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1st Session

4th Assembly

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Thursday, March 6, 2014

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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)
Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Monica Ell
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Health

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

Samuel Nuqingaq
(Uqqummiut)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

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

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Justice; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)
Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 6, 2014

Members Present:

Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut): I will ask Ms. Ugyuk to lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, colleagues, and welcome back to the legislature as we continue with the First Session of the Fourth Assembly.

On behalf of all members, I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank the people of Kugluktuk for their warm hospitality when we were in their wonderful community two weeks ago for our retreat.

I would also like to welcome our television audience across Nunavut, especially those residents who subscribe to the satellite television service. For the first time, our proceedings are being broadcast on Bell satellite channel 513 and Shaw satellite channels 289 and 489. I also welcome back our viewers who watch our proceedings on community cable stations.

I wish to inform everyone that due to the weather, the Member for Uqsuqtuuq is absent from the House and will be arriving in Iqaluit late Friday afternoon.

Before proceeding to the orders of the day, I wish to read the following correspondence that I have received from Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut:

Money Message

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the First Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015*;
- Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014*;
- Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2013-2014*;
- Bill 5, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2014 July 31, 2014*.

Sincerely, Edna Elias
Commissioner of Nunavut.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Member, Premier Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 001 – 4(1): First Session of the Fourth Assembly

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, today, we begin the first day of the Fourth Assembly with new ideas and opportunities ahead.

Nunavut's political structure is in consensus and we, as elected members, have established a mandate that speaks to taking steps forward together. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the Throne Speech and tabling of our government's mandate. We have a responsibility to continue building a territory that seeks to better all Nunavummiut.

As we approach 15 years of becoming Nunavut, we can look back at this short history and realize we have accomplished a lot. We also recognize that there are still challenges ahead, and we continue to strive towards a territory that succeeds economically and socially.

Mr. Speaker, our greatest advantage is accomplished by stepping forward together. It also includes productive and healthy debate within this Assembly. This dialogue allows for issues to be brought forward in an open and respectful atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting time for Nunavut. Our goal is to step forward together and make our vision count. Our long-term success in Canada starts with this foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to this chapter and working with our partners, stakeholders, and all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Premier Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Member, Mr. Okalik.

Minister's Statement 002 – 4(1): Implementation of Inuit Societal Values Report 2013

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Good afternoon greetings to all. The Government of Nunavut strives to promote and incorporate Inuit societal values into the daily operations of the government.

The Inuit Societal Values Katimajjit, or ISVK, recommended that a report be done on all activities within the Government of Nunavut that would provide a better understanding of how ISV gets incorporated into both legislation and departmental activities.

The production of the Implementation of Inuit Societal Values Report 2013 illustrates to the public current initiatives undertaken by various departments and some agencies in incorporating Inuit societal values. The Department of Culture and Heritage, in collaboration with all GN departments and agencies, took several months in finalizing the report.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to state that the Government of Nunavut is starting to incorporate Inuit societal values as we review legislation and that departments are actively engaged in ISV activities in both program and operational areas.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling the Implementation of

Inuit Societal Values Report 2013.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Ministers’
Statements. Hon. Member, Ms. Ell.

Minister’s Statement 003 – 4(1): Time to Quit Tobacco

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I wish to update my colleagues on our latest efforts to reduce tobacco use in Nunavut. As the Department of Health enters the third year of the “Tobacco Has No Place Here” campaign, we are doing even more to encourage and support Nunavummiut to quit smoking and chewing tobacco. It is “Time to Quit!”

In January, the Department of Health launched the “Time to Quit” contest to encourage quitting. More than 530 people have entered the contest and committed to stop smoking as well as chewing tobacco during the month of March. I offer my full support and encouragement to all of those trying to quit.

Mr. Speaker, as a former smoker, I know the challenges of giving up tobacco, but I also know the rewards.

I know that support is important for Nunavummiut who want to kick this addiction:

- You are not alone when you are trying to quit. There is support available;

- You can call the Nunavut QuitLine, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-866-368-7848;
- You will find trained, sympathetic professionals on the line, ready to help and support you;
- You can chat with the quit line counsellors through the Department of Health’s “NUquits” website, www.nuquits.gov.nu.ca; and
- You can also talk to a health professional at your local health centre about getting free nicotine replacement therapy and other stop-smoking medicines if required.

Mr. Speaker, I wish success to all of those individuals trying to quit. I know my colleagues join me in these good wishes. I ask you for your continued support in our ongoing efforts to make our territory tobacco-free. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Ministers’
Statements. Hon. Member, Mr. Sammurtok.

Minister’s Statement 004 – 4(1): E-learning for Nunavut Municipalities

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is my pleasure today to advise the Members of this House that the Municipal Training Organization (MTO) and Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) will deliver a full lineup of municipal

government program courses over the next year using a blended format of online and face-to-face delivery methods.

E-learning provides Nunavummiut with at least 38 different college-accredited courses pertaining to all the functions of a municipal government in Nunavut. (interpretation) Most courses allow municipal staff to remain in their community and learn online using a format which allows plenty of contact with other students.

(interpretation ends) The MTO and Nunavut Arctic College have worked together on developing new online courses this year, such as a radio broadcaster course. All courses developed for municipalities utilize local knowledge and incorporate direct input from the municipalities themselves. It was through municipal consultation that the e-learning development began in Nunavut. Municipalities were looking for a way to train staff while avoiding long delays from the workplace and also avoiding the high costs of travel for training.

The MTO offers online college-accredited municipal courses in Inuktitut, a first for Nunavut and a source of pride for our Municipal Training Organization. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 021 – 4(1): Reflections on Being Elected to Represent Rankin Inlet South

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the residents of Rankin Inlet South for having placed their trust and confidence in me to represent them in the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge a number of individuals today.

(interpretation) My wife, Michelle, and all of my children have been a tremendous source of strength to me. I would not be here without their support.

My financial agent, Katie Joudry, kept me on track and organized during the recent election campaign.

I also want to thank the many individuals and businesses in Rankin Inlet that generously contributed to my campaign.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay public tribute today to my predecessor, Lorne Kusugak, who represented the constituency in the previous Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, although the Rankin Inlet South by-election took place just a few weeks ago, I want to express my appreciation to you and all of my colleagues for your support. It was an honour to have been able to participate in our recent caucus retreat and I am very much looking forward to working

with all of my colleagues in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Rankin Inlet South raised a number of important issues with me during the recent election campaign. These include the need for a long-term care facility in the community, strengthened apprenticeship programs, and investments in housing and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I took my oaths of allegiance and office in the presence of Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut.

