minister of Education.

In Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet this winter has been exceedingly cold, with the temperatures hovering around minus 61 to 65 degrees. There are buses in both communities, but the children have no bus shelters to wait in as they

generally wait for the bus while being exposed to the elements.

I wonder if the minister has any thoughts on how to deal with extremely cold temperatures during the winter months by using bus stop shelters for children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for her question. With respect to those types of items, at this time as a department we also have to deal with capital items and the funding is specific to the school itself. Further, there is a small pot of funding totalling \$280,000 for bus purchases that we set aside.

Nonetheless, to elaborate further, we also consider whether or not the bus has a garage space to house the vehicle so that they aren't subject to extreme temperatures. As we know, winter temperatures can be quite extreme, but in some communities the buses are operated by either the hamlet or private companies.

We try to ensure the buses have garage space, but at this time we haven't looked at bus shelters and due to the lack of funds, we haven't contemplated bus shelters from this bus purchase fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister

can identify to us how many times his staff meet with DEAs in the communities for capital items needed in the schools within their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for her question. I believe it was yesterday or the day before when I was queried by the MLA for Sanikiluaq about busing services. If requests were made through the district education authority, then it can be reviewed by our departmental staff.

Further, this process is begun when we are reviewing the capital projects and equipment, including operational funding. These would be reviewed annually whenever we receive a request from the communities. This is how this process begins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lastly, (interpretation ends) can the minister explain why the contracts for busing in our communities, Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, do not take into consideration the need for storage for our school buses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) Just to

also elaborate a little bit on my last response, we have a division called Partner Relations that deals directly with DEAs based on their needs. They work ongoing with DEAs on what they need.

The question on what is hindering us from considering bus shelters is costs and right now we have busing service contracts. Some are through the DEAs themselves, some through the municipalities, and some are in the private sector, so it's kind of all over the place. With that, we only have so much budgeted for these services each year and if we try to incorporate garage space for each bus in all 25 communities, it's going to balloon our already very tight capital expenses for our department and across the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 342 – 5(2): Water Infrastructure and Strategies

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

As the minister is very much aware, Sanikiluaq's water supply has been experiencing problems for a number of years. This is an issue I have been raising in the House on a number of occasions.

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised this issue at our sitting of October 29, 2018, the minister indicated that he was hoping that his department would be issuing requests for proposals prior to Christmas

in order to determine long-term options for the community in relation to its drinking water supply.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of his department's request for proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the water quality inspections, we are looking at potential inspectors to conduct this work in the last month of this fiscal year, and these are our last days to identify who will do the work and how it would be done related to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, as the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved \$608,000 in capital funding for its department in the 2018-19 fiscal year for new water treatment infrastructure in Sanikiluaq, including a new treated water storage tank. However, this amount was carried over during the spring 2018 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Information provided by the department indicates that the project is on hold until such a time that it can "...determine an outcome for the source water issues that are affecting Sanikiluaq".

Can the minister indicate whether or not this project will again need to be carried

over during the upcoming spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. In Sanikiluaq the water and water management challenges are due to the lack of fresh water, and this is extremely important to resolve. It has taken many years to deal with this challenge by various governments as to what work will be undertaken in the spring.

Potential funding amounts are currently being developed. Once all of the details have been fleshed out, we can determine whether it needs to be deferred or if it will stay on schedule. I will inform my colleague about the status of this project properly during our meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to further information on these projects.

Mr. Speaker, one of the department's ongoing priorities has been to develop a new drinking water strategy framework. Can the minister clarify what this strategy is intended to achieve, and can he confirm that communities like Sanikiluaq which have been experiencing ongoing water supply problems will be consulted in its development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Concerning fresh water in Nunavut, we all need to have good water in place in the communities. Some of the communities are having trouble with their water systems in springtime and also in the fall due to the hydrology. In thinking of the communities, Sanikiluaq, Whale Cove, Igloolik, and Rankin Inlet are amongst the communities that face challenges with fresh water. This is especially when water first starts running.

Mr. Speaker, this will include details on how to develop fresh water depots in all of our communities and whether it is possible. As well, we will identify the communities that continually face fresh water challenges and how this can be resolved so that every community has fresh water.

What I can inform my colleague is that Sanikiluaq, Whale Cove, Igloolik, and other communities face difficulties with potable water, if not most communities, but department officials will be discussing local issues related to water and what to do. This includes outlining what is required in the communities, as they generally know their challenges and where fresh potable water can be found.

We will discuss these issues and try to find out what challenges we face in trying to provide fresh potable water to our communities, including identifying alternative fresh water sources in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 343 – 5(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management

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

It has been some time since I queried the minister about this issue that I usually ask questions on. I also used to be a hunter prior to my time in the Legislative Assembly.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question relates to the overall number of caribou that can be harvested by Baffin Island hunters, to a total of 250 caribou per year and we are all aware of this information.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder what the current status is of the Baffin caribou harvest data and how many caribou have been caught this year. How many are left out of this total of 250 caribou we can harvest? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also thank Member Keyootak for his question, as I was eagerly anticipating the question earlier that you would ask about this issue.

>> *Laughter*

You keep asking about this matter, so to answer, to date from July 1 up to January 10, there were 131 caribou that

have been harvested by Baffin Island hunters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you will recall, I tend to ask questions about this matter and I was asking about this during our fall session. To consider the wishes of our elders, I stated previously during a debate about hunting only bull caribou during the winter, as Inuit generally don't harvest bull caribou during the wintertime due to the toughness of the meat and elders specifically who desire less tough meat from non-male caribou.

Now I queried the minister about this matter in the fall and whether work was progressing on this front. I believe the wildlife management board held a public hearing about caribou as they dealt with management challenges and what the Inuit wanted to do in terms of harvesting caribou.

Some Inuit would prefer not to harvest bull caribou and if it is at all possible, they would like to harvest female caribou, especially when hunting for local elders. I wonder what work has occurred in this area to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, during that public hearing concerning the Baffin Island caribou moratorium during the fall, we heard from Inuit that some of them prefer not to harvest bull caribou during the winter. This can be a request

made by the HTO board. They can submit a proposal to request a harvest of non-bull caribou, which would be carefully reviewed.

We all know that female caribou are the ones who bear calves. Now, the conservation principle behind requesting only bull caribou is caught is to increase the number of females bearing calves to repopulate the island. Some people have stated that bull caribou can no longer inseminate the cows once they reach a certain age.

However, in looking at this matter and caribou females, even if there is only one bull caribou and there were ten females, then it would be good to have all ten impregnated by the bull. If we look at it from another angle, if there is only one female caribou and there are ten bull caribou, only one bull would impregnate the cow. This is the reasoning behind the push to have only a bull caribou harvesting regulation as the overall population of the Baffin Island caribou is extremely low. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier statement, I used to be a hunter back in the day other than hunting for answers at the Legislative Assembly.

I, too, am fairly knowledgeable about the caribou physiological differences, and real hunters hold that detailed information about the differences in caribou, especially the full-time hunters that can spot immediately which female has a calf and which female is

impregnated. Even if both females stand side by side, it is fairly easy to determine which female is which.

Hunters have been taught to identify the subtle differences, and which female has a calf of the year or if they have been impregnated or are sterile cows even though they are all female caribou. In the wintertime it is fairly easy to identify which animals are in what state if the knowledge has been passed on.

Most hunters also know that sterile cows should be made available for harvesting as sterile cows can no longer bear calves, and in the wintertime the physiological differences are quite noticeable for our experienced hunters. I, too, know the differences between these types of sterile cows. Some cows are unable to bear calves depending on the amount of fat they have.

I wonder if more consideration will be given to the types of caribou that can be harvested without just focusing solely on bull caribou harvesting in the wintertime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is possible in looking at future work related to caribou management when a caribou study is commenced. During the study, if trends are noted for the numbers of cow caribou that outnumber the bull caribou, and if one gender is becoming too overpopulated, then this would require a management decision.

However, at this time this can be determined after a population study has

been commenced, as this study isn't set yet. In the fall season there was a study to count the number of calves, and then another one in the spring to determine the number of surviving calves. This will clearly identify if the population is rebounding and if enough calves survive the winter months.

At this time I can't say that yes, we will allow cow caribou to be harvested. Currently, if I want to harvest a caribou on Baffin Island, it has to be a bull. However, this study has not begun and this can be determined only after a proper study. If it turns out there aren't very many bull caribou, with an overpopulation of cows, then it would require a management decision, but right now only bull caribou are allowed to be harvested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Question 344 – 5(2): Extradition of Sexual Offenders

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the residents of my community and my colleagues.

Now, I believe practically everyone today has access to a radio and many of us still listen to the radio.

I apologize, Mr. Speaker, as I want to direct my question to the Premier.

Many of us listen to the radio or perhaps watch the televised news or shows, obviously. Now, a news article was just released about the federal government staying charges against a member of the

clergy that should be dealt by the courts, but who is a resident across the Atlantic.

This person was accused of sexual assaults by several people, and his name was Johannes Rivoire or Father Rivoire, as many of us here might recall now. It is due to the fact that the federal government stayed charges against the accused, even though he committed sexual abuse of many Inuit children that we now recall him.

I would like to ask firstly to the Premier and the government what they believe in, whether or not clergy who committed historic sexual abuse or those who commit sexual abuse should be brought to court. Does our government believe in this notion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that people who commit sexual assaults should be taken to court. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is a critically important issue with the situation the way it is, and the government clearly stated the sexual abusers should be brought to court.

Now, as I stated previously, the federal government stayed the charges against this person who was to face the courts, that the reasoning was that France doesn't have an extradition treaty with Canada, and it felt like the federal

government just gave up.

Now, I want to ask this question: does the government have any plans to push this forward to assist Nunavummiut who have suffered these assaults? They are no longer young; they are adults now and they requested help to deal with their sexual abuses. What will this government do in light of the federal government's continued support to stay charges against this sexual predator? Does this government have any options at this time that they may pursue in this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has a foreign affairs department that deals with governments outside of Canada, dealing with court cases, trade imbalances, or some other governmental responsibility that pertains to interactions with outside jurisdictions. We as the Government of Nunavut deal with territorial issues.

The previous Premier sent a letter to the Prime Minister regarding this case and its challenges since the accused lived in France. The Premier tried to get the Prime Minister to agree to extradite the person from France to Canada so that he can face the charges against him. We never heard back from the PMO after the letter was written and as of now, the federal government has stayed the charges, although we should draft a letter asking for an explanation of their decision.

However, we do support our residents of Nunavut and yes, if it would help heal

the victims, we so support this extraditing call, but we don't have any power to change it. It is very unfortunate for the victims that Canada has stayed the charges. As you stated earlier, I read that the reason is that there is no extradition treaty with France. We are caught in the middle, although we support the victims in this case so they can be healed. This matter has just stalled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our Premier for sharing the feelings we face, and it is obvious that all of us here in Nunavut all feel slighted by this event. Although we are told to be resilient, the federal government shouldn't throw up their arms and give up, especially in light of the gravity of the situation.

Further, just recently or rather quite a while ago the federal government apologized for their treatment of residential school students. Due to this reason, it really touches on the (interpretation ends) reconciliation (interpretation) efforts of the federal government as well. Due to these reasons, I thought I heard the Premier say they may draft a letter asking for an explanation of the decision.

My last question is: are you really going to write that letter on behalf of the people of Nunavut, especially those people who were affected? Can you write another letter about Nunavut's dissatisfaction as it's very important for the people of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can say that I can write the letter and I will write the letter because it is deeply felt by the people of Nunavut and the previous Premier's letter was not responded to by the federal government. I will write another letter and ask for a reply because we are not satisfied with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Question 345 – 5(2): Housing Shortage in Pangnirtung

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

As the minister knows, I have previously asked about housing in Pangnirtung. Although the community suffers from a shortage of public housing like everybody else, the housing corporation's 2019-2020 capital estimates only included funding for the construction of new staff housing units in the community, even though the government is quite aware that they have trouble filling the units that it already has.

The housing corporation's current business plan indicates that... I will read it in English. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that it repaired and transferred "four off-line

staff housing units in Pangnirtung to public housing stock” within the past two years.

(interpretation) Can the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation indicate if he is willing to look at transferring more vacant staff housing units to the local housing organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have repeated our colleague’s question to my officials and if we did that when there’s a severe housing shortage in all of Nunavut, why wouldn’t we transfer the staff housing units that have been vacant for so long to social housing? We have talked about it for quite a long time. I just don’t know when it would happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for answering like that. We will expect some development on his plan.

(interpretation ends) I understand and recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation must have an objective, needs-based method of allocating new public housing construction, and I understand and recognize that all communities in Nunavut are suffering from a shortage of housing.

Last fall the Nunavut Housing

Corporation’s updated needs ranking was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Can the minister indicate when Pangnirtung is projected to move up the priority list and review new public housing units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people who have applied for housing are used to develop a waiting list for each community while the people in this community have applied for more housing. For the communities that face the most severe housing shortages that have applied, they are allocated public housing units based on the figures we have calculated. If Pangnirtung ever faced a housing shortage, the people on the waiting list of the LHO would be used to determine the needs. When figures show that a community has increasing numbers of residents who are homeless, then units would be allocated to the community to alleviate their challenges. Thank you and I hope it was clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s needs-based method for allocating new public housing units takes into account such factors as the number of residents on the local housing organization’s waiting list. The figures that were tabled in the Legislative Assembly last fall indicated that 109 people were on the waiting list for public housing in

Pangnirtung.