I will conclude my Member's Statement today by again promising that I will represent the residents of Rankin Inlet South to the very best of my ability. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 022 – 4(1):
Looking Forward to Term as
MLA**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try this without glasses.

Mr. Speaker, it is with gratitude and honour that I rise today as the elected MLA for the constituency of Iqaluit-Niaqunngu.

Mr. Speaker, I am new to being a politician, but I am not new to politics, having had the privilege during the last

Assembly to work as the Executive Assistant for the Member of Kugluktuk, who is now our Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn how government operates, some of its mysteries, and most importantly, how good government should work.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut have elected us as their Members of the Legislative Assembly to represent them. We must not take their trust and confidence lightly.

Mr. Speaker, as I start my new career, I want to think about what makes a good MLA. I strongly believe that as MLAs, we must not forget the importance of serving the residents of Nunavut to the best of our ability.

I strongly believe that no Nunavut resident should be disadvantaged based on their age, race, whether they have young children or other family members to care for, or any other attribute that makes them who they are.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to serving and working as an MLA towards making Nunavut a better place to live in for all of our constituents. I am hoping that over our term as Nunavut's Fourth Legislative Assembly, we will work well together to achieve our goals. I am hoping that it will be a partnership of transparency, openness, and willingness to work hard on complex and challenging issues, such as homelessness, poverty, child care, health care, and, of course, education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking my husband and my family for

their continued support. I believe that having good family support is vital to doing a good job of any kind.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the residents of Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu for their confidence in me because without that, I would not be standing here today.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my Constituency Assistant, Annie McGowan, for being so good at her job and for always being two steps ahead of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 023 – 4(1):
Recognition of Family in the
House**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It looks as if I will be a resident of Iqaluit for some time.

Indeed, I just wanted to take this opportunity to recognize some people, but let me start with my fellow residents and constituents in the Aggu Riding, as I am grateful to them for electing me to this position and I wish them a good day.

Further, I want to recognize the following individuals, firstly my daughter, Natasha Angiliq, who is in the Gallery along with my grandchild Pilakapsik, who is also named Kuttikuttuk. I wish to recognize them in

the Gallery. I am quite proud of them. My son Sandy Quassa is also present here. I just wanted to recognize them.

Further, although my fellow residents aren't present, I want to acknowledge all residents of Igloolik.

That is what I wanted to speak towards and Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Allan Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 024 – 4(1):
Revised Medical Travel Policy**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise an issue which I feel should have been raised by the government itself and that's the revision of the Department of Health's Medical Travel Policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that many of our constituents have difficulties and frustrations with the Department of Health's medical travel policies. And it is no secret that the policies themselves could be improved upon. However, I would suggest that any changes to these policies should not be kept secret from the people who are most affected, the medical clients themselves.

Mr. Speaker, in looking into an issue for a constituent of mine, I was very surprised to discover that a number of criteria under the government's Medical Client Travel Policy have quietly been changed.

Mr. Speaker, it did not surprise me that the policy had been changed. Change is necessary to improve service delivery. It did surprise me that those changes were not publicly announced so that Nunavut residents could be properly informed of their rights and benefits.

Mr. Speaker, making policy changes behind the scenes puts an additional burden on our hard-working health care workers. It falls to them to explain changes to the policy and address the confusion or misunderstandings that result from having a new set of criteria to follow. That task should have fallen on the headquarter administrators.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that medical travel and the related costs for escorts, accommodation, and extended stays amount to a significant drain on the government's purse. I agree that steps are necessary to improve the situation. I encourage the government to keep Nunavut's residents informed, in a clear and accountable manner, of the efforts that are being made to deliver services more effectively and economically.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Monica Ell.

Member's Statement 025 – 4(1): 35th Anniversary of Iqaluit Rotary Club

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to people in Iqaluit-

Manirajak and my fellow MLAs. I welcome all of you to come to meet at my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I am pleased to inform the members and Nunavummiut that we are celebrating the 35th year of the inception of the Iqaluit Rotary Club.

Rotary International is a service organization that was established in 1905. The Rotary Club's primary purpose is to bring together business, professional, and community leaders to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build good will and peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Rotary is a secular organization open to all persons regardless of race, creed, colour, religion, gender, or political preference. There are 34,282 clubs and over 1.2 million members worldwide.

During their 35th year of existence and with a membership of 35 members, Iqaluit Rotary has raised and distributed over \$2.5 million throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, some of the activities and events financially sponsored by the Iqaluit Rotary Club include:

- The creation of the Rotary Park in Apex;
- Operating an annual fall fair for the children and parents of Iqaluit;
- Offering an annual community brunch;
- Awarding annual scholarships and bursaries for high school students, including graduation photo packages

distributed to all Inuksuk High School grade 12 students; and

- Financial supports for other worthy organizations, such as the Kamatsiaqtut Nunavut Help Line, Habitat for Humanity, and the Food Bank.

In addition, Rotary also holds an annual elders' supper.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would ask members to continue my Member's Statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, members.

In addition, Rotary has also hosted an annual elders' supper that feeds and provides entertainment for approximately 130 elders each year, recently held on February 15, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, Peter Tumulty, a [constituent] of mine and Iqaluit Rotary Club's current president, has provided pins for each Member of the Legislative Assembly to celebrate Rotary's 35 years. These pins are worn to celebrate the support provided to Rotary by the Iqaluit community.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit Rotary demonstrates how volunteerism is at the heart of a healthy community, and I am proud to say that the Iqaluit Rotary Club has a positive impact on my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 026 – 4(1):
Arviat Resident Walking for
Suicide Awareness**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish Tony Uluadluak of Arviat good weather and good health on his anti-suicide walk from my community of Arviat to a lake close by called Dion Lake.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is a major problem in our territory of Nunavut and any action, no matter how small, will help in dealing with this large problem that we have in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Tony Uluadluak for doing his part of bringing the issue to people's minds by walking for life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 027 – 4(1):
Sessional Priorities**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all residents from the Iqaluit-Tasiluk Riding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to look ahead to our coming sitting.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a very busy and productive few months since we held our first sitting of this Assembly.

During that time, I've had the opportunity to meet with many of my constituents in the Iqaluit-Tasiluk Riding, and I can say that the feedback that I have received has been extremely valuable as we move forward together in our new roles.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, our recent caucus retreat in Kugluktuk was an extremely productive gathering.

The priorities that we announced in our communiqué reflect a strong consensus on a number of strategic issues, and I am very much looking forward to hearing the upcoming Commissioner's Address articulate in detail the government's plans for implementing our vision.

Mr. Speaker, in the days ahead, I will be addressing a number of important issues during our proceedings.