Can the minister indicate how the Nunavut Housing Corporation provides support to local housing organizations to ensure that their waiting lists are accurate and up to date? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think our method in how we allocate public housing to our communities is very up to date and we try to follow it according to policy that has been given to us. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 346 – 5(2): Office Closure Policy

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources. I believe that this is the first question that the minister has received in his new portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I have raised concerns on a number of occasions about the inconsistent way in which school and office closures occur in a number of our communities, including Baker Lake.

As the minister is aware, one of the Human Resources Manual directives that his new department will shortly be taking back from the Department of Finance is Directive 1011, which concerns bad weather and government office closures. However, this directive

has not been updated in over half a decade.

Here is my first question to the new minister: will he commit to ensuring that this directive is reviewed as a matter of priority within the first year of the new department's existence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking a question to the department I'm not quite responsible for yet.

>> *Laughter*

After 34 days I will become the minister of this department, and I'm not counting down the days.

Mr. Speaker, prior to that day, there are numerous regulations for human resources, and I am trying to proactively conduct a study of the issues as I don't want to be caught unprepared to start on that day. I also know that before that day I will have to look at the blizzard and office closure files, and the legislation is quite detailed. Our climate keeps changing within Nunavut, but this will be part of our review over the winter, if and when I formally sit in the role.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year Baker Lake was experiencing one of its typical

winter days where temperatures were far, far below zero and the Kivalliq winds were blowing hard. However, although a number of offices in the community were ordered to be shut down, some schools actually remained open.

Mr. Speaker, it is this kind of inconsistency that frustrates residents of communities outside of Iqaluit. Will the minister commit to ensuring that there is better coordination between different levels of government in applying this policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not reviewed the policy he referred to and once I do sit down officially, we will look at where we can strengthen the policies and we will also have discussions with the policy being applied in the communities. I am sure that we will be having discussions on those subjects. I know exactly what he means about the blizzard conditions that can be created in his community because I'm from Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) And you all know where I'm from.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Your final supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully acknowledge the Speaker and the minister's knowledge of

their community where they reside like me.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to believe that it makes no sense for decisions about office closures in Baker Lake or Sanikiluaq or Grise Fiord or Kugluktuk to be made by bureaucrats in Iqaluit. If the government cannot trust local officials to make a simple call like this, it just goes to show that decision-making is too centralized in the capital.

>> *Applause*

Will the minister commit to ensuring that decision-making authority under this policy is devolved and decentralized to local communities and staff, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 347 – 5(2): Combatting Bootleggers and Drug Traffickers

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish my fellow member from Aivilik a good day as he is celebrating an anniversary.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's

statement, the community of Kugaaruk has made a clear decision to keep alcohol out of the community.

One of the tools that the Legislative Assembly has provided to the government to fight bootleggers and drug dealers is the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*. Although this Act was passed by the previous Legislative Assembly, it is not yet in force. Can the minister provide a clear timeline for when this important law will be brought into force? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank Mr. Qirngnuq for his question. The Department of Justice has prepared the necessary job descriptions and have forwarded them to the Department of Finance. We are waiting to fill those positions, especially the director of forfeiture, as soon as we possibly can. 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 saying that she will inform us as soon as possible.

(interpretation ends) The current business plan of the Department of Justice indicates that it has "...worked with other Government of Nunavut departments on allocating the funding for the new office." Can the minister clarify what the office's actual budget is for the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately I don't have that information with me right now, but I can get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): I appreciate that I will receive the information from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify what other initiatives her department is supporting to fight bootleggers and drug dealers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) With the forfeiture office we plan on working with law enforcement, which is including the RCMP and our Legal Division and the courts, to work to combat bootlegging and drug dealing in our communities.

If an individual is going through the courts for unlawful activity, the department works together so that we ensure that if a court proceeding states that the individual is guilty, that money will be used to offset the cost for our office.

Once the director of forfeiture has been

hired, he will be working closely within our department to create policies and procedures on how this office will run and how we will work to combat bootlegging and drug dealing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 348 – 5(2): Water Security

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I will take a sip of water. It's good water.

My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the topic of what I will call "water security."

It is a fact that almost a quarter of our territory's population now lives in the capital city, and it is a fact that our city's infrastructure, including infrastructure related to the provision of safe drinking water, is under severe stress.

As we learned from last summer's emergency, our existing reservoir can simply no longer support our growing population and the city has been working to identify additional sources of water.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the city has also been working hard to develop a business case for investments needed to ensure a safe and long-term supply of clean water.

Can the minister clarify today what financial and technical support the territorial government is providing to the city in this area, including support for the city's plans in respect to its

regulatory submissions to the Nunavut Impact Review Board? 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 also thank the member for asking about that. Mr. Speaker, I will respond to one of the questions. Every year the government sets aside monies as a contribution to the City of Iqaluit as long as they follow the outlined agreements so that the city can function better in dealing with clean drinking water and major infrastructure. We provide the city with a huge amount of funding, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I feel that the minister only gave a small little part of an answer. I didn't really get an answer to how they help with the Nunavut review board submissions, technical help, and I understand that they do give a yearly budget to the city. We all know how hard the city has been working to address their water issue. It has been above and beyond the normal wear and tear, so that's why I really am interested to see how his department works with the city.

In fact in March of last year the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan was announced. Under the plan, Nunavut will receive up to \$566,761,000 over the ten-year period between 2018 and 2028. Section 8 of the Integrated

Bilateral Agreement between the federal and territorial governments requires us to provide a detailed infrastructure plan that identifies projects that “Nunavut intends to submit for approval by Canada for contribution funding under this Agreement...”

Can the minister clarify how much funding the GN has requested to date for projects related to water security in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague will note that in her first line of questions she asked if we fund the city and what we’re going to do to help. You asked three questions; I answered one under my obligation, Mr. Speaker.

Our government gives a pretty significant amount of block funding for the City of Iqaluit to do things like work on the water issues and infrastructure programs within the city, far more than any other community in Nunavut. It just fades my mind exactly the details in terms of those dollars, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation) Now, with regard to the funding allocations towards this and earmarked funds specific to water that we will be submitting a proposal for funding to the federal government, it will come out of the funds the federal government set aside for this.

Once I know the details and the size of the funding, I will provide that information to all of my colleagues after I have received more details about water and water management issues and how

much funding is to be expended from this fund that the member is asking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has often been said how Iqaluit always gets the most and that we should be happy with what we get, but Iqaluit is the biggest community in Nunavut and we do have the highest population that lives here. We do have a lot of demand on our city. It’s the city of Nunavut. I don’t think that should ever be used as a way, “Well, we do help you. We already give you lots.”

I guess my point in all of this was that Iqaluit is experiencing a water shortage that is really going to impact us in the next, we think, even speaking with the city, this summer. This is why I’m concentrating and asking questions about this because I think it is a very serious issue.

Mr. Speaker, although I am proud to be an Iqaluit MLA, it is no secret that I also have long-standing and deep connections with Nunavut’s smallest community, Grise Fiord. As you know, Mr. Speaker, all of the community’s drinking water is sourced from a glacier, and global warming threatens the community’s long-term water security.

Can the minister clarify how his department’s emerging water strategy is addressing the issue of global warming and the circumstances of such communities as Grise Fiord? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I completely understand the challenges faced by the City of Iqaluit as well as the overall funding they expend and the level of their responsibilities, and I have no interest in removing the city status of Iqaluit. This is an area of good land.

It is mainly due to the high population numbers that are forcing the water shortages, so alternative water sources have to be identified. This is one area that is continually investigated to determine water sources. When one lives in Iqaluit, it becomes obvious at certain times of the year when water shortages occur and I believe many communities go through that, and Iqaluit had a water shortage this summer.

When the city requests any assistance from the Department of Community and Government Services, we have never once turned them down and we will continue to work with them. We have to work together to search for water sources to alleviate these water shortages as we don't want any community in Nunavut to suffer from water shortages.

As I stated earlier when another colleague was asking questions, water shortages and water quality challenges are the biggest issues faced by the communities. We are looking at this issue and dealing with the challenges we face as we want all communities to have fresh, potable water.

The strategy will be developed and upon completion, it can be reviewed with an eye towards solving our water

challenges, whether it is in Iqaluit or Grise Fiord. The melting occurring in Grise Fiord is not good for their water supply. We will include the communities and Nunavummiut in our review on how to deal with the water issues in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 349 – 5(2): Daycare Space for College Students

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I wasn't going to be recognized.

I rise to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Arctic College, Mr. Speaker.

It was nice to see that there's a new NTEP intake in Arviat this fall, but some of the students who are at Arctic College have brought up some issues to me with the lack of daycare in Arviat. We know the education minister has this responsibility, but when daycare issues become a barrier for adult education, I want to ask the minister in this area.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned that the lack of child care spots in Arviat is acting as an impediment to further adult education to my constituents, particularly for a long, four-year program such as NTEP.

Right now infants are being turned away from the shared child care facility in Arviat and it's very concerning. I'm told that the waiting list is over 20; over 20 infants are waiting, their parents are waiting maybe to go to work or maybe

to go to school.

My first question for the minister is: how are child care needs taken into consideration when planning for programs, particularly longer term programs such as NTEP in communities like Arviat, where there are no child care facilities attached to the community learning centre? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, before I respond, can I recognize the students from Arctic College? Is it okay or should I wait until later, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: Excuse me, Mr. Netser. I would advise that if you wanted to recognize visitors in the gallery, please request to go back to the item after question period. In the meantime you have a question to answer. Minister Netser.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for giving me a good whack, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College is committed to providing daycare support for learners studying at the college. (interpretation) Thank you.

I will be heading to Arviat to meet with the students to hear personally some of their concerns and issues. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I will take some responsibility. It was my suggestion that the minister recognize the students here today, so I will take my share of the blame for the confusion there.

>> *Laughter*

But getting back to the matter at hand, (interpretation) some of the students in the NTEP program now are requesting space ahead of time so that they can have space available for their children. Only when they were selected to go to school were they notified that they were going to school.

(interpretation ends) My understanding is that some of the students in the NTEP program in Arviat were only given entrance letters in the fall, in August or September, for a program beginning in September, which made it difficult for them to secure child care spots.

Can the minister clarify what the normal practice is in terms of issuing entrance letters for programs such as NTEP and particularly how it pertains to abilities to secure child care spots? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot speak for what happened in the past, but going forward, I have instructed our staff to reach out to

our schools prior to the end of the year for potential learners to go to our colleges, that we have programs in the coming year and we encourage you to apply. As for daycare services, I am not up to date on that file yet.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) One of the things that would help with creating more child care spots in Arviat would be the construction of the school. The government has already sunk a million dollars into planning for it, which was shelved again. My apologies; that's under the Department of Education.

Another thing that would help would be a new community learning centre. There is beautiful new learning centre in Whale Cove and there is a daycare space attached to it. I would love to see something like that in my home community. Can the minister clarify if there are any plans for a new community learning centre facility in Arviat?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not at the moment, no.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Colleagues, please note that the time for question period has expired. Therefore we will proceed with the orders of the day. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5 of the *Orders of the Day*, if you will allow me to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Netser.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize students here who are taking the interpreter/translator course at Nunavut Arctic College. Interpreters are crucial.

From Arviat we have Lavenia Aulatjut.

>> *Applause*

From Arctic Bay we have Connie Kilukishak.

>> *Applause*

A resident of my community, we have Malaiyah Nakoolak, who is very talented.

>> *Applause*

She wanted to continue but had stopped, so she is back to further her education. Thank you for coming back.

>> *Applause*

There is also Amanda Muckpa from Arctic Bay.

>> *Applause*

Katauga Saila is their instructor from Cape Dorset.

>> *Applause*

Please feel welcome. Some day you may be working here. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to welcome the visitors. (interpretation ends) I have a special guest here today. My constituent and my mother, Wendy Joanasié, welcome to the House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Also to the students who are in the interpreter/translator program, please feel very welcome in the House. We are glad that you have come to see the proceedings and we think in the future some of you might join us in our interpreter corp. and that is definitely something that we're looking forward to. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 024 – 5(2): NHC Capital Carry Forward

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the topic is the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital carry forward.

Mr. Speaker, during the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital funding request, a number of substantiation sheets referenced large amounts of unspent capital funds that the corporation wants to carry forward into the next fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand how the Nunavut Housing Corporation continues to carryover millions of dollars in unspent capital funds while Nunavut faces a severe housing shortage. For this reason I would like to request detailed information on the current funding in each of the capital projects.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. Provide the amount carried forward from March 31, 2016 to April 1, 2016 for each of the following projects:
 - a. NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)

- d. NHC 06 – Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 – Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 – Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 – Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 – LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
2. Provide the capital budget appropriated April 1, 2016 for each of the following projects for the 2016-17 fiscal year:
- a. NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 – Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 – Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 – Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 – Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 – LHO Workshop,
3. Provide the capital expenditures incurred during April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 for each of the following projects:
- a. NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 – Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 – Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 – Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 – Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 – LHO Workshop,

- Warehouse & Administrative Offices
- Replacement
4. Provide the amount carried forward from March 31, 2017 to April 1, 2017 for each of the following projects:
 - a. NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 – Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 – Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 – Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 – Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 – LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
 5. Provide the capital budget appropriated April 1, 2017 for each of the following projects for the 2017-18 fiscal year:
 - a. NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 6. Provide the capital expenditures incurred during April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 for each of the following projects:
 - a. NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)

- d. NHC 06 – Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 – Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 – Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 – Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 – LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
7. Provide the amount carried forward from March 31, 2018 to April 1, 2018 for each of the following projects:
- a. NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 – Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 – Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing

- g. NHC 11 – Mobile Equipment
- h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
- i. NHC 13 – Public Housing Units
- j. NHC 14 – LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking consent to have his questions entered into the record as read. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. (interpretation) The written questions will be entered into the record as read.

Oral Questions. No, we were done with that item.

>> *Laughter*

Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Budget Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), the

committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

An Hon. Member: Woohoo!

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:21 and Committee resumed at 15:46*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon. Welcome back, members. I would like to call the meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 Main Estimates of the Department of Health, followed by the Department of Education. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I will now ask Minister Hickes: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the committee will allow, yes.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, could you please reintroduce your witnesses? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Linnea Ingebrigtsen, Acting Deputy Minister of Health, and to my left, Greg Babstock, Executive Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Welcome. We left off yesterday; we were on page H-6 of the Department of Health for Health Care Service Delivery, and the next person for questions was Mr. Main. Mr. Main, please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, minister and your officials.

In reading the business plan on page 155 and what's written here in English for (interpretation ends) community health centres, (interpretation) the funding for that has decreased, which is not good to see. We all know that community health centres have a heavy workload and they have a severe shortage of a range of positions. I would like to know why there is a funding cut from \$43.8 million to \$42.9 million. I would like to know why the department is cutting funding for that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main purpose for the decrease is from the budget for leases within that division. There are various spaces in various communities that we saw some leasing decrease in costs. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just to confirm, I'll follow up on that answer. There is no cut to services or cut to staff associated with this decrease in funding. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct. The only other decrease would have been associated with the TB PYs transferred to another division. The PYs are still there, but they do come out of this branch's budget.

Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Moving over to medical transportation, there's a big increase in the amount budgeted for medical transportation. As we know, this is something that keeps increasing year after year. Does the minister feel that this figure, \$92.3 million, is a realistic amount? Maybe I'll answer my own question. The department feels that it's realistic at this point in time. Does the minister anticipate there will be a need for a supplementary appropriation to top up past this \$92.3 million? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I can't sit here and commit 100 percent to that, the increase in allocation to this line item is something we have been requesting for a number of years. With our forecasting, we're hoping that this will be sufficient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What's the forecasted breakdown under this amount in terms of scheduled air travel and medevac? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact number, but it's very close to 50-50. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have forecasted number of trips where we're looking at approximately a little over 33,000 medical travel trips and a little over 2,400 medevac trips is what we're forecasting. That was from the 2018-19 of what we're going through right now. We're using those numbers and moving them forward where we're looking at similar numbers, maybe slight increases we factored in. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Would the department be able to look into ways to decrease the need for medical transportation while maintaining the same level of patient services? I'll provide an example. People who are travelling down to Winnipeg on a regular basis or who are being medevaced, in terms of a pattern, maybe multiple times a year, this could be investigated in terms of maybe providing an option for a longer term accommodation for them in places like Winnipeg, understanding that yes, the health care service delivery is the most important thing and money is the second. It always comes second. Would the department be able to look into that in terms of scoping it out and see if there would be any savings? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I'm open to any

and all suggestions, and I appreciate the member's comment and acknowledgement that health care does come first.

That being said, we are taking some steps to improve care and to manage the services like increasing doctors' visits to communities and to manage how long they're there, again, going back to some of our preventative measures of stop smoking programs, healthier eating habits, promoting exercise, working to improve mental health and emotional health, in addition to exploring ways of using telehealth for medical appointments.

I gave an example, I believe it was yesterday, instead of waiting for a number of surgical consults to be sent out, we're actually sending the surgeons into communities to do the consults there instead of sending out dozens of people when maybe only a fraction of those people may actually need to travel for medical travel.

I do appreciate the member's comment and that's something I'll ask our Medical Travel Division to look into a little bit further for people who do have recurring medevac travel especially. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. If you are going to research that matter, then it will be good to see.

In reading this, the (interpretation ends) medevac (interpretation) RFP listed in the Kivalliq, it was an RFP for 2014

where there were 685 medevacs, in 2015 716 were also sent out while in 2016 the numbers went up to 797 medevacs. It seems to continually be increasing year over year. Can the minister explain what the increases in 2017 mean as it seems to just go upwards? (interpretation ends) I'm not interested in the precise number, but is the trend in the number of medevacs continued up in 2017-18? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I caught the majority of the member's question, on an average we're looking at a little under 8 percent growth year per year, but the member noted in 2017-18 there was a dramatic spike in medical travel. Going back from his starting in 2013-14 for medevacs, we had a little over 1,500 across the whole territory. Now we're almost a thousand medevacs more than that just five years later.

It's something that we're being very cognizant of and part of this whole medical travel review has been able to... I know I have spoken many times about statistics that we're trying to gather and really digging down into the root of whether these medevacs can be diverted to scheduled medical travel. Again, with that priority given to the health care versus the cost, we're very conscientious of the increased costs in medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll jump back to the scheduled medical travel. I have the RFP for the scheduled medical and duty travel here in front of me and in here it gives the historical volumes for medical travel between different points. Between Arviat and Winnipeg, the most recent data says 1,700 trips a year.

I have heard from my constituents that, particularly for elderly folks, one of the hardest things is that they end up going to Rankin Inlet and sometimes there are cancellations into Rankin Inlet or there are issues with the tarmac there. Is there consideration given to this RFP process to looking at the route particularly with the medical travellers?

It would be much more convenient for them to go to, let's say, Churchill and have to wait in the airport in Churchill, which is physically closer, which has an operating room for emergencies and stuff like this. Is the routing of the scheduled flights something that's being looked at under this RFP?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not so much directly with the RFP, but there's always ongoing communication with any of our service providers, like in your region, Calm Air.

I have actually spoken to Mr. Bell personally, expressing my concern over some of the routes. Although they are a private enterprise, we do have a little bit of sway, so I will continue to follow up with the president of Calm Air so that

we can have... . They're the experts on routing *per se*, but when you're talking inconveniencing people, we also have a route here in the Qikiqtaaluk that quite often where people get weathered in into one of the communities. They don't even make it all the way home. It's not frequently, but it happens more often than it probably could or should.

It is something we're in continual dialogue with our airline partners to help make more efficient routing. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One thing I forgot to mention is that as far as I know, the government has a boarding home in Churchill, so we wouldn't even need to pay for a hotel in the case of people getting weathered into Churchill.

With regard to Churchill in particular, it is somewhat of a controversial topic in my home community. Some people say it would make a lot of sense. It's closer to home. Some people say, "Oh, that's how we did things in the 1970s and don't dare mention it."

With regard to that facility in Churchill, what is the status of discussions between the Department of Health and Winnipeg... ? I forget the name of the entity that operates that facility. What is the status of the discussion with regard to using that facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. Just to give an update on the status right now, I have spoken to a former Minister of Health in the Manitoba government to take a look at increasing the service delivery in Churchill. One of the other benefits is to alleviate some of the overcrowding of the Inuit centre in Winnipeg, as well as to provide health care a little bit closer to home.

I have been texting back and forth with the current Minister of Health in Manitoba trying to figure out a time when we can meet. It seems when I'm in Winnipeg, he's not in Winnipeg and then I'm not available to meet, so we're trying to iron down a time where we can sit down.

That being said, when I did meet again with the former minister, there was shuffle, I did actually meet with the president of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority as well at that time. I'm looking forward to ongoing discussions on how we could look at providing more services in the coming months. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My final line of questioning is on long-term care.

I was reading this report, *Continuing Care in Nunavut*, and going through it, it contains a lot of interesting information and it's nice to see that the Andy Aulatjut Centre in Arviat is part of this report. It feels to me like the centre gets

left out of a lot of discussions because it is an odd duck, so to say. The facility is owned by the housing corporation, the maintenance is done by the local housing...there is a patchwork anyway.

When we're looking forward, planning for future continuing care facilities in Nunavut, one in each region, I have been reading about other parts of the country, including BC, and one of the big considerations that they look at is the health care workforce. When we're looking at where to put these continuing care facilities, is the availability of the workforce going to be a factor?

I would imagine in this case, particularly an Inuktitut-speaking workforce would be a very important factor in determining where to put a continuing care centre. I would just like to understand that this is going to be part of the consideration. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It is a fact that labour market is a factor. Whenever we're looking at putting any type of service into a region or into a community, we've got to make sure we're meeting the needs. That's what these new monies are being looked at to make sure, through our Partnerships BC analysis, that we're ready, willing, and able to move forward with these projects as soon as possible with as much information to make educated decisions versus passion-oriented or knee-jerk reactions to need. This government is committed to working on our elder care facility need and we want

to make sure that we're doing it right the first time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess my last question on this is, looking at the NWT, it's not apples and oranges; maybe it's a tuktu and an umingmak or something. We're not the same but we're similar, right? My understanding is that in the NWT there are no privately operated elders' care facilities. I'm just taking a step back. What is the reason why we're going to this private model as opposed to a government-owned, government-operated model? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's nothing firm in stone on the path forward; it's why this study is being done right now. Every other place in Canada, there are privately run elders facilities providing the level of care for a number of different reasons: economy to scale, hiring processes, a little bit more flexibility in being able to hire and change workforces and workloads due to need. Whenever you're putting those positions in a civil service, it can complicate matters to a certain degree and bring in less efficiency. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No

further questions. I would just like to say that I look forward to welcoming the minister to Arviat and when he does come to Arviat, we can visit the Andy Aulatjut Elders Centre and you will see that I believe that the staff there is 95 percent Inuit, which I think is something that's very important and beneficial for the elders. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes, you wanted to reply to that? Please go ahead.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you for allowing me, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the member for the invitation. It has been a few years since I was in that facility and I look forward to visit his community and addressing that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question will be on your business plan page 154 under the line item of Professional Practice. It identifies here that you have "This division manages the credentialing, registration and licensing of 12 legislated health professions. It also administrates the process of investigations of formal complaints received against licensed health professionals." I'm presuming or I guess my question here is: are you fully staffed with these 12 legislated health professionals and do they travel to communities within the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies if it's not worded correctly in the business plan, but what states is that there are 12 separate professional practices that are overseen by the legislation, for example, nurses. If there was a complaint brought forward, we would approach the nursing union for Nunavut and NWT, RNANT/NU, to bring forward any complaints. This division has the authority to oversee that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation. I guess the question I have is: if there were a number of complaints made from, let's say, Baker Lake, would this division or Professional Practice Division visit the community of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are two positions with that responsibility. There is a director, a registrar, and assistant registrar. They are based out of Kugluktuk and, if the investigation is deemed necessary, they would visit the community. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on, on the same page under 154 again, but going on to long-term care, residential long-term care services, the budget allocated for that

remains to be the same. That's a service for the elders and adults. Do you feel you're stable in that aspect and happy with the budget amount that is proposed without any increases? As we brought up in the legislature a number of times regarding elders in care facilities and long-term care, I guess that's my first question on that line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an investment increase to this budget in the current fiscal year of just under a million dollars, \$852,000, I believe, to meet the increasing incremental cost of the long-term care facilities that we operate. As of right now we are not anticipating increased costs, but as we all know, as time goes on, costs do increase to continue to provide the same level or increased service. If at such a time that we do need more money in that division, I will be sitting before the legislature requesting it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Like my colleague, I guess I would have to say it's sad to see the Martha Talirug Centre is closed right now. Initially as a community, I think we were the first community to ever establish an elders facility in Nunavut and then from there it started branching out to various communities.

I can also honestly say and I sincerely hope that the centre, after the fuel spill

cleanup and the necessary repairs are completed, be reopened. Due to the fact also the government did invest a lot of money into training all the staff within that facility and from my knowledge, 97 percent of the staff are local, which is quite a significant amount of money that has been invested by the Department of Health and government. That's just a comment.

At the same time, when we look at this particular issue, when we look at Embassy West, currently a large number of elders are residing there from Nunavut. Are we meeting the needs required and do they also get a second opinion or is that a whole different budget line item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does kind of fall into this division from a couple of different aspects of providing the care itself as well as our Continuing Care Division to make sure the assessments are done. I have had occasions where family has asked for reassessment and we have followed through with those.

That being said, like the member mentioned with the residents we have at Embassy West, there are, I believe, currently 28 Nunavummiut at Embassy West right now. We do work with their families to make sure they're cognizant or aware of the level of care that's needed and we work very closely with the families to make sure that everyone's in the loop, as they say.

It does create some challenges when one

family member is the spokesperson or the trustee for that elder or if there are public guardianship occasions, it does complicate matters a little bit to make sure all family members are aware of what's going on. If it's anything like my family, there's not always great communication at all levels. We do our best to make sure that all family members are kept up to speed or at least the family members that we're aware of that are on record of being responsible for those elders. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on, in your business plan on page 156, as the minister is well aware, I have asked on numerous occasions regarding the Office of Patient Relations. I'm sure they have received countless amounts or countless numbers of complaints from the community of Baker Lake, whether it be regarding the health centre or medical travel, everything. It indicates here, "Improve Office of Patient Relations outreach programming through interdivisional and stakeholder engagement."

With the Office of Patient Relations, are you considering community visits with the number of complaints that they have received by community to try to consider possibly improving the services within that community? These are the main complaints that could be flipped around to a positive thing. Has the department ever considered doing outreach programs to communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to say no with regard to considering sending patient relations staff into the communities. Their concerns are brought forward to the regional executive directors and they would determine, which they have... I know of instances where they have specifically travelled to communities to address ongoing concerns.

The member uses Baker Lake as an example. Last year we dealt with a quarter the amount of complaints out of Baker Lake than we did three years ago. To me it shows that the level of satisfaction has increased and that some of those measures have been taken into consideration. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: When we look at, in your business plan on that particular page still, it indicates that "...site visits such as Health Centres and at Qikiqtani General Hospital." On that particular item that I'm questioning, would you remove site visits or would that still be kept in the picture, and what budget amounts have been allotted for that particular Office of Patient Relations outreach programming? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies if maybe I might have not been clear with my first response. The site visits for the patient relations staff are still a component. As a matter of fact they have gone to TB community screening clinics to get

feedback from people who have gone through the site visits to boarding homes, as an example, to get client feedback to see how improvements and to deal with any ongoing issues. As far as sending them to each community health centre across the territory, it's not in our plan right now.