As I noted in my first Member's Statement that I made on the occasion of our first sitting, such issues as support for homeowners, the need for new marine infrastructure in Iqaluit, and the importance of reducing our dependency on fossil fuels are all priorities that my constituents are expecting us to take action on.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my hard-working constituency assistant, Jessica Patterson, for her hard work since coming onboard with me.

Both Jessica and I are available to meet any time with constituents, and I also

look forward to welcoming residents of Iqaluit to our Visitors' Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I am optimistic that this will be a productive sitting of the Assembly, and I can't wait to get started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 028 – 4(1):
Looking Forward to Working with
Other MLAs**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank my constituents once again for choosing to have me as their MLA.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reaffirm what I had stated that I would be available to my constituents here. I am more than happy to be contacted, and I am happy to be here with my fellow members and the cabinet. I look forward to working together as Members of the Legislative Assembly for the next four years.

Also, I want to remind my colleagues that we will face difficult situations from time to time and that we all won't always agree on issues. However, I am aware and fully believe that we can work as a team to provide good governance here in Nunavut and to represent Nunavummiut properly. That is what I wanted to indicate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 029 – 4(1):
Support for Educational Initiatives**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue which I brought up during my campaign: the importance of educational programs which support culture and the traditional way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I have always supported youth initiatives and I believe they are important to develop leadership and opportunity. I believe in further education. Learning does not start and end at school. It is something that extends through our families and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, having a good basis of knowledge in our culture and developing the skills and the adaptability that our elders have demonstrated in their lives gives us a stronger foundation from which to build our future.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I encourage the government and specifically the Department of Education to support and encourage the inclusion of cultural programming in the curriculum, in policies, and in the structure of programs and initiatives across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as I work through my term in this Fourth Assembly, I will continue to support the traditional way of life. We must all strive to maintain our cultural integrity, even as we welcome the

benefits of the modern world. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 030 – 4(1):
Marine Infrastructure in Arctic Bay**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I rise today to voice pride in my colleagues sitting in this House. I wanted to say that first of all.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, I have the responsibility of speaking on behalf of the three communities that I represent in the Legislative Assembly: Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord. During my time in office, I intend to advocate for the needs and priorities of all three communities.

Mr. Speaker, my statement today will focus on the need for improvements to marine infrastructure in Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Arctic Bay's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan was developed in 2003. This document outlines a number of issues and priorities for the community.

The plan indicates that Arctic Bay's breakwater, which was constructed over two decades ago, is "too small to accommodate all the boats that need to be sheltered" and that it requires "an

addition to accommodate and prevent damage to boats.”

It also indicates that the community’s sealift area “needs to be moved as it poses a safety hazard in a high road traffic area.”

Mr. Speaker, the plan also indicates that one of the community’s long-term goals is to construct a new small craft harbour, which is “required to support the HTO’s development of a local turbot fishery through the Arctic Fisheries Alliance.”

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. (interpretation) You may proceed, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the construction of modern and appropriate marine infrastructure in our communities is an issue that a number of my colleagues in this House have also addressed.

Mr. Speaker, modern marine infrastructure is necessary for protecting lives and property. It is also necessary for supporting our transportation and economic development goals.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation at the appropriate time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member’s Statement 031 – 4(1):
Effects of Climate Change on
Pangnirtung Hunters**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues, and furthermore, I thank my constituents who are listening in or watching the session on TV. Thank you to you all.

First of all, I wish to extend a welcome to Alex Sammurtok, who has spent quite a few months awaiting his chance to sit in the House as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, perhaps three months. I want to welcome you to the House and I look forward to working with you on issues we may have to resolve.

Additionally, I also extend my gratitude to the member you ousted, Lorne Kusugak, as well as his wife, who is my niece. I thank both of them immensely. If Lorne happens to be watching or listening, I thank you very much and to inform you that the house you occupied is now under my care and it seems to befit me as a home.

Indeed, ever since my election to this position as the Member of the Legislative Assembly, my old lifestyle has completely changed to the point where I can’t even compare them, as certain parts are quite challenging and like others here, I have gone through life’s ups and downs.

I used to be primarily a hunter and fisherman for many years, and sometimes spent a lot of time on the land outside of the community of Pangnirtung. Ever since I was elected, I haven't been able to go and see the land outside of Pangnirtung or practise my old lifestyle. That's fine at this time, even if that is the case now.

I want to inform my constituents in Pangnirtung that, just like the members here, the residents have expectations from this government, which is the fourth government since inception of the territory.

This issue, which is familiar with most of the members, relates to the changes to our arctic climate, as the weather keeps changing and no person can rectify this situation. We are also finding that our old hunting grounds are no longer accessible, which our ancestors used and occupied, due to the changing ice conditions. The people of Pangnirtung, like their fellow Inuit, tend to hunt when the ice has formed and when the ice is at its thickest, as this is the best time to hunt and this is part of their cultural traditions.

The area I refer to used to be reached when the ice formed, but current conditions are such that the sea isn't icing up, but remaining open and creating a barrier to our hunters to reach that traditional area. They can't reach these traditional areas with plentiful animal resources as the access route is blocked. They can't reach as far a field as they once did due to the changing conditions of these routes, primarily due to the warming weather patterns.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. I apologize for not paying attention to the time.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, for providing this opportunity by your consent.

Indeed, in discussing the changing climate, it has become quite noticeable in our community of Pangnirtung. Last winter, the hunters went through difficulties trying to access hunting areas due to the lack of snow cover, both the landfast ice and the land in particular.

The landscape around Pangnirtung is quite rugged with no lowlands. Due to the rugged terrain, hunters, fishermen, trappers, or even those who just go out to be on the land need to have proper access routes to these areas. They require access that isn't complex or dangerous.

Some of the routes which were used in the past are no longer safe to travel on and we may need to consider building an access road on land to reach these sites. The community of Pangnirtung is currently facing this challenge. Due to these reasons, our traditional hunting areas could be reached, but only by using an overland route.

The immediate foreshore area is iced up close to the shore, but the offshore that used to ice over in the past is still open and creating this barrier I am alluding to.

It no longer ices up. Due to this reason, when our hunters, fishermen, and trappers get up to prepare for their daily trips to collect sustenance, they tend to return with enough for themselves and their fellow residents. This is reason enough to convey our pride in our people who practise this lifestyle, practising the traditional Inuit cultural activities, as they are the ones keeping it alive.

Furthermore, exploring economic development opportunities or even animal population studies is something that the people of Pangnirtung appreciate, as it impacts them currently. Most residents don't oppose research, especially if it can create more benefits to our hunters and fishermen. This is another priority we will have to work harder on.