With regard to the specific budget for travel for that division just for patient relations, I don't have that level of detail with me today. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that particular page again, on page 156, (interpretation) the Department of Health is very important and regarding the Inuit diet, it indicates here on the sixth bullet, "Ensure facilities and programs in Nunavut meet minimum standards for nutrition care and food service." Do you check the stores too or the retail outlets to see if they meet minimum standards for nutrition care and food service every year or at least once in each community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The stores themselves would be looked at from our environmental health officers same as any food-serving facilities and they are looked at regularly or inspected regularly. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. If there are such inspections, for example, if somebody should come into Baker Lake to ensure that the minimum standards are required, would the community be informed ahead of time or would the community be informed as to where food has become unsafe, or how would the Department of Health inform the community if that were the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure I understand 100 percent what the member is asking, but if I understood it correctly, with regard to dieticians going into communities and working with our community health reps for healthy eating habits, bringing forward campaigns of that nature, that does happen. In addition to facilities such as our boarding homes, we have made quite advancements, I would have to say, with our dieticians working with boarding homes to make sure that healthy foods are offered. There has been a new PY for the Kivalliq regional dietician which would, I think, meet the goals of what the member is asking about. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll rephrase my question here. On page 156, Priorities (2018-19), sixth bullet, "...Nunavut meet minimum standards for nutrition care and food service." As we all know, the Department of Health currently has contracts in place with boarding homes,

and from time to time we do get complaints as MLAs and we address it. Are there inspections completed on an annual basis, and how are the patients reassured that the foods at these facilities are safe? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have dieticians who travel to facilities to work with the management there on providing healthy foods to our clients, but when it comes to the inspection itself of the facilities, those are done by whatever governing body that that facility is in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak, your final question.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My last question again is on page 156 and the last bullet states, "Proceed with the legislative process for the *Mental Health Act*." Is it on schedule or is it delayed? If it is delayed, how are you going to fast-track it so that the legislative process can be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is drafting ongoing with that Act right now and I look forward to bringing that forward to the legislature in the fall. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is in regard to medical travel and going over budget. You indicated that there is an ongoing review of how you can improve that system. Do you have an anticipated date for when the review will be completed? I want to ask that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Hickes...Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Mr. Hickes is fine, Mr. Chairman.

When we are looking with regard to that review, we have already implemented some changes from it with the maternal travel. We're not waiting until the full review is complete, but we are hoping to get bulk of it done this summer and look at identifying further improvements within that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My tongue got tied.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Some time back I heard through the grapevine that in some communities or some regions there is 40 percent of patients that don't get on the plane. When I am talking about our community issues, we see a lot of frequent last-minute notices from medical travel staff or their medical appointments or travel requests were sent here, but some end up missing their appointment because their travel has not been arranged. I'm just wondering: does the government determine how much money they have lost because of travel not being used? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of whether we keep track of, I'm going to say, wasted dollars because if somebody is travelling and there is no appointment on the other end, it's a waste of their time and our dollars.

As part of this review, providing consistent application of medical travel policies, one of the feedbacks we heard during our consultation process was the lack of child care available in some communities to be able to provide care for infants for short periods of time, which is why we made that change to our Medical Travel Policy to allow parents to travel with their infants, which alleviates some of those pressures.

I acknowledge the member's comment with regard to finding out about travel late. It's one of the things that I have personally spoken to our director of medical travel about and it's one of the things she's going to be working on or has already started working on with providing consistent training to all the medical travel coordinators across the territory so that everyone has some... I couldn't leave tomorrow if I found out that I had a medical appointment tomorrow, so why do we expect other people to be able to be that flexible?

When an appointment is made for a month down the road, that needs to be communicated to the patients as soon as possible so that they can start their planning process, and that is something that we're currently working on already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. It seems like the review and adjustments have to be done on an ongoing basis and even though there is an ongoing review, there are usually the same kinds of problems or challenges that are faced by families. Sometimes they don't know when their appointment is until the last day and some have to look for an escort to take with them on short notice. We hope to see an improvement in that situation.

I would like to move to a different subject. This \$4.3 million is the overage funding for the elders facility. The first question I want to ask is: what were these funds specifically used for, and did they increase the number of elders in the facility that is currently occupied? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over budget from this fiscal year currently, just to get clarification. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In your opening comments you had stated on page 8 the uncontrollable cost budget allocation and requested an additional \$32,893,000, and breaking it down, the out-of-territory elders' care is \$4,313,000. I was wondering if that's the budget because of an increase in elders going to the facilities. (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you. Just one moment, please, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got confused. That was part of H-4, I believe. That increase in monies was allocated for continuing care costs outside the territory, specifically at Embassy West. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. In looking for possible solutions in our debate about the needs of our elders, this is something I had thought of as an idea. When we were visiting the elders at the centre, part of the issues voiced and one you have brought up is keeping family members informed.

You announced that the telehealth service was available for family members so that they can speak to relatives in the south, but nobody in Pangnirtung has recalled ever being allowed to use the telehealth connection to speak to relatives nor have they heard that this can be provided. This has been brought up in conjunction with our elders housed in an elders facility, as they can become lonely and bored. Would it be possible to use this video linkage to at least see each other on television? It would probably be beneficial to the elders.

At one point the unit was stated as being available at Embassy West and I have no idea if this has been used. It seems that it

is rarely ever used, for the reasons espoused based on what I have been told. I'm just throwing this idea out there.

Further, in speaking about (interpretation ends) guardianship (interpretation) during the discussions, is there a regularly scheduled review or inspection related to whether the guardianships are being renewed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will start off with the telehealth. Up 'til now they had been using basically FaceTime from iPads to communicate with people back home, but we are in the process, working with Embassy West, to set up a telehealth-specific site so that people can have dedicated access. I know the nursing staff do work with families to try to schedule FaceTime chats right now.

With regard to the public guardianship, I am not sure how often that's reviewed. That would be under Family Services. I would have to speak to the minister there to see how often those public guardianships are reviewed or if they are revisited. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. My next question is about the addictions treatment centre. You brought this issue up and the fact that the amount of \$500,000 is for out-of-territory services currently. What changes are being considered, or do you have

existing plans in Pangnirtung for these services as they are dealt with in various categories, such as youth services, or if people have a specific assistance request? Does the Department of Health have a future treatment being developed with the out-of-territory services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The example I can give is if somebody in Pangnirtung wanted to access mental health addictions services, they would be assessed in the community. The mental health and addictions worker there would work with the client and family to determine what level of supports are needed.

If it is finally determined that they would have to be sent to an addictions and trauma healing centre, which we currently do not have in the territory, we would send them to one of our contracted facilities. Again, it goes back to the comment Mr. Main made earlier is the health care comes first, costs second. If that is a determined health need, we will find the space for them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickeys. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I don't have any further questions, but I want to get clarification on this matter you mention often, so let me ask this last question. In looking at (interpretation ends) trauma (interpretation) and the types of assistance required, the support is immediately provided, especially when relatives lose one of their own suddenly. This provides a large benefit

to communities.

However, there should be some planning prior to landing in a traumatic event, perhaps to look at preventative work so that they are prepared before the trauma explodes. In thinking about social workers, has any thought been given to community visits to determine further assistance or services that may be required before an emergency situation presents itself so that communities are more prepared? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That has been the purpose of some of these positions that we had approved last year to create more mental health workers across the territory to help people deal with traumas.

I appreciate the member's comment/question on how important it is to deal with things before they become a major issue. We have seen that. We've had to send our mobile trauma unit into different communities when there is a bunch of negative occurrences back to back, but the more we can build the capacity from within ourselves, within our population on how to overcome challenges as they arise, the more capacity we can build there, the better our future will be. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickeys. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off with something I brought up last year, specifically this time last year when we

were reviewing the Department of Health's budgets. I expressed my concern over the low level of Inuit employment at the Akausisarvik facility.

I have visited this facility a number of times, including quite recently, and I have noticed this first hand. I just wanted to reiterate why I'm bringing this up. The composition of the client residents are Inuit, many of which are unilingual and they have difficulty speaking with the English-speaking staff. I would like to bring up the same questions again.

Firstly, how many Inuit are currently staffed as life skills workers at Akausisarvik? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail with me, I don't think. I know there are 16 life skills workers in the facility; I don't have a breakdown to how many are Nunavut Inuit. I do recognize the importance of having not just Nunavut Inuit working in the facility but bilingual people who can work with the residents in there and acknowledge that.

With that facility itself, we're taking a look at the whole management structure and reporting structure of it and are anticipating some changes there in the near future. We're analyzing everything right now. I look forward to seeing more continued success. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be asking this question every year until we actually some improvement in this facility.

Over the last year I have been watching job advertisements and have not noticed any life skills worker positions for that facility listed as restricted. I would like to ask if the minister will commit to targeting life skills worker positions for Inuit employment and using the restricted competitions to achieve that goal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll take that under consideration, but I will say that any job application or any job competition that goes out, there are pile 1, pile 2, and pile 3. If they're Nunavut Inuit who are in that pile 1 and they're qualified for the job, they're going to get it, but I'll take your comments into consideration and I look forward to seeing improvements in that in the next year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other issue that I raised last year that I would like to reiterate again is the training at the facility, that number of the staff coming on as casuals and are put directly on the floor without any formal training. I would like to ask what training is in place for new staff and what training is ongoing for current staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the things we're looking at right now with the transition and the changes of the reporting structure and management structure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the summary of grants and contributions for this branch, the Kamatsiaqtut Help Line Society has very generously been receiving \$50,000 from the Department of Health for a number of years. I'm just curious: when was the last time that the helpline had received an increase in funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is something that we are one of the core funders; there are a number of funders within that. I don't recall when the last increase was. As far as I'm aware, it has been \$50,000 for some time. I do know they do fundraising activities to meet the needs. I myself participate once a year with one of their major fundraising activities. It's always a fun night in watching the appreciation for the volunteers. I believe I saw you at the last one of how the volunteers get recognized for the work they do. Right now it's \$50,000 a year. I don't know when it was last increased. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recall that last volunteer appreciation. I know it was very successful and I was glad to see it, but I did become aware that ours is the only helpline in Canada that does not have an executive director as a full-time position to assist with the important objective of the society. I would like to recommend that the minister consider looking into increasing that contribution to allow the helpline society to do more. Will the minister commit to look into that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to check to confirm, but I believe it is proposal-based funding every year. If they were to propose additional resources to hire, it's something we could take a look at. I also want to make sure we've got a number of different factors with kids' helplines and things like that that we want to make sure we're getting to as many demographics as possible. It's a proposal-based process. I'm sure my officials would take a look at any proposal that comes forward. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: has the Kamatsiaqtut Help Line ever requested an increase in funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Not that we're aware of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question. This time last year we approved the second position for the Department of Health to create a second audiologist for the Qikiqtaaluk region. I would like to enquire if that position has been filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure right now if it was fill indeterminately. I know I was speaking to somebody who was working here on a contract basis until it was filled, but I believe it might still be out for competition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked if that position was filled was because the reasoning behind approving that additional position and the importance of it. A number of children have hearing disabilities that go undiagnosed for a number of years and this causes a number of issues, including learning disabilities, which is why I believe that it is crucial to have those positions filled and, if at all possible, have additional audiologists on hand to ensure that every child has their hearing tested. Will the minister commit to doing so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to correct myself, the competition was closed and it's in the screening process right now.

With regard to committing to hire additional audiologists, I do recognize there is a need. I've had the pleasure of visiting different schools that have had audio equipment installed in the classrooms to assist on recommendations from... I can't remember the name of the group and hopefully, if they're watching, they will forgive me. They have done some great work in Nunavut to promote activities, especially at the school level.

With regard to committing to hire additional audiologists, that is something we would have to put forward a business case to get additional PYs. I would like to get this one filled first to continue on with the good work. I do know for a fact, again, that I have been involved in this file in the past and was one of the proponents to help push this additional audiologist position forward and into the business case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to another topic, I have a recommendation for the minister. On my phone I have a convenient travel app that I use when I am travelling. It's quite convenient and has all my itineraries in one location, whether it's vehicle rentals or flight itineraries and hotel bookings and other conferences

that I am attending. I would like to imagine that at least half of medical travel patients or their escorts have smart phones or something that they will be able to benefit with an app that's quite similar.

I would like to make a recommendation to the minister and ask that he commit to looking into something similar that can be used and made available to all medical travel staff to ensure that they have all their information in one convenient location and not have to require a printout of an email to keep in their pocket for the duration of their travels. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something I could definitely bring up with our travel division to see how feasible or see how easily integrated something like that could be achieved. I will caution the member that there are 25 communities of different coordinators that are going to be inputting this data in, making sure it's all done correctly. I'm not saying it's not doable; I'll talk to my Medical Travel Division to see how feasible something like that is as it sounds kind of intriguing actually. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next topic that I would like to bring up is pacemakers. I was made aware from a constituent who has a pacemaker that they are having difficulties having their routine checkups. I would like to ask the

minister: what policies does the department currently have in place with regard to patients with pacemakers and receiving regular checkups? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of a direct policy. There would be a clinical need for scheduled maintenance and checkups on. If the member is aware of any patients that are not being... If that regimen has not been followed, I would love to be made aware of it so that I could work on that to help assist that individual. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will follow up with the minister at a later date on that. For the meantime I'm not fully aware of all the procedures in place with a checkup of a pacemaker, but I am aware that they are required to travel down south to have the checkup done. The individual was only allowed to travel once a year when the Ottawa Heart Institute recommends pacemaker checkups be conducted every six months to evaluate the battery function. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's something that had changed in fairly recent years. Those tests used to be done in the communities and it's actually something that we have been discussing to work on integrating back into the system so that people don't

have to travel or at least maybe not all the way down south, where we can get a central, regional point and have the specialists flown up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question. Now, I believe this was touched on over the last several days, but I would just like to ask again. What plans are currently under consideration for the establishment of a residential treatment facility in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I have said, we have been working very closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Indigenous Services Canada. I am very looking forward to and hoping to see something like this and along for this facility in the federal budget. We have support from NTI and support from the Government of Nunavut through our three pillars of the addictions strategy that we have completed and I tabled last fall to show the validity. The federal government has shown support to the point where they help fund the feasibility study. To me, that's an encouraging step, but unfortunately we're kind of in the wait-and-see mode. That's all I can say for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the day that we're all waiting for and the public announcements are made about the funding for such a facility, but I would like to throw another avenue or another wrench into the works. From the time that the announcement is made, I'm assuming it will be a year or two until the completion of the facility. Has anyone taken any consideration as to the training that would be required for residential care workers in advance of the completion of the facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely. In fact we have already gone to the point of hiring a project manager and have had some talks with NTI on the Makigiaqta Training Fund to make sure that, as soon as we get the news to go, if the feds want shovel-ready projects, we've got one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and staff.

Just going along the lines with Ms. Nakashuk's questioning with medical travel, I don't know how else to put this in a nicer way, but is there a blacklist for escorts who get drunk or don't fulfill their role as escorts to prevent them from escorting again? Is there such a thing in your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak.

Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the other side also, is there such a thing for patients who do get drunk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can't blacklist patients from travelling for medical needs. We can strongly encourage them to follow the guidelines that they sign off to and agree to. When anyone participates in medical travel, whether they be the patient themselves or an escort, you're signing off on a responsibility that you understand the conditions for the medical travel and accommodation and transportations.

We can't blacklist, as you put it, a medical traveller. If they're travelling for a medical need, we want to make sure that they're accessing those clinical needs, but at the same time people have to be responsible for themselves as well too. We can disallow escorts, but we can't disallow people travelling for legitimate medical needs. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back to pages 156 and 157, you talk about "Continue development

of a colorectal cancer screening program" and "Finalize and pilot a colorectal cancer screening program." Your department's priorities since 2017 have been to develop such screening program. What is the status of this initiative and what are the types of new cancer screening programs currently being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been some substantial work on screening with some work at the QGH here of making sure the screening is done here in Iqaluit. There has recently been an agreement with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to help give us additional direction and assist us with our cancer screening program. As a matter of fact I believe I'm meeting with some officials at the end of April to discuss some of the different alternatives that we can hope be made available to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Is there a program for Kitikmeot [patients] who go to Yellowknife? Is there such a thing as they have here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to look into the exact details, but we have shared

services agreements with the NWT and Alberta to provide services. How do I put this? When we look at partnerships such as Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, it's a national organization, so they would have contacts all across Canada and partnerships that we could explore. I would have to look into exactly what services are available in the Kitikmeot right now, but through this partnership I'm hoping to gain access to more resources. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back to the long-term care program, I just want to quote what you said with Mr. Main and yourself, "Health care first and cost second." My question: is funding for the Long-term Care Division of the Health Care Service Delivery Branch projected to remain stable in 2019-2020? Will additional funds be required when the Baker Lake Elders' Home is reopened or if the continuing care centres in Gjoa Haven or Igloolik will be expanded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not so much with Baker Lake because the residents who were there were spread out amongst different facilities, so the costs will remain the same. If we were to expand existing facilities, then yes, there would be for one, an initial capital cost and two, additional O&M staffing and facility costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes.

Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for your response. We do have a lot of employees in Gjoa Haven, some of whom are indeterminate and some of whom are casuals, and there is a lot of casual employment in that long-term care centre, but they are also very important. They did have a course on dementia in Gjoa Haven about a week and a half ago. There are people who are trained who can become full-time, indeterminate people once you expand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to say on my last comment on a funny note. Mr. Lightstone mentioned something about a bad renal heart. What did you call it?

An Hon. Member: Pacemaker.

Mr. Akoak: Pacemaker. I hope I never do get it, but I had a friend who had one and he had another friend. They were communicating with each other and he asked him, "I don't know what I'm going to do if my pacemaker battery is dying." And the friend didn't know what to say, but all he said was, "Just go to Walmart."

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. That's it for me, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Next on the list, Mr. Qirngnuq. Please go ahead.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to smile as it makes one happy.

I want to ask about this matter first of all to the Minister of Health. First, welcome to the Chamber, along with your officials. I want to ask about this matter as I want to understand. Mr. Chairman, if I am missing the point, you can tell me, but I want to ask this question.

In our smaller communities it is usually quite a long time, sometimes once a winter, where the majority of the residents are all suffering from sickness, especially with a smaller population. When the seasonal flu arrives into our communities, what can be done to minimize sicknesses in the middle of the school year for the students?

I am unsure if I should ask this to the Minister of Health or the Minister of Education. I would like to understand which minister I should be asking, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the member correctly, in the wintertime about training about training opportunities, if the member can maybe clarify. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I was talking about a seasonal sickness or the flu that affect us as residents in smaller communities. In the winter, although it sometimes skips a year, in some years the entire resident population suffers from sickness all at once.

When the flu season hits hard, it impacts the students who are supposed to attend

classes. How does this get dealt with? I am asking the Minister of Health if I can ask about that, or should I ask the Minister of Education? This is specific to students attending school who may get sick. I hope you understood me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Hickes, did you understand his question? I didn't really get it, but Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I caught part of it. Actually if you will excuse me for one moment, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. I just needed clarification on one point.

With regard to in the communities of accessing the medical officers for people who need care, if the member means like community home care... . No? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one moment. My apologies. Now I'm getting the gist of it.

With scheduled appointments, whenever we do have physicians going into the communities, they are based on so many physician days per year, per month, by size of the community. One of the things where we are looking at some of our cost overruns that we've had in the past and are looking for more money this year is to make sure that we can meet the needs within the community.

If that means going more often or staying a little bit longer, those are options we want to explore so that people don't have to wait. If they miss an appointment one month, it could be a

number of months before they get seen again. We want to make sure that we are maximising the impact of our visiting physicians. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now this response was completely different from the question I asked, so perhaps I'll move to a different topic so it may be easier to understand.

My colleague from Baker Lake spoke to this matter earlier and I want to supplement part of it and touch upon it. It relates to food inspections or nutritious foods that require identification for expiry dates by an inspector.

With respect to public places such as care centres, this isn't specific to the food but rather the beds they occupy, as some patients are scolded for sleeping too long... I apologize. How often are the beds changed when a medical patient is in a care centre? Hopefully I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anytime there is something like, for example, what's happening in Chesterfield Inlet right now, we will mobilize additional supports as needed and make sure that there's a focus on preventative measures. With the hepatitis A in Chesterfield Inlet right now is an example. The NWT is going through one right now where they've had a case of the measles in the territory.

Not only do we practise ongoing measures like what we're doing with different screening with tuberculosis as an example, but whenever something does occur on a larger scale, no matter which community it is, we work very closely with the hamlet officials and people in the community to see what additional resources would be needed and we would do our best to mobilize additional support to the community. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq, you're okay? Okay. Thank you. We're on Health Care Service Delivery. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$352,415,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page H-3. Department Summary for Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$430,999,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Health?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes, do you have any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had this all thought out of some great closing comments, but to be honest, it has been a long few days.

>> *Laughter*

I just want to thank the members for their diligence. This is the largest budget item in our government. I really appreciate the level of detail on the questions. I'm going to do my best to meet the obligations and the commitments that I spoke over the last number of days to continue to work with all of you and all of the public out there to meet our health care needs as best as we possibly can with what we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you and your staff for being here to answer all the difficult questions that have been asked in the past several days. With that, I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses out.

We will take a five-minute break while we get ready for the next department. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:14 and resumed at 17:22*

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much for coming back. The committee will now be dealing with the Department of Education. I ask Minister Joanasie: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if my colleagues agree. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you very much. For the record, Minister Joanasie, please introduce your officials.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, committee members, for allowing my staff to be at the witness table. To my right is my Deputy Minister of Education, Louise Flaherty, and to my left is Comptroller Abraham Suleiman.

Mr. Chairman and not the Speaker, I'm sorry, I am happy to appear before you and the committee today to discuss the 2019-2020 proposed budget of the Department of Education. For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, my department is requesting a total of \$215,158,000. This includes \$2.1 million in new funding. The new funding requests are related to business cases that have been reviewed and approved in prior year main estimates.

For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, my department has been allocated \$438,000 to meet the provisions of the Nunavut Teachers Association Collective Agreement, which expires on June 30, 2021. The increase in teachers' salaries

in the school year 2019-2020 is 2 percent.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education is also requesting \$1,977,000 to meet its funding obligations to make sure the territory's student-educator ratio (SER) complies with the *Education Act*. The SER is calculated yearly based on actual student enrolments and is used to determine the number of teaching staff for each community. The funds requested will be used to support 40.5 teaching positions that have been hired in prior years, but due to vacancy positions in prior years, the department was required to fund the positions from within its approved budget.

The Department of Education is also requesting \$171,000 related to the new school being opened in Igloolik. These are non-SER related positions and therefore require a separate funding request from the annual SER funding requests. These positions include two custodian PYs, one secretary PY, one school community counsellor PY, and one learning coach PY.

(interpretation) Lastly, the Department of Education is relinquishing \$446,000 of its budget to the Department of Community and Government Services in relation to the lease agreements for our warehouse and an office building in Iqaluit. This is a permanent transfer to alleviate unnecessary administrative burden as these leases are managed by the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, our education system continues to develop and great strides are being made to expand the services

and supports available to our students to ensure the resources we do have are being used to maximum effect. I thank this committee for its continued support of the department which enables us to carry out our mandate. With sufficient resources, we will together provide the best possible education for our students.

I am happy to respond to questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? Please proceed, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2019-2020 budget of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's 2019-2020 operations and maintenance budget is just over \$215 million, which represents an increase of \$2.1 million from its 2018-19 budget. The standing committee notes that the increase in funding is mostly the result of additional staffing positions as well as increases in compensation and benefits as a result of the collective agreement reached with the Nunavut Teachers Association signed in March of 2018.

Mr. Chairman, the department is currently facing a high vacancy rate and members note that many teaching positions as well as non-teaching positions have remained unfilled. The challenge to fill these positions in addition to vacant ones will be a difficult one. Members support and encourage

any initiatives which seek to increase the number of Inuit working in the teaching professions. It has been noted that the department's ability to meet commitments to provide bilingual education across all of Nunavut's schools and at all grade levels relies heavily on the availability of bilingual educators.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss his draft business plan and main estimates for 2019-2020, members were given to understand that the department is currently developing a new formula for determining student-educator ratios in Nunavut schools. A number of concerns and complaints have been raised with respect to the current formula and its implementation. Members look forward to reviewing the proposed changes to the student-educator ratio formula and would appreciate clarification of how the new formula may impact future expenditures and resource allocations in the areas of staffing and support.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education has implemented a number of supports for inclusive education, including such devices as specialized sound systems for classrooms. It is not clear how specialist services are made available to students, what processes are in place to ensure that all students who have been referred for assessment do in fact receive them, and how many diagnostic tests and psychological or physical assessments have been conducted to date. The standing committee supports the department's initiatives in collaboration with Nunavut Arctic College to provide additional training to student support assistants across the territory.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to review his draft main estimates for 2019-2020, members appreciated receiving information on the department's work towards developing its school curriculum. The committee was given to understand that the Alberta curriculum, which has been used as part of the Nunavut curriculum since the NWT days, has recently undergone some revision and members look forward to an update on how much of the input provided by Nunavut's education specialists has been incorporated into the new materials. Concerns have been raised with respect to the slow progress in developing Inuit language curriculum materials for all grade levels and the committee encourages the minister and his officials to continue to focus on this area.

The standing committee notes that a new bill to amend the *Education Act* will be forthcoming within the term of this Assembly, mostly likely in the spring 2019 sitting. Members look forward to reviewing the legislative amendments that will be proposed with a view to improving the delivery of Nunavut's education system.

Mr. Chairman, attendance in school is a critical factor in ensuring the success of our students. While recognizing that different communities have different approaches to encouraging students to attend school, from monthly awards to food programs to afterschool activities to interventions by district education authority members and school staff, members encourage the department to step up its family engagement activities and seek out best practices from across Nunavut. In addition, programs such as

Young Parents Stay Learning must be revised to better meet the needs of young parent students so that they can access and afford daycare spaces with minimal barriers.

With respect to early childhood learning, [members] of the standing committee raised a number of concerns regarding the delivery of early childhood programs in Nunavut's communities. Members look forward to hearing updates on the department's plans to review and amend or replace the *Child Day Care Act*. Members again raised the issue of full-time kindergarten and appreciated receiving information on the potential costs and staffing requirements that may be associated with implementing this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education also offers programs aimed at supporting adults who wish to improve their educational qualifications, such as obtaining their High School Diploma under the new Pathways to Adult Secondary School initiative. The standing committee is in full support of initiatives to encourage and assist adult Nunavummiut in furthering their educational or career opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Are there any general comments before we go to questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time last year while

the Committee of the Whole was reviewing the Department of Education's budget, I thought we sent a very clear message and we had requested the department to seriously consider the incorporation of a territorial-wide universal breakfast and lunch program. I would like to express my disappointment this year again at not seeing any movement in this direction. When the time comes, I will be asking more about the issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. General comments? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you and welcome. Again, I am very pleased. We have been waiting anxiously to open the new school in Igloolik and it was supposed to have opened officially last year but never did.