Also, the current subsidy support of sealskins or other fur products have to be set higher so that more benefits can accrue to our hunters. The current fur prices aren't even close to the expenses incurred by our hunters, so we have to look at increasing costs.

Also, we must not forget our private homeowners, particularly our older homeowners, who require further financial assistance to meet their needs, and I think all members are aware of the challenges they face.

These are the issues identified by my constituents to me and this is why I am rising to voice them at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 032 – 4(1):
Appreciation to Constituents and
Iqalummiut**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Nujaqqiq from Gjoa Haven is in our thoughts. Further, a resident of Taloyoak, Annahaaq Tuutalik and family, are in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, when the calendar rolled over to this month, we held a cabinet retreat in Kugluktuk. I want to express my thanks to the hospitality and welcoming we received from the residents of Kugluktuk. The cabinet spent some time there to meet over our priorities for the upcoming years, specifically related to our government operations.

The mayor and councillors welcomed us to their community, and they even held a community feast. Also, within the school, we were welcomed quite passionately as the students sang a welcome song and they were quite skilled. I thank the school for welcoming us and letting us use their gymnasium. I thank the students and the public and I also say "thank you" to the people of Netsilik for welcoming us as ministers when we were there.

Lastly, I would like to say "thank you" to the people of Iqaluit for welcoming me and my husband when we moved here. Thank you very much for welcoming us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 033 – 4(1):
Living with Hope - Suicide
Awareness**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about a very difficult issue, which is suicide. It causes a great hardship and it's something I cannot come to terms with.

Mr. Speaker, 45 Nunavummiut cut their lives short last calendar year. Most of them were likely under the age of 30.

Mr. Speaker, there is a saying in Inuktitut called *Ajurnarmat*. My interpretation of this means "It is hopeless." This saying is used when all things have failed and nothing else can be done. Those 45 individuals and many others before them, I believe, were in a state of *Ajurnarmat* and unfortunately acted out in nobody's favour.

Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to speak up for a better future for everyone, especially those who feel like it is hopeless.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut need to know that at your most desperate times when we have heavy hearts or clouded thoughts, suicide does not help. Suicide will not help. The hardships we experience will always come to pass as our lives do not stay still.

Mr. Speaker, I'm here to spread hope, to help reinstate a sense of possibility, and to say "Ajurnannngimmat," (interpretation ends) it is not impossible. (interpretation) As a young Inuk man from Nunavut, I faced the odds of committing suicide, yet look where I stand today because it is not impossible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. I just have a few more words to say.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation) There are no nays. Mr. Joanasié, please continue.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I'm appealing to each and every one of my colleagues to help me lead this territory onto a better path. I am also appealing to Nunavummiut to talk to each other, take care of each other and ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut have to be helped, to be listened to, and to have something to live for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. There are none. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak: I would like to recognize my husband, Archie Angnakak, (interpretation) easily the handsomest man here, as Jeannie had previously said of her husband. Further, Joanne Taptuna (interpretation ends) is a really good friend of mine. Also, Virginia Lloyd is a constituent. Welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife, Joanne Taptuna, who has been here living with me in Iqaluit for the last five years and I hope that she will stay here for another four years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize my maternal cousin, who happens to be the President of NTI, Cathy Towtongie. Welcome. I also welcome some of her staff who were mentioned by one of our colleagues, as well as Malaya Mikidjuk, who is also my niece.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) I don't think there are any more. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to this more appropriate agenda item, as I wish to recognize my daughter Natasha Angiliq, and my grandchild, Pilakapsik Kuttikuttuk, and my son Sandy Quassa. I appreciate their being here today.

To the visitors in the Gallery who were recognized earlier, I wish to recognize them as well, specifically the president of NTI and her staff who are present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to recognize (interpretation ends) one of my constituents, Cathy Towtongie. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) I would like the people who were recognized to be acknowledged. Furthermore, my mother is present, Kutsikkuttuk, and her future husband, Qulaut, is also here. I wish to welcome them all, including my father. I would like all the people who were recognized to be acknowledged properly.

As there are no more names on my list, we will go to (interpretation ends) Item

6. Oral Questions. Okay, this is where I need help.

>> *Laughter*

An Hon. Member: First come first served.

Speaker: Okay. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 001 – 4(1): Baker Lake Housing Issues

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, on January 28, the Baker Lake Housing Association sent a letter of invitation to both of us to discuss a number of housing-related issues. Can the minister indicate if he has responded to this letter of invitation and, if so, has he set a date to meet with the Baker Lake Housing Association? Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Member for Housing, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for posing that question. I understand your question. I had responded previously to the member if I can meet with the Baker Lake Housing Association. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, in March of last year, the federal government announced its intention to provide Nunavut with \$100 million in funding for the construction of new public housing units. I was very pleased with this announcement and look forward to receiving updates on the construction of these new public housing units.

However, there are a number of issues with existing public housing units. Can the minister explain what his corporation is doing to ensure our current public housing units are properly maintained? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Housing, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question. We are going to use that money for new public housing units, as well as the renovation of existing units. We have guidelines regarding renovations to existing housing. We also have criteria set up for the use of the \$100 million in funding for the new public housing units. Thank you.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to formally invite the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to discuss Baker Lake's housing issues. Will the minister commit to meeting with the Baker Lake Housing Association and me at the earliest opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Housing, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his question. I had written a letter to the Baker Lake Housing Association and the member. I responded to that letter, but I didn't indicate what date would be most convenient for us. I would like to assure the member that I will respond and give you a date on when it would be convenient for us to meet. Thank you.

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

Question 002 – 4(1): 24-Hour Care Facilities

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

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that many of my colleagues would agree that when individuals need more support and assistance with their daily living needs, they would hope to remain close to their family and community.

Can the minister provide an update on what plans are being considered by her department to ensure that there are adequate facilities to provide 24-hour care in Nunavut to those who need it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the

member for raising that question with respect to whether consideration has been given by the Department of Health on being committed to working with the communities, local families, and to discuss the kind of medical treatment or services that can be provided to our elders to alleviate their situation here in Nunavut.

I believe that in July 2013, there were approximately 1,244 Nunavummiut aged 65 years or older. Compared to the number to our overall population size, the percentage of elders is fairly high at 3.5 percent. Obviously, as we are all aging, this group has continually grown larger ever since the Territory of Nunavut was created.

There are several facilities currently operating here in Nunavut. As an example, there are specific programs in Cambridge Bay, Kugaaruk, and Pond Inlet. However, we have to look at the priority placement of these facilities at the local level, as the communities have to prioritize them, and negotiations would commence between the communities, departments, and members representing these communities on the setting priorities.