You indicated that there are going to be additional PYs and I expect that those are new positions. There are quite a number of them identified here and I hope that you hire people from the local level. I hope to see local residents being hired to fill those positions. That's a general comment I wanted to make.

I do look forward to utilizing the new school next school year. I'm very anxious to see it open. That's what I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. General comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and

your officials.

I just wish to second what I just heard from my colleague. We as regular members have tried hard to pass this message onto this government. It makes one wonder if we are being understood or if there is anyone even listening. Sometimes it can be very difficult to see any changes as we try to envision the situation, yet we have to approve budgets. Are our concerns just falling on deaf ears? It is really hard to determine if our message is heard.

When we talk about hunger and hungry children, there are many children who are in that situation. Now, there are more funds that they want to expend to try to meet this need, and the government will allocate the funding. I think we visualize a different scenario, but due to the officials vehemently disagreeing with our message or due to the lack of funds, it is something I haven't quite grasped why this hasn't been prioritized to date. I am disappointed in this lack of effort and also quite unhappy with that, which is why I wanted to voice my displeasure.

The second part applies to the minister's opening comments, (interpretation ends) "expand the services and supports available to our students." (interpretation) In Arviat we have lost a lot of teachers. You're looking at expanding services. This sends mixed messages when we're cutting teacher positions in communities and you are also expanding programs, which is kind of confusing. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Exactly like my colleagues who stated that they want to protect the students, this exists more so in Rankin Inlet. Some students are genuinely hungry. This is not a funny matter. In Chesterfield Inlet the minister mentioned there are more PYs created to support students.

In Chesterfield Inlet we have also lost teachers and Chesterfield Inlet is also a place where children with disabilities are looked after in the community. We are currently short-staffed on the teacher front in Chesterfield Inlet. We want to be heard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. General comments? I have no more names on my list. I also want to remind you that if you have your cellphones, please put them on silent mode and, if you're going to ask questions, please be aware of our interpreters.

We will now move on to the next page, which is G-4. Education. Directorate. Following my list of names, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. Hopefully the Department of Education proceedings will be a little bit quicker than the Department of Health's. I believe it was four days.

Regardless, my first line of questioning is on the Department of Education's performance overall in the public accounts in the last several years. Sorry. I'll start with 2017-18, the most recent public accounts. The Department of Education had lapsed \$6.5 million and

the year before the Department of Education lapsed \$5 million. I think these are significant amounts and we are trying to call on the government to do more for our children, yet here's the Department of Education lapsing millions and millions of dollars.

I would like to first start off by requesting a detailed explanation on why the Department of Education had unspent and lapsed \$6.5 million in the previous fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasic.

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) First off, our department is one of the biggest departments next to Health. With that, we have schools and not just within schools but our staff outside of the schools. We do have a high vacancy rate that contributes to this lapse in funds which is equal to about \$3.3 million due to the vacancy rate, and then on grants and contributions, mostly on early learning and childhood grants and contributions, there's about \$1.4 million that has been lapsed.

I have directed my staff to look at how we can maximize using these funds to their full potential. I'm looking forward to improvements in years to come. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Upon review of the

Department of Education's mains and actuals, I have come to the conclusion that a significant amount of the surplus comes out of the department's travel and transportation budget. Looking at 2017-18, the department had requested a total of \$7 million in travel and spent \$4 million and lapsed \$3 million of their travel budget. When we look at today's travel budget, which has increased and is now \$7.3 million, I'm curious to find out how much of that is going to be lapsed.

With regard to salary figures and the department lapsing \$3 million in salaries, I do believe that there are a number of areas that those salary dollars could have been spent. I would like to ask if those vacancies are in school operations, teachers, or whether they're in headquarters and regional operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasic.

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for his question. The member is correct that a large part of the surplus that comes with the \$3.3 million, of course, when we can't fill positions, we can't send our staff off to travel. A large part of the vacancies is in the Educator Development Division and we have 22 PYs in that division, of which 19 have been vacant to date. They're all mostly outside of the schools, just to clarify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to some other

areas of questioning. With regard to breakfast and lunch programs, I myself have asked the minister on a number of occasions through question period and Committee of the Whole on this topic. I would like to request: to date, what has been done by the Department of Education and the minister to ensure that every child in Nunavut is not going to school hungry? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Right now we do what we can within our schools to deliver breakfast programming. As I had stated before, these are largely... We just support this program and the DEAs can access funds not through our department but typically through the health department.

We do see the importance of these programs and we do want to see more how we can partner with local organizations. Maybe municipalities have a way we can work better with delivering food programming. To date it's an ongoing thing we want to continue on. I think this is something Minister Hickey was answering quite a few questions on breakfast programming and we do collaborate with their department on how we can improve our service.

Partly this breakfast program funds, our department does not directly fund them, and some school staff and community members volunteer their time and sometimes they have to raise their own funds to do it. I have stated this before that we don't consider breakfast

programming to be considered the duty of teachers, but they do it anyway. On top of their teaching responsibilities, this is an added responsibility and we thank them for that, but they can only do so much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a very specific question and that is: does the minister believe that he and his department should be responsible with ensuring that every student in our schools is going to school properly fed and receives nutritious meals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for his question. I believe our staff, our teachers, our community counsellors, and principals are doing a tremendous job in doing what they can with the available resources.

In terms of, I think, if we want to mandate teachers to have a food program, a mandatory thing, I think that's something that I'll have to take back with me and we will have to see if that can be considered for future budgets, but at this time we are not doing it for this one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I definitely agree that our

teachers are doing a tremendous job in picking up the slack in feeding our hungry children, but I don't believe it should be their mandate. I believe it should be the Department of Education that is assuming that responsibility, giving the school faculty all the resources that they require to ensure these children are being fed. I would like to ask what the minister thinks about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for his question. We are looking at ways where we can perhaps... . The member stated some of the surpluses in our budgets, looking at that, and perhaps we might want to see if there is an opportunity to reprofile some of the funds for other purposes. That's something we can consider and if there is any advice that the committee has in this area, I'm looking forward to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question. Looking at this branch's budget, the department is requesting \$1.8 million in compensation and benefits for 14 positions. I would like to know if that amount is adequate. Looking at prior year actuals, this branch has spent from \$2 million to \$5 million in its compensation and benefits. Is there justification behind this \$1.8 million request? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Please wait a moment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can have the comptroller respond to that question, Mr. Suleiman, with your permission. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. When it relates to our actual results, we had -\$347,000 and that relates to the fact that there's a sick leave entry that's put into the system by the Department of Finance and this sick leave entry captures all the PYs for the department, both school and non-school PYs. It's not spread to each individual branch, so the lump sum goes into the Directorate Branch. When we see it in 2017-18, we see -\$347,000, which means that there was over-expenditure in the prior year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2017-18 I understand that there's a negative due to an accounting accrual, but for proper alignment of expenditures, I do believe that accrual should have been spread out over the branches based on where each employee is working.

I'll move on to my next question. This branch is requesting \$750,000 in travel and transportation and it looks like the average expenditure under this division is about \$500,000. Here's an example of one area where travel and transportation

is over-budgeted. What type of travel is the Directorate planning on doing in the 2019-2020 fiscal year to substantiate three-quarters of a million dollars?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The \$750,000 is to do with two elder advisory committee meetings. There is DEA staff training travel, community consultations, a senior management committee, graduations, community visits, and those types of things. That all adds up to that amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We are on page G-4. Education. Directorate. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now this subject matter referred to here under the Department of Education that you want approved for fiscal year 2019-2020 states that offices have been realigned starting in the year 2016. Further in the new plans, you identify new positions created to support Inuit employment in the business plan on page 139. Has this initiative been begun here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I will have to request further clarification related to the member's question, as our departments were amended further in 2016. With that being the case, the (interpretation ends) educator

development (interpretation) position was created. A new position was created and with that being the case, the different positions that are vacant or which are within the school PYs, we have had to study this part to determine if we can hire more Inuit employees by segregating the PY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) According to the draft 2019-2020 business plan, one of the departmental priorities in 2019-2020, which is this year, is to "Plan and introduce a new Family Engagement Awareness campaign linked to a new policy on student attendance and engagement." Is the new student attendance policy currently in effect in all communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. Yes, we usually work in collaboration with the local DEA by dealing with the attendance policy. As far as I know, we do have these policies in place for each school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, next is Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague earlier queried the minister about lunch being

provided at our schools. I agree with the minister that teachers are already inundated with a heavy workload, and an additional activity to provide lunches is understandably an additional burden as their responsibility as a teacher is foremost.

I think my own vision here relates to workers who would serve as cooks, perhaps in the cafeteria or lunchroom. I don't believe teachers should be forced to cook, and perhaps some of them would not know how to cook and serve unpalatable lunches as their job is to be a teacher.

Has the minister conducted any reviews in other jurisdictions in Canada as to how they operate lunch programs, if offered, or if they offer any foods within the schools? Has he done any research on what kind of facilities other schools in Canada have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have done some preliminary research on other jurisdictions, at least according to the information I have, but with regard to how other jurisdictions have set up their programs, it's something we would have to revisit.

This matter of other employees perhaps could be reviewed, if the schools all got the same type of position or program since they face basically the same issues and particularly related to the voluntary aspect of this program. At least that is what I have seen in other communities. We too can look at (interpretation ends)

volunteers, (interpretation) but it is due to the lack of cooks that poses the biggest challenge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) In terms of using those lapsed funds and directing them towards, say, a sealift order for food for schools, is there anything that prevents the Department of Education from re-profiling their surplus amounts towards something like that? I just want clarification. I'm not a financial wizard, as you know, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not a financial expert either, but maybe Mr. Suleiman could answer your question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. When it becomes part of main estimate process, yes, we can review all items both other expenses, G&C, as well as compensation and benefits, and we do that. We review everything to see if it's being in use, and then at that point we make decisions that best fit the department and the goals and strategies of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand that there are existing programs and there are proposals and places that DEAs can apply to, but I would just like to make the comment that there is a cost to having to apply for funding each year and report on that funding each year, and it's my understanding of the system right now that it's a patchwork whereas if we had not a mandated but a core funded program, I think from an administrative standpoint, it would be a lot simpler, a lot streamlined for the DEAs or for the schools. That's just a comment.

When it comes to this family engagement awareness campaign which is on page 105 of the business plan, it's linked to a new policy on student attendance and engagement. I just want to clarify. My understanding was that DEAs had the responsibility to create their own attendance policy. Maybe if the minister could clarify whose responsibility that is at the community-by-community level. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify, the DEAs do have the responsibility. We help support them in cases where there may not be, if there wasn't an attendance policy in place, then we help support them to develop it or to update it and so on and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it comes to family engagement and making sure the parents are involved in their child's education, I saw a disturbing thing. I think I might have mentioned it before to the minister, but I saw a huge stack of report cards at one of our schools and these had not been picked up by the parents. It was quite sad to see this huge stack of report cards.

Is there any consequence to anyone if these report cards are not picked up? Is there any way to encourage, either with a carrot or a stick, that's just a saying of course, but in terms of trying to get a closer relationship between teacher and parent? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the report cards, normally there are parent/teacher nights or days, parent/teacher interviews when a parent can come and pick up their child's report. In the case when they don't get picked up, school staff end up mailing it to the individual parents.

However, with that, we do try to encourage different ways to have an opportunity between parents and staff to find out or to inform the parent, really, on where their child is at in their schooling and for them to have an interest in their child's development. I would like to get feedback or ideas on ways where different schools at the local

level can achieve greater family and parental engagement. Right now we are rolling out the Family Engagement Strategy and it's to continue on the promotion on the school and child's development and how the community as a whole fits into that whole umbrella.

I have heard and I'll use the example of Joamie School here. I have children who attend. Every now and then they will have soup in the foyer or something like that, just refreshments, but you can go have a bite as you go pick up the child's report along with having interaction between the teacher involved, but I think there are different ways we can achieve that and I would like to hear recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe one idea that you could try would be to put a \$5 bill in each report card. I'm serious, and this is something that has been done in other jurisdictions and other countries in terms of "money talks." Maybe it could be tried as a pilot program. I would suspect that not a lot of those report cards would be sitting around after too long. It's not a huge amount of money, I don't imagine. It's just an idea.