Only through vigorous debate can we move forward on providing that which is needed in our communities, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: A need has been identified for a 24-hour care facility in Rankin Inlet. Can the minister clarify

what steps must be taken in order to have such a project included in the government's capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think a needs assessment would have to be planned with other government departments, such as CG&S. The member would have to perhaps write a letter to my department requesting such a facility and discussions would have to take place to realize whether the need is available.

I can tell you right now that we have 24-hour care facilities, seven-day nursing, and personal care located in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven. They have a 10-bed capacity for continuing care centres there. Both continuing care centres are operating at capacity, including respite care.

Health is planning to conduct a needs assessment to determine how best to meet the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your supplementary question and final question, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to reviewing the need for a 24-hour care facility in the community of Rankin Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Health will commit to looking at long-term care facilities that are currently in place in Nunavut and we are doing a needs assessment to see how we can address long-term care for all elders in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 003 – 4(1): Status of New Cape Dorset Power Plant

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

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent publicly available annual report indicates that its application to replace Cape Dorset's aging power plant was approved in June 2011. However, as the minister will be aware, progress on this essential project has been stalled due to the corporation being "unable to secure an appropriate site to construct a new facility."

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will also be aware, the delay in building Cape Dorset's new power plant is having a serious impact on the government's ability to construct urgently needed new housing in the community due to the current lack of power generation capacity. Can the minister update the Legislative Assembly today on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's efforts to resolve this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I can say is that, unfortunately, the hamlet and the Qulliq Energy Corporation still haven't come to a solution regarding the parcel of land to build the new power plant in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, section 16 of the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* provides that the corporation may, and I quote, "expropriate any land that the Corporation considers necessary for the purpose of enhancing energy services in Nunavut, in accordance with the *Expropriation Act*." Will the minister commit to reviewing this option in order to acquire the land necessary on which to build Cape Dorset's urgently needed new power plant? Thank you.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The expropriation of land can cause hardship on anyone, but we are willing to work with the hamlet council to see how we could arrive at the best solution for this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's general rate application was recently approved by the minister. The application indicates that, and I quote, "The Cape Dorset power plant is an old plant, constructed in 1964. It suffers from several deficiencies, including failing building foundation, unreliable superstructure and aging systems and equipment."

Mr. Speaker, Cape Dorset's current power plant is older than I am and might even be older than the minister himself.

>>Laughter

The GRA also indicates that the corporation has had to install an emergency generator for the community until a new plant can be constructed.

Can the minister confirm if the QEC's plans for the community's new power plant include such features as residual heating systems and the potential for a wind-diesel-hydrogen hybrid power system? Thank you.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first of many steps to be taken, which is the identification of the area to be studied. Once a site has been identified, agreement has to be reached and upon agreement, the details would be ironed out. Once the area is identified, we will have a better idea of the kind of plant that would be built to generate power for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Question 004 – 4(1): Marine Infrastructure in Arctic Bay

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

Arctic Bay's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan indicates that the breakwater, which was constructed over two decades ago, is "too small to accommodate all of the boats that need to be sheltered" and that it requires "an addition to accommodate and prevent damage to boats."

In September of last year, the government announced that all Nunavut communities "were encouraged to submit proposals to the department for projects that would improve existing marine infrastructure."

Can the minister indicate if his department is working with Arctic Bay to address the condition of the breakwater being too small? Thank you.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking a question about Arctic Bay's marine infrastructure. The plan the member referred to is the responsibility of the local hamlet council to produce. As to the member's question regarding the involvement of local residents, I can state that they were

involved in identifying the need to upgrade their breakwater. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Arctic Bay's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan also indicates that the sealift area "needs to be moved as it poses a safety hazard in a heavy road traffic area." Can the minister indicate if his department will work with the hamlet and the shipping companies to address this issue?

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that question on this issue. For small craft harbours and marine infrastructure, we use an integrated community sustainability plan to incorporate that. I understand your question and I have not seen any plan to work on the shipping area to date, but I will look into this and get back to you. Thank you.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): My second question, Arctic Bay's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan also indicates that its long-term goal is to build a new small craft harbour. This has the potential to contribute to the development of the fishing industry in the High Arctic. Can the minister indicate if his department would be willing to work with the hamlet to

develop a feasibility study for this project? Thank you.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for the good question. I will have my department look into this and then I will provide him with my response. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 005 – 4(1): Federal-Territorial Relations

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier, my old boss.

Mr. Speaker, as all Members of the House are aware, the importance of having a positive, productive, and respectful relationship with the federal government is one of the most important responsibilities of our Premier.

Can the Premier update the House today on what meetings and discussions he has had with the Prime Minister of Canada since our recent general election?

Speaker: The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I was asking tough questions for the past five years and it's probably payback time now.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I've had no discussions with the Prime Minister. The initial meeting was just an introductory meeting with the Prime Minister, introduction of me to him. At one point, the introductory meeting was going to be during Seal Day on Parliament, but the day after, due to uncontrolled circumstances, I did meet him in his office just for an introductory get-together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all understand and recognize the fact that significant federal investments will be required to enable Nunavut to realize a number of strategic goals and projects, including a much needed marine facility for Iqaluit, a road link between the Kivalliq and Manitoba, and new investments in renewable energy, including hydroelectric development.

Mr. Speaker, we also understand and recognize that the federal government does not have a blank cheque for us and we need to be very clear as to what our key priorities are for federal investments. Can the Premier indicate what specific projects and priorities he aims to push with Ottawa during our term of office?

Speaker: The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the infrastructure deficit that we have in Nunavut is significant. I believe, at one

point, there was a number being thrown out there in the amount of \$6 billion just to catch up to the much needed infrastructure we don't have here in Nunavut.

One of the things that we have been trying to move forward in is, of course, housing, marine infrastructure, and alternative generation for our communities. As you know, we have 25 communities and none of them are linked by road, everybody knows that, and it's very costly for the government to construct 25 of everything within this territory. There is much needed infrastructure in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, all of these are priorities, but we will try and tackle things one at a time because throwing everything out there as a priority... We know and we have learned from the past that it's not going to work very well because in the past, there were way too many priorities. With my upcoming discussions with the Prime Minister and my colleagues down in Ottawa, we will be putting forth a couple of our priorities for infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, our sister territories have made progress in recent years towards devolution. Although devolution involves the territorial governments obtaining an increased share of revenues from natural resources development, it also requires them to take on a significant number of new administrative responsibilities, including the challenge of absorbing a significant number of

transferred federal employees into their territorial bureaucracies.