My last question on this is regarding the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs. Looking at the language here, "Provides contribution funding to the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities to work on behalf of District Education Authorities and to support District Education Authorities." I don't know a

lot about this organization. Who is on the board? Is there one seat for each DEA? Are there regional seats? How does this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Coalition of Nunavut DEAs is ten members on this coalition. It's chaired by Jeeteetah Merkosak. The board is selected. They do have regional reps selected by DEAs. They have an annual general meeting I attended. With that, they do also have a representative from the Nunavut Disabilities Society as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. That's the coalition in a nutshell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't want to get too much into the detail, but we do give them \$665,000 a year, so I'm just trying to understand. There are ten members. If the minister could just summarize. There's one from the disabilities, one from Nunavut Tunngavik, and then there are eight others. Where do those eight other board members come from? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure how they select the DEA representatives, but I believe they do a nomination process on who is going to sit on the board and then

they take into account regional representation, but I stand to be corrected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of reporting on this, I'm not really interested in the financial side so much. It sounds like the minister kind of shares my confusion or lack of clarity on this organization. Do they submit an annual report in terms of their activities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per section 192 of the Ed. Act, they may be required as a condition of the \$665,000 contribution agreement we provide them to do a statement of operations, a statement of financial position, budget versus actual, variance reports, have board meeting minutes submitted to us, work plans, so there are stipulations in this contribution agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister said "may be required." Out of that list of things, what have they provided in the last year or the previous year because we're still in this fiscal year? For the 2017-18 year, what was provided in terms of reporting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have been providing all these reports on a quarterly basis, so it's a quarterly report and they do them year in, year out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is any of this information available to the members or is it just purely for internal education use or is it something that we would be able to access in some form? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're very much open to discuss what we can share and of course we will seek clearance from the coalition themselves. They are their own entity. They are an organization through the *Societies Act*. We work with them on DEAs development and support, so I look forward to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The last question I would like to ask is under Directorate. The Directorate is like the umbrella group that looks at all of education in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I'm interested from

a high-level perspective. What is the status of your workforce in terms of the teacher in the territory? Is your workforce aging and moving towards retirement, or do you have a lot of young graduates coming in? Is it more spread out? I'm just interested in terms of trends in the strategic direction for the department going forward. That's my last question for now, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had some challenges more so this current school year than previous years in recruiting teachers both within the territory and beyond. Looking at the entire school staff, there are different demographics that are at play. Of course we do try as best we can to get all the NTEP grads as soon as they finish their studies at the college.

At the same time I think there is a portion of our teaching population that is either close to retirement age, but my department, we're currently preparing for 2019-2020 to recruit. We're going to be visiting university fairs, career fairs, and sending letters to faculties, trying to get as many applicants, more applicants this year than previous.

With that, we're also currently developing a ten-year strategy to retain and recruit teachers in Nunavut over the short, medium and long term. With that, a huge focus will be on Inuit teachers of course. Like we said, we have identified an estimated right now we need at least 450 bilingual teachers and it has been contested that there's probably a greater need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on G-4. Education. Directorate. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on a comment that was made by the minister, especially about Igloolik, the first one that you explained, the \$171,000 that will be needed for the new high school. I would first like to know what exactly that money will be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman. That will be for staff salaries and they are for two custodial workers, one secretary, one school counsellor, and a learning coach. They are for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states that the new school will open apparently, as you said. What's the planned date for opening the school? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his question, the new school in Igloolik is almost completed and we are looking at completing the school in August 2019 and will start being utilized prior to the school year. That's what we have planned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are five new positions that were outlined and there will be a requirement to have teachers starting from August on. Is there money you tagged for the new teaching positions for 2019-2020? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is included in the budget that we are proposing. We also have the student-educator ratio in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking back to my page, I just have a couple of questions and that's on the business plan page 106 where you talk about the Elders Advisory Committee. I'm wondering if you can just elaborate a little bit more about how that committee works. Who is represented on that committee and how many times do they meet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and for the question. (interpretation ends) The Elders Advisory Committee normally meets twice a year and they largely deal

on the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, Inuit societal values, cultural and language component of schooling, and they also monitor and evaluate IQ duties of myself as minister. They meet in Arviat. I had the privilege of meeting with them this past August. All regions are represented and are supported by staff from our Arviat office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister can give us an example of what role they play when it comes to curriculum. I think they do some work on curriculum. How do they work? When they look at curriculum, what kind of input do they have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Their main responsibility is looking at the curriculum. They advise the department on how IQ, ISV, those elements are part of our education system and our curriculum and resources that come out and are approved through our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like clarification if I can ask questions regarding DEAs and principals at this section, or would you rather I wait 'til we get DEA funding under K to 12? There is talk about DEA, but I do want to talk about the relationship between the principals and DEAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I would appreciate it if you would ask your question at the appropriate page. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I will wait 'til we get to K to 12 DEA funding. Is that what you are telling me, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman (interpretation): Exactly. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Okay. Thank you. I'll ask a question, though, based on page 106 of the business plan. You talk about a new unit that will be added to the DEA members' roles and responsibilities module. If you can just explain a little bit more what that's about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) We are trying to improve the training and the roles and responsibilities that we partner with DEAs. At this time I don't have the actual unit, the new details that the member speaks of, but I can commit to, maybe outside of the House, share that information with her. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on page G-4. Education. Directorate. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of more questions around the breakfast program. I guess I could start off with if you could explain to us briefly the flow of how

money comes from the government to the point that it gets to our schools for the breakfast program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow Mr. Suleiman; he knows the flow inside and out, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. When it comes to breakfast programs, the department doesn't directly fund breakfast programs. The department funds the DEAs to provide operations and busing in certain situations, but what the department does is we do have a Healthy Children Initiative program for daycares and that's for ages zero to six. As part of that proposal, some of the monies can go towards breakfast programs, but we do not fund breakfast programs directly with the monies that we receive from the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money for breakfast programs comes from where? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're all third party...well, not through Education. It's, like we said

before, Health has and hamlets as well, municipalities also fund such programs as the Brighter Futures. Those are, I think, the two main ones; there might be a few others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question, so any questions that I have regarding the breakfast program and how it gets to schools, I should ask them to the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We often act as a middleman for this. We do work with the DEAs too and I think, if you do have specific questions for DEAs, then again, we can try to support in getting an answer to you. I don't know if there's any other way that we can do this better, but I look forward to feedback. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the middleman, as you put it, why isn't the money flowing through the Department of Education to the breakfast program? Is there any specific reason why it's flowing through the Department of Health through our hamlets to the schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not according to our mandate that we fund breakfast programs, so I think maybe that's where it has been that and we found other ways to do it. I guess that's the best way I can answer the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe just a comment, I think I'll probably talk to the Department of Health about it because I think the flow that it currently goes through from Health through the MOUs with their partners in the hamlets and getting it finally to the schools, there always seems to be a slowdown sometimes when the schools are getting their funding for the breakfast programs. I will leave it at that and I will take it up with the other department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll take that as a comment. Minister Joanasié, do you want to comment? Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you. No, I think there are efficiencies we can find and I think we're open to those suggestions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on G-4. Education. Directorate. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for recognizing me again. I just have one quick question. The regular members continually bring up questions regarding breakfast and lunch programs in our schools. The

minister has indicated that it's not part of the department's mandate. I would like to ask: who sets the department's mandate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your advice, we set the mandate. As a government this is what we want to see happen, our goals and objectives. If we need to change our mandates, then *Turaaqtavut* is there. That is the mandate for this government, so that is what we're working with. If that needs to change, let us know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) G-4. Education. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,998,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We now take a 10-minute break, a short 10-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 18:38 and resumed at 18:50

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I call the committee meeting back to order. We are on page G-5. Education. Policy and Planning. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off by asking some budget-related questions and financial questions. Upon review of the department's budgets and actuals,

it's clear that there are some significant salary lapses in the Policy and Planning Branch. In 2017-18 the branch lapsed one-third of their budget and a year before that they lapsed half of their budget, with a mere 14 positions in that branch. I would like to ask: as of today, how many of those 14 positions are filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As of now, we have 11 filled and 3 are vacant under the Policy and Planning Branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to the next question and it's related to travel and transportation. Looking at the 2017-18 figures, the branch spent a mere \$18,000 and now the department is requesting to increase the budget to over half a million dollars. I would like to ask: what specific purpose is intended for half a million dollars in the travel budget for policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bulk of that fund is for the education leave program, Sivummuaqpaallirutiksats, \$420,000, but the others are a few other meetings that some of the staff in this division participates in throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm really grateful that the department has that Sivummuqaqaallirutiksat program, but I thought there were only six participants. I'm curious how the department intends on spending \$420,000 in travel on that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends)
Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program initiative we embarked on, we do want to encourage more Inuit teachers. This includes not just travel; it includes tuition, books, daycare fees, and for family. Some of the participants have family members. Taking those into account, we're trying to spend as much as we can in this pot of funds. Yes, the member is correct that we do have six enrolled right now and we want to have a full complement. We do want to fill the remaining four positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite get an answer to my question, so I'll rephrase it. What specific travel is intended for the policy division to use \$550,000 on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we break down this figure of \$552,000, the entire \$420,000 of what I stated is for the

Sivummuqaqaallirutiksat program, not just travel but tuition, daycare fees, books, and so everything is all inclusive. That is the \$420,000. One of the staff, the IQ coordinator in this division, travels to the Arviat meeting for the elders' advisory meeting. That is twice a year. We budget \$8,000 for that. Community consultations for various purposes, that's \$84,000. Community visits and/or senior management committee meetings, group meetings, they all add up to this \$552,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. That is exactly the type of information I was looking for.

I'll move on to my next question and it's regarding contract services for this branch. Looking at prior years, in 2017-18 the actuals jumped significantly to \$91,000 but prior years it's as low as \$20,000 to \$30,000. I would like to know what exactly the branch intends on using the \$321,000 for service contracts. I'm curious what sort of contract services are currently being used for policy and planning and if there will be additional contract services in 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for his question. If we break down the \$321,000, we have \$120,000 for strategic planning, facilitation services are \$56,000, the annual report is \$45,000, development material for monitoring programs is

\$50,000, and legal consultation is \$50,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. G-5. Education. Policy and Planning. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under G-5 I see that according to your business plan you are going to amend or replace the Nunavut *Child Day Care Act* and there are going to be, I guess, amendments. Can the minister tell us what main areas of the current legislation will require amendments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. The *Child Day Care Act* and regulations, we have done a preliminary review in anticipation that we will deal with this piece of legislation, but right now our focus is largely on the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Once that is done, we're looking at related topics to this review of the *Child Day Care Act*, which is staff certification requirements, cultural and language programming, and funding options. In anticipation of that, again, we have to finish the *Education Act* process and our staff are at capacity to deal with that large piece of legislation at this time. Right now we don't have the manpower to review this other piece of legislation under our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 110 of your business

plan you have a statement or a bullet that says, "Continue work to develop regulations for the *Education Act* specifically focusing on Home Schooling regulations." Can the minister tell us currently how many Nunavut students are being educated through the homeschooling and in which communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have seven students in the Baffin (Qikiqtani) and two in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious: are those numbers growing? Were they fewer than that or are we going down in numbers when it comes to homeschooling? How well do you think families know about this option? What kind of messaging have you put out to Nunavummiut so people know that if they wanted to homeschool, there are resources and support to do so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll have to check back on whether this number is rising or staying the same, but I do think that it's something that our department wants to promote more if

any parent or guardian so chooses as an option to do homeschooling.

I know personally when I participated in some of the *Education Act* community consultation visits, we did point out that we would make this piece of regulation a Nunavut-specific regulation. Yes, oftentimes people did not know that it's an option. I think it was only once that we did receive actual feedback towards what they would like to see in the new Nunavut-made homeschooling regulation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on homeschooling, can the minister tell us what kind of oversight is provided? The resources that are used, is that something that the department looks at? Also for testing and the whole works over homeschooling, how does it really work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and for the question. The homeschooling, I have been informed that the parent or guardian involved, there's an initial \$1,000 grant, I guess, to deliver homeschooling. There's an expectation that the students who are being homeschooled follow the same curriculum and resources that any student receives through the public schools in Nunavut. With that, they follow the same assessments and testing as they progress in different grades.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. G-5. Education. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. (interpretation) Please raise your hand ahead of time. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. Before we went on break earlier, I did have my hand up. My arms are really long.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) When it comes to the new *Education Act* or the new piece of legislation, I don't really want to go down that road in terms of talking about the details, but this is the budget. To date, how much has been invested in developing the piece of legislation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We have spent \$525,000 for the Ed. Act consultations. Just to give you a better picture, from the previous time when the last Assembly dealt with the *Education Act*, they spent \$184,000 and that was largely due to this time around we went to every single community whereas before they only visited a select few. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) When it comes to

that piece of legislation, my understanding is it will be introduced in the spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly. In between now and then, just referring to the budget, what further expenses does the department expect in terms of putting into developing that legislation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can't give a specific number. That's kind of yet to be seen, so I don't want to ballpark it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It says in here that... . I did see reference to an annual report. I believe this is the correct... . In terms of preparing the annual report, is this the correct time to ask that question? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, you can ask it now. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When is the most recent annual report going to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? That's what I would like to know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are expecting to table it before the end of this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are in relation to page G-6, Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on page G-5. Education. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,687,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Turning to page G-6. (interpretation ends) Education. Corporate Services. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. G-6, on page 112 of the business plan it says here you're going to "Complete the review of student-educator ratio funding formulas." I'm wondering if the minister can tell us: will the new funding formula address or resolve concerns that people have said, like there are too many students in the classroom versus a teacher? When you look at some of those issues that have been brought forward, is this why you're doing a review and do you think this is something that will address it in the very near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I sure hope so and to reiterate that we are still working out this formula, finalizing it for me to bring to cabinet for a decision, but we are hoping that it will address the question that has been coming out on the student-educator ratio.

Again, I think this will continue to give us challenges on recruitment and retention of teachers. That's a piece of how we're still dealing with some of the issues, regardless of the formula, the teaching shortage not just within... I think it's internationally similar to nurses how there's such a great need to get teachers everywhere. That contributes to our challenges on having as many teachers in our classrooms to support our children's development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to student ratio formulas and teachers, if it comes down to we need more teachers... For example, I think, in the high school they have an English class that has more than 40 kids in that one class or I think even as high as... I don't know, but I knew it was very high. What about spacing? How would that have an impact on additional space required at the school if you needed to have more than one teacher if one particular class was large? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We do try to work with the DEAs and department staff on how the size of a classroom will be. We allocate resources based on this formula. DEAs receive that resource as a PY and then they decide largely on how they will use that position at what grade. They have a large say in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, if you had currently one class size and you changed the student-educator ratio funding formulas and created two positions, it's up to the DEA to figure out where those positions are going to be and also the space, like if you need another classroom. What happens then? How do you work with the DEA to address that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the space piece is a part of it too. It does have to meet our capital standards on how many students can fit in one or a certain space. We consider those and, like I said, we do work with the DEAs if they need support in allotting the... We help them to set the class sizes, so we do try to support them in that. Our capital standards, if there's a need to either modify a classroom space, we do take that into account as well. If it's minor and easily addressable, we try to accommodate accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the same page of your business plan you talk about videoconferencing and distant learning, and that this “equipment will be installed in twenty Nunavut schools” by the end of next month. I’m wondering if the minister could tell us what kinds of educational programming will most benefit from this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Connected North project, we partner with TakingITGlobal, and we have this equipment installed in our schools.

Right now the network currently exists in telepresence units in Iqaluit, Cape Dorset, and Arviat, and Cisco Canada is providing these units for free as well as the associated bandwidth. They help schedule programming support funding through donations, but it’s with the idea to try to get educational opportunities that might not be available in their home community, using technology as a tool to access education in the world.

By the end of this fiscal year we are planning to have eight additional schools, Arctic Bay’s Inuujaq School, Arnaqjuaq School in Hall Beach, Qaqqalik School in Kimmirut, Paatsaali High School in Sanikiluaq, Kugaruuk Iihavik in Kugaaruk, Netsilik School in Taloyoak, Jonah Amitnaaq School in Baker Lake, as well as Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet

connected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. As we go forward, I think we have a lot of new opportunities with new technology and that, and that’s good, but I would like to ask the minister. I know the teachers at least once a year or maybe more get together in a place and they meet. Would this kind of thing take away from that? There are a lot of benefits of actually getting together, talking, sharing ideas, and coming out and just meeting each other. Will this take away from that? Is the department going more and more toward this kind of learning versus actual meetings of coming together to discuss common concerns and ideas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it’s not with the idea to take away from what our staff currently provide in their education program. This Connected North is with the idea that students as well as our educators can access subject matter experts or other role models that they might look at or educational institutions. It’s like connecting museums or galleries or laboratories that aren’t here and making it available for students to see.

To go back to teachers and educators, when they have professional development week, they do have access to this Connected North for themselves to increase their skills wherever they see fit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to continue on Ms. Angnakak's questions about the SER. Earlier Ms. Nakashuk asked the minister if there is any policy in place regarding the maximum number of students in a specific class or per teacher. I can't recall what the minister's response was, so I would like to ask him again: is there currently a policy in place that sets a maximum number of students that are allowed in a specific classroom? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for his question. No, we don't have a policy in place that would say a classroom per one specific educator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend to the minister that a policy be drawn up and brought forward to cabinet. I would like to ask the minister to commit to doing so.

As Ms. Angnakak had mentioned, our English class in the high school has over 40 students and they have to use the library as a classroom to fit them all in. I can't imagine how productive it can be in that classroom. Once again I would like to ask the minister to commit to doing so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are very close to finalizing the formula that we're reviewing. At this time I think we will take the comments as advisement.

As a school is experiencing a classroom size that might be either too large or in some cases they're being used as an example here, I think this is where we do have our complement of staff sometimes either the vice-principal or principal does act as a teacher for the time being when there are staff pressures at play. Sometimes a teacher might be sick and a substitute has to be called in, in those types of scenarios and we look at those kinds of factors.

I think, right now, we will see what the new formula will look like. I'm sure there might be improvements right off the bat, but if there needs to be continued further improvements for that formula and whether or not a limit needs to be set, then we will look at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question and it's regarding grants and contributions, and this whole item under corporate services is the Nunavut Community Access Program. I would like to ask what exactly this program is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This pot of funds is to contribute to the Nunavut Community Access Program and it's for computers and for community members to access the Internet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's to enable communities to run programs for people to access the Internet. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Nunavut progresses, I do believe that access to the Internet is becoming more of a right than a privilege, so I definitely do believe that the Nunavut Community Access Program is needed. Looking at prior years, 2017-18 and 2016-17, there have been zero funds used under this program. I would like to ask why, in the two previous fiscal years, there have been no actual expenditures under this line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you may allow Mr. Suleiman to take the question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The organization has been dealing with some internal issues, so the department has informed the organization that 2019-2020 will be the last year that we will be providing the funding in our budget. If it not used, we will be re-profiling those monies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask which organization was being referred to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you. The organization is called the NCAP, Nunavut Community Access Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next line of questions is going to be about the travel and transportation budget for corporate services. The budget has remained steady at half a million dollars for the last four fiscal years, yet the average expenditure has been \$200,000 and declining. I would like to ask why the budget has not decreased with the actual usage. What specifically is this half a million dollar travel budget intended for in 2019-2020? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The \$551,000 we're budgeting, if I break it down, there's \$50,000 for training the users; there's SMART Board and application training for \$70,000; there's a CSN maintenance for \$80,000; taxi vouchers for \$2,500; health and safety community visits, \$50,000; SIS community visits, \$63,000; IT community visits, \$94,000; senior management committee community visits.

As for the first part of his question on why we haven't been spending the budgeted amounts, I would like to ask Mr. Suleiman to elaborate, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The department has recently gone through realignment and because of that, we have 11 positions just in our IT. Of those 11, we have 6 that are vacant. The bulk of the travel relates to our ITs going into our schools and providing services related to Connected North, our computers, our printers, so they're continuously going into our schools. We hope to have more positions filled in the coming year, so we believe that we will consume most of that budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next

question, materials and supplies. There was a significant increase in actual expenditures in 2017-18. Prior years have been \$100,000 to \$200,000 and then we saw \$500,000 in 2017-18. I would like to enquire what that significant jump in materials and supplies was due to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm advised that those relate to school supplies. Those relate to school supplies specific to Cape Dorset and Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any school supplies that are going to be required in 2019-2020? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Right now we don't have as big of a budget as past budgets. Those were specifically related to the fire losses. If we don't have, fingers crossed and knock on wood, any school fires, then we won't have as much spending in this material and supplies line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fingers crossed.

My last question is going to be regarding contract services. Once again in 2017-18 there was a significant increase jumping from \$700,000 to over \$2 million. I would like to enquire what that significant increase in contract services was due to and if there will be any of that going forward into 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like to have Mr. Suleiman answer that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Our budget in 2017-18 was \$536,000. Our actuals, like you mentioned, were \$2.2 million.

What the department had realized through our Health and Safety Division is that we had a huge amount of hazardous and waste materials and chemicals in our schools related to things that are used in science classes. Because of that reason it was imperative that we get these items out of our schools to make them [safer]. The department got into a sole source contract with BluMetric to immediately remove these items and that project alone was \$1 million of that \$1.7 million difference.

A few other items relate to the funding formula and the bus review that was conducted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page G-6. Education. Corporate Services. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A concern that I have has to do with schools not being able to get insurance. One of the priorities of the Department of Education for 2019-2020 is to work with the Department of Community and Government Services to "begin to review and develop new building standards for schools." The question I have is: will there be new standards taking into account specific design features to prevent vandalism and arson? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. We try to design the new schools so that if there were to be a fire, then the whole school would not burn down. For example, with the new school that was built in Cape Dorset, no one can go under the school or crawl under the building. There is a water tank under the building that has an automatic fire suppressant system. With that particular building design, the objective is to ensure none of the materials are affected by fire damage or any sort of vandalism. We prefer that once the design is in place, it is never touched nor vandalized, as we prefer our schools to remain undamaged.

This should apply to every government facility to ensure we protect our assets, especially in light of the humongous replacement costs of facilities lost to fire and more so since we cannot get any fire

insurance for our territorial schools. This has impacted our government operations on a massive scale due to the intractability of replacement funds to relieve our financial pressures, and it causes consequential effects in planning for future assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that adequate response. Further within your business plan, specifically on page 114, (interpretation ends) Early Learning and Child Care, (interpretation) I know for a fact that the daycare in Chesterfield Inlet is quite antiquated and rather dilapidated. It is quite ancient. What is this speaking to, in speaking about educational policies such as for children aged zero? I don't understand that. Is this a newborn? It states up to age six. The department will work to lower expenses and overall costs and to ensure it is used by the parents in this case. I would like further information as my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'm confused now. Is the question specific to page G-6 or G-7?

(interpretation ends) Young Parents Stay Learning, (interpretation) perhaps that's what she's asking about. We're looking at revamping it to make it easier and to increase the budget. Students with children from zero to six years old can

get a daycare subsidy. We're currently looking at this policy and we will decide where we can make an improvement for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That's not under G-6, but it went ahead. Following my list of names, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 112 it mentions the student-educator ratio funding formulas. In terms of the status it says that "...testing will take place in fall 2019." (interpretation) It says that will be tested. I would like to know where the testing will take place and how it will be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is currently still under development as we are working to complete it through this review. Further, it seems to be nearing the end, but we anticipate it remaining that way in the upcoming fall season. As an example, this new (interpretation ends) formula (interpretation) won't be implemented until it is approved by my ministerial colleagues. However, we will continue to develop our plans on how this impacts our educational calendar start and the programming in our future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. When can we expect it to be

implemented Nunavut-wide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once it is approved by cabinet, we're looking at the 2020 school year. We're anticipating having it implemented then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you looking at this change being included? For example, in Arviat in the fall when the caribou are close by, there are usually fewer students in attendance, especially the older ones because they are caribou hunting. Following the tradition, attendance rates drop at that particular time of the year and there are different scenarios in different communities. Has this been factored in by the Department of Education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for his question. The (interpretation ends) SER (interpretation) changes based on the number of students attending. September 30 is usually the date that is used for that, which is also the case in other jurisdictions. We will try to take the member's comments into consideration. However, let me reiterate that if we look at the entire school staff, we break down the staff into teachers only, principals,

and vice-principals. We don't include the other staff, which are the student support assistants, school counsellors, and (interpretation ends) learning coaches. (interpretation) We are looking at the entire school staff in trying to set the formula. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Will the new formula take into account the need for job security on behalf of school staff? Right now the way the formula is, the numbers go up and down kind of quick sometimes. For the DEAs, they can't just snap their fingers and bring a teacher in because the department said, "You get one more PY this year," but if there was a more smooth fluctuation for job security and for hiring and retention, it would be better. Is this something that is also taken into account in this new formula? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In many ways we are looking at how this formula impacts learning in school or student numbers. To be short, yes, that is taken into account and we hope that we will have a better formula if it does get approved once it's finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My final question on this student-educator

ratio: will it still be based on attendance or will other factors be included, such as the school-age population in the community? It has been the position of the DEA in my home community of Arviat that there should be some consideration for the school-age population given. Just because a student is not an attender doesn't mean that there shouldn't be consideration of financial resources put towards their education if they do start showing up for school. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, we are looking at various options for this formula. I think, at this point, when it's not finalized, I'm not inclined to share too much into what options or what we will be deciding on, but I'm looking forward to, hopefully in the near future, coming back with a new formula to share for the members and Nunavummiut that has a positive impact on schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also look forward to positive developments on that.

It also states on (interpretation ends) page 112, "...the formula was finalized..." (interpretation) To my understanding, it has already been fixed (interpretation ends) in the formula. (interpretation) When can we see it if it has been finalized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is written in that manner (interpretation ends) for next fiscal year, (interpretation) which is why it is structured in that manner. We are anticipating that the completion will commence prior to March 31, and it could be during the spring or fall session where we can provide a concrete response or even prior to that if the situation makes it more understandable, at which time I will provide the information to my colleagues. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the bottom of page 112 it refers to "accessibility and affordability to early child care facilities and resources." And then in the status on the next page it mentions full-day kindergarten. Was full-day kindergarten the only thing that was worked on in this past fiscal year or the current fiscal year, or were daycares also part of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. Please wait a moment.

(interpretation ends) If I read the member's question right, there was a federal agreement, a three-year agreement, which was \$7 million over three years towards daycares. With that, we are also working on an RFD that

would see possible changes to the Young Parents Stay Learning initiative. I think those are two major ones. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it comes to this full-day kindergarten, I thank the minister and his department for providing the standing committee with further information on full-day kindergarten. Based on this information, it's proven to be beneficial children in their education along the same lines as making sure the kids are not hungry at school. It's proven. It's known. It's not really debatable.

When it comes to full-day kindergarten, it says, "The department is now pursuing options identified in the analysis..." On this information here, what I could see for options refer to the capital requirements, renovations, additions, or portables. If the minister could just explain what this means by "The department is pursuing options..." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we implement full-day kindergarten across the territory, some schools may require either renovation, modification of their existing facility or classroom space, and/or addition/expansion. We need to work with Finance on what is the best, cost-effective way to deliver a full-day kindergarten program. There are capital implications as well as O&M

implications with this, including additional staff to deliver full-day kindergarten, so we're trying to nail down which way would be the best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a part of the business plan for 2019-2020 in this regard, when are we going to hear whether or not this proceeds? When are we looking at a start date for full-day kindergarten in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have looked at some of the schools. It seems as though it could proceed right away, but there are implications and issues we need to look at, such as renovations and additions or expansions. One of the biggest ones is the capital items that relate to changes in schools.

Right now we're trying to see how best to proceed with full-day kindergarten. In the 2019-2020 fiscal year we want to identify the communities. I also know that some of the DEAs have informed us that when we want to do a pilot project for full-day kindergarten, they are open to that option. Right now eight communities would be ready to go immediately if we implemented the full-day kindergarten. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for these documents. It provided us with a lot of information as a committee. That was just a comment. I'm done, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was just a comment. Following my list of names, Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 main estimates and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your

hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day.* Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for February 27:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters
 - Bill 13
 - Bill 15
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 18
21. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Wednesday, February 27, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 20:00