Although Nunavut has been pursuing devolution talks with Ottawa, we also recognize that we are still a relatively young territory. Can the Premier indicate what his government's timeline is for negotiating a devolution agreement?

Speaker: The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, devolution has been ongoing, negotiations are ongoing. As members are well aware, October 16 of 2013, there was a statement from the Governor General through its Throne Speech that phase 2 of devolution negotiations will commence. Also, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's report is saying that we hope to complete the agreement in principle by March 31 of 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 006 – 4(1): Fuel Rebate for Homeowners

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

As the minister is very much aware, the government recently announced that rising fuel prices on the worldwide market have resulted in a significant jump in the cost of gasoline and other products for Nunavut consumers.

Over the years, the territorial government has helped Nunavut homeowners cope with the cost of heating their homes by introducing a number of home heating fuel rebate programs.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the first such initiative was introduced back in 2001 and the most recent one-time program was in place just a few years ago.

Can the minister indicate today if his department is reviewing the possibility of introducing a new fuel rebate program for homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, we live in fiscally challenging times. I have been keeping a running tab of... It has only been 30 minutes into question period and we're [discussing] power plants, 24-hour care facilities, roads, breakwaters, and so we're really challenged. The Premier announced a number of \$6 billion. In fact, I mentioned that number to the Prime Minister of Canada himself a few years ago when I met with him in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, we had a program a few years ago. Actually, I was just reading my briefing note. In 2008-09, it was initially a one-shot deal and then we extended it to a second year, but we haven't had that program since.

I am very cognizant of Mr. Hickes' concern. I have asked the officials in my department to look internally to see if we can find some funds within Finance itself. I haven't had a report back. I know the high cost of fuel. We hit Nunavummiut with the fuel increase on January 1. It was a necessary increase for our Petroleum Products [Fuel Stabilization] Fund.

Hopefully at some point, I will have to talk to my colleagues at the Financial Management Board. It's not a unilateral decision. If I can do it, I'll have to get approval from FMB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2011, the Minister of Finance informed the Legislative Assembly that approximately 1,300 Nunavut homeowners took advantage of the government's most recent Fuel Rebate Program. The minister also indicated that the government spent between \$600,000 and \$700,000 on the program, and the program, which was not renewed, provided approximately \$500 per recipient.

Mr. Speaker, the minister alluded to some math skills, and although I may not have the math skills as the finance minister, I can say with certainty that \$700,000 amounts to much less than 1 percent of the government's total operations and maintenance budget. An extra \$500 can make a real difference for many of our homeowners and families.

Can the minister indicate what criteria his department is using in determining

whether a rebate program of this type is affordable and necessary? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for his question. He has obviously done his research. Perhaps he can have a copy of my briefing note.

Yes, indeed, a lot of Nunavummiut took advantage of the program and it was close to \$700,000, perhaps a bit more. There were a few applications that were denied. The basic criterion would be if you were the homeowner, it would be the number one thing. Of course, we would have to look at the cost of fuel and that factor.

I am cognizant of our fiscal framework, what funds are available. I hope that if we can do it as a government, we would be able to fund within. Again, I would have to go to the Financial Management Board and present them with all the options and all the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to announcing his decision on this issue before the end of our current winter sitting, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Hickes knows well

from following me over the years, I seldom commit to anything, not if I know absolutely that I can do it. I will not commit, but I will assure yourself, your colleagues, and my colleagues that our department is working very hard to see if it's possible. If it is, hopefully, there will be some good news. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 007 – 4(1): Revisions to Medical Travel Policy

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

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's Statement, the Department of Health recently amended the Medical Travel Policy. Can the minister provide an update on when the Medical Travel Policy was changed and why no effort was made to inform the public of changes to the policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question from the hon. member. The department introduced a revised Client Travel Policy and guidelines as of June 2013 and this is expiring March 31, 2018. The travel policy is widely available on the website and the health centres are very much well aware of the travel policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Medical Travel Policy was amended during the summer of 2013. Can the minister provide further detail on what specific changes were made to the policy and, if she cannot do so right now, would she be prepared to table a description of those changes in this House before the end of this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purpose of revising the Client Travel Policy and guidelines is to ensure that client medical travel is applied consistently in each region across the territory. Parts of the travel policy at this time and an escort, as an example, need to be authorized by a director when there is no need for a legal consent by a parent or guardian or a client who has a mental or physical condition of a nature that he or she is not able to travel without additional assistance or a unilingual Inuit language-speaking client requires travel to an approved centre where interpretive services are not available. The client only needs one of those criteria to be approved for an escort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In comparing the old version of the Client Travel Policy to the new Medical Travel Policy, I note that the criteria for approving client escorts, especially for elders, no longer apply. The new criteria give no special consideration to our elders and the focus has shifted to

unilingual Inuit who are travelling to an approved centre where interpretive services are not available. Can the minister provide a clear justification for this significant change to her department's Medical Travel Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that. To clarify that, a unilingual elder receives an escort if there are no interpretive services available at their destination. Before the change, it was elders 65 and over who would automatically have had an escort.

I want to assure the member that if there's an elder who is requiring a medical escort for any other reasons I specified earlier, such as not being in a physical condition or nature that they need additional assistance, and they are denied an escort, there is a provision for them to contact the Patient Relations Office to discuss the denial. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 008 – 4(1): Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

In April of 2013, the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table, which is co-chaired by the Minister of

Community and Government Services, was held in Churchill. The round table brings together leaders from the Nunavut and Manitoba governments, as well as a number of Kivalliq communities. My community of Arviat is one of them that participate at the round table.

Can the minister confirm when and where the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table will be held this year if there is one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the next Hudson Bay round table is in the planning stage at this point. However, I am not able to confirm the dates or the location at this time. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the issues that were discussed at last year's meeting of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table was the plan to develop a winter road between northern Manitoba and the Kivalliq. At that time, there was a commitment made on the part of the Nunavut and Manitoba ministers to raise this issue with the federal government. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to take that as notice, not having been involved in the previous Hudson Bay round table meetings. However, I will get back to the member with the information. Thank you.

Speaker: The minister has taken the question as notice and I will move to the next member on my list. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 009 – 4(1): Medical Travel Policy on Escorts

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was starting to think that you weren't going to get to me. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Part of the question was already asked, but it's a real concern and there are many questions about it. It's always confusing as to how to answer about medical escorts for elders and also for people going for surgery. They are sent to Winnipeg without an escort and then they just get sent home. There are a number of times that this has occurred. Doctors refuse to perform surgery if the patient doesn't have an escort.

I would like to ask the minister: who makes those decisions? Who is the actual person who makes the decisions? If that person is going to be sent south, who approves or denies the escorts? May I get a reply on that, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague

for asking that question. The escort policy is for people going to medical travel. In regard to your question, the nurses are the first ones to make a determination for referrals. They're not the ones who make the decision on who is sent out for out-of-territory treatment. They do make recommendations, for example, when a person is to be sent out, the nurse will make a request if the patient needs an escort. It is the three regional directors of health who approve requests for escorts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are situations like that where patients are just sent home without anything being done because they will not have anybody to help them after the surgery. Maybe the people who put together the itineraries are aware of the patients' needs for assistance down there. Are the medical travel people made aware of the patients' needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When patients are to be sent out for medical treatment or to be sent back home, their needs are known and their travel itineraries are prepared accordingly. As I stated earlier, in the new policy, if they fit into one of the criteria for having an escort, for example, if a person has physical problems and requires help, (interpretation ends) without additional assistance, (interpretation) that's what it means when they need physical

assistance and therefore require an escort. The nurses make a determination on this and are required to report to the regional director to say whether or not the person needs an escort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. It has to be clarified. Whenever someone asks you a question, you don't know what kind of answer to give them. Do I understand that the nurses in charge are not responsible for the policy? So Rankin Inlet is the one that is approached for the Kivalliq region, not from the community then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Community nurses or practitioners recommend escorts and directors of health are responsible for approving them. Denials can be appealed to regional directors. Patient Relations also assists with complaints related to medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 010 – 4(1): Impact of 2014 Federal Budget on Nunavut

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance.

Last month's federal budget indicated that the Government of Canada will, and I quote, "work with territorial governments and local municipalities to develop transportation infrastructure in the North."

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that adequate and appropriate marine infrastructure for Nunavut communities, especially for Pond Inlet, should clearly be classified as transportation infrastructure.

Can the minister indicate when formal discussions with the federal government will begin on this aspect of the federal budget? Has this started? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I know that marine infrastructure has been a priority for him for several years.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I'm unable to indicate what discussions have been ongoing. I know that my colleague from Community and Government Services or his officials have been in discussions and negotiations with Canada on a number of agreements related to the infrastructure fund, the Building Canada Fund, and the gas tax, but I'm unable to provide any specific details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) During the final sitting of the last Legislative Assembly, I asked

the minister to clarify whether funding from the federal Building Canada Fund could be accessed by the territorial government for the purpose of constructing urgently needed marine infrastructure in Nunavut communities, including Pond Inlet.

When I asked the minister this question back in September, he indicated that his officials were "in dialogue" with the federal government on the question of funding eligibility. Does the minister have an answer for us today on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have an answer for Mr. Enook today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, (interpretation ends) hon. minister. (interpretation) Last month's federal budget announced that the Government of Canada is "committed to launching the new Building Canada Fund by March 31, 2014," and has been consulting with stakeholders to "finalize the parameters of the new Building Canada Fund." Can the minister indicate what input our government has been providing to Ottawa during this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the

question. Mr. Speaker, I believe that that announcement was initially made in Budget 2013. I believe that officials from CGS and all provinces and territories have been in discussions with Canada for the better part of the year to flesh out the details on how those funds can be utilized. But again, I can't give any specific details. I'm actually awaiting the conclusion of those discussions as well because it obviously has an impact on our future capital planning process. I'm sure that when my colleague, the Minister of CGS, has that information, he will be making it available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Mr. Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 011 – 4(1): Medical Travel Policy on Escorts

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By the way, I am not Mr. Aivilik, just to remind you.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, this is in regard to my questions earlier to the Minister of Health for further clarification as I believe she didn't quite finish her reply.

Did the minister say that the head nurses in the communities are the ones who make a decision on whether or not a patient will need an escort? Is that what she said? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member

for asking for clarification. The nurses include the head nurses, but it's their directors that I was talking about. As well, the head nurses also have higher-ups they can turn to. The head nurses are responsible to directors and if the directors turn down any request for escorts, appeals can be made to regional directors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand that the head nurses have no authority to approve the medical escorts for patients or they don't have any recommendations at all? Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, we are reviewing the policy. They provided a new policy in the NWT to see what route would be better to fix it so that one person will have the authority and that individual is available 24/7, and they have one telephone number to get approval for a patient to have a medical escort. I'm not saying that we're going to use it right away, but we're reviewing it to see whether or not that will be running properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 012 – 4(1): Medical Travel Policy for Unilingual Patients

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get clarification for my colleague's question so that we can all have an understanding with the Minister of Health.

I would like to say first that sometimes we don't know what's going on if we haven't experienced it. We all could speak English here in the House, (interpretation ends) except for Mr. Shooyook. (interpretation) I am proud that he cannot, but even I have difficulties understanding how stressful a situation they are facing. I am fluent in English, perhaps just fairly fluent.

In my opinion, this policy currently in place causes the greatest concerns, as it states here that a unilingual Inuk can be sent out alone for medical treatment. This is, in my estimation, extremely distressing and hurtful, especially for unilingual Inuit elders.

I want to ask this question. If an emergency occurs on an aircraft, what plans are in place to ensure the safety of unilingual medical passengers and how would they be assisted within the aircraft? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a hypothetical question. (interpretation) However, to ensure clarity, this Medical Travel Policy was adopted in June 2013 and this policy can be reviewed at any time in our future, although it is set to expire on March 31,

2018. This means that these policies can be reviewed at any time.

The member is truthful in commenting about elders. Last year prior to June, those who were aged 65 or over automatically qualified for an escort. However, due to the mandate of the Department of Health, the priority is to provide medical treatment for our residents. When medical patients require medical treatment, the first priority of the department is to ensure they are treated.

We have heard at the review when the policy was being overhauled, some of the patients were surveyed, including employees on this policy. The consulting company identified, DPRA, conducted a review of the policy prior to changes being made. We heard from some of the elders that they would prefer not to have an escort. Not all elders want an escort for their medical trips.

The criteria in place, of which five of the criteria are constantly mentioned, is that if you qualify under any of these five criteria, then an escort would be provided. That is what this policy states. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, (interpretation ends) hon. minister. (interpretation) This issue around escorts, based on my understanding, revolves around funding. I know the department expends large amounts of funds and they continually have to look for more funding and streamlining costs where possible. However, are we properly servicing our

fellow Inuit? Are we providing adequate services to elders, particularly unilingual Inuit who can't be escorted anymore?

There are a myriad of actual misspending of public funds in other areas. We even have to expend funds to fix issues that we shouldn't have ever spent. I think we are all in agreement, as the caucus agreed to review these issues that cause the biggest problems, especially inefficient use of public funds.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state here that I am not accusing anyone of financial mismanagement, especially related to elders who happen to be unilingual and who may require an escort. I will always maintain that this is proper usage of these funds, as we have to serve our unilingual Inuit by providing escorts where necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I want to raise this question. If an elder or any patient is denied an escort when they state their preference for an escort for medical travel, as per the earlier statement of the minister, there are other avenues to look at if their escort request is denied, (interpretation ends) to appeal. (interpretation) They have an opportunity to appeal. If my request isn't approved, I can appeal. My question is: how long does the appeal process take? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for his question. There are different avenues that they can take. The first is the denial of a request. They can

call the regional directors and the appeal will take a very short time.

If there was another denial through that process, they can go through the Patient Relations Office. That office can make a decision right away and it might take a few days to come to a conclusion. The individual will be kept updated on what's happening at the office.

At times, they might make a decision right away or it might take a few days to review what circumstances took place. It might possibly take over a week before they arrive at a decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the hon. minister for her response. Going through the appeals process, can the minister indicate to the people of Nunavut and the House that if anyone who is going through the appeals process and are denied the request for an escort, the patients will get a response prior to the date of their departure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for his question. If the individual calls the regional director, they will get an instant response. We don't know the reason why their request for an escort was denied. We try to make sure that the problem is rectified as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to Item 7. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request [consent] to go to Item 5 in our *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is requesting unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to recognize an important visitor to Nunavut and to our Legislative Assembly, Mr. Duane Smith, the Inuit Circumpolar Council of Canada President and the Inuit Circumpolar Council International Vice-President. Mr. Smith first got elected to ICC in the summer of 1998.

Mr. Smith is presently on a multi-year, Canada-led international research body coordinating and documenting data on the Arctic through traditional knowledge and western science.

Mr. Smith is also past co-chair of the World Conservation Union Arctic Specialist Group Sustainable Use Initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: We will proceed to Item 7. Written Questions. There are none.

Returns to Written Questions. There are none. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. None. Item 10. Petitions. None. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. None.

Members, we will take a break for 20 minutes.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:41 and resumed at 16:04*

Speaker: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

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

Committee Report 001 – 4(1): Report of the Striking Committee on the Recommended Structure and Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting the Report of the Striking Committee on the Recommended Structure and Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary.

Mr. Speaker, Rule 83 of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* requires that a striking committee be established to report and recommend to the House, with all convenient speed, the membership of the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will recall, the Striking Committee was established by way of motion on the first sitting day of the Fourth Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, standing committees perform a number of important oversight functions on the activities of the government through:

- The scrutiny of proposed legislation;
- The review of departmental and corporate main estimates, capital estimates, and business plans;
- The consideration of annual reports of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly; and
- The study of specific public policy issues and other matters referred to committees by the House.

The work of standing committees allows for significant public and stakeholder input into the development of new legislation. The hearings that standing committees hold in public on the reports of the Auditor General, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Languages Commissioner, and other independent officers of the Legislative Assembly serve to enhance government transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the permanent public record and

Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I wish to take this opportunity to review the mandate and structure of each of the Legislative Assembly's standing committees.

As my colleagues will recall, the Regular Members' Caucus of the Legislative Assembly determined, in the interest of stability and consistency at the beginning of our term of office, that the standing committee structure that was in place at the time of dissolution of the Third Legislative Assembly should be maintained. However, as my colleagues will also recall, our recent Full Caucus Retreat in Kugluktuk announced that this Legislative Assembly's midterm leadership review, which will take place during the fall of 2015, will also consider the effectiveness of the standing committee structure.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts will have oversight responsibility for the government's two main central agencies in addition to a number of territorial corporations and Crown agencies. I would note that the standing committee has the explicit authority to review the operations and annual reports of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which I anticipate will be a priority of the committee, given the scale of the corporation's operations.

The standing committee will consider the government's public accounts and the reports of the Auditor General in addition to the annual reports of the Chief Electoral Officer, Information and Privacy Commissioner, Languages Commissioner, and Representative for Children and Youth. The standing committee is also empowered to

consider issues related to the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. All regular MLAs will serve on this standing committee.

The Standing Committee on Legislation will also be composed of all regular MLAs. The standing committee has the mandate to review all bills that receive second reading in the Legislative Assembly, with the exception of appropriation Acts and House Bills, which are automatically referred to the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to draw the attention of the House to those provisions in the terms of reference for this standing committee that explicitly provide for the opportunity to scrutinize from time to time the regulations that are proposed and/or passed by the government.

As members are aware, a number of important matters are addressed by regulation. While the government has the authority to pass regulations without formal Legislative Assembly approval, the standing committee can and should play a role in the scrutiny of those regulations that are of significant importance and interest to the public. I would note, for example, that the Parliament of Canada maintains a joint committee that is composed of both Senators and Members of Parliament. That committee has the mandate to scrutinize federal regulations.

The Standing Committee on Social Wellness will have oversight responsibility for the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Department of Education, the Department of Family Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Justice, and Nunavut Arctic College. The standing committee

will be composed of six regular MLAs. As members will note, its focus is on those departments and agencies with responsibility for programs and services that focus directly on people.

The Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development will have oversight responsibility for the Department of Community and Government Services, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, the Department of Environment, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The standing committee will be composed of six regular MLAs. As members will note, its focus is on those departments and agencies with responsibility for such matters as infrastructure, resource management, and housing.

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges will consider the operation of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly and any other matter referred to it by the House. Five MLAs will sit on this standing committee, including a ministerial representative.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Striking Committee. Consequently, I move that it be received and adopted by the House, and that the Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, which is attached to this report as an appendix, be entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Hicke. Do members agree that the report of the Striking Committee be received and adopted by the House and that the Terms of Reference for the Standing

Committee of the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, which is attached to the report as an appendix, be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. There is agreement.*

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 008 – 4(1): Chief Medical Officer of Health’s 2012-2013 Tobacco Control Act Annual Report

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Chief Medical Officer of Health’s 2012-13 *Tobacco Control Act* Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister Mike.

Tabled Document 009 – 4(1): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report for the Period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

Hon. Johnny Mike: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report for the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 1 – 4(1) filed with the Clerk.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister Okalik.

Tabled Document 010 – 4(1): Implementation of Inuit Societal Values Report 2013

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Implementation of Inuit Societal Values Report 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister Peterson.

Tabled Document 011 – 4(1): 2012-2013 Public Accounts

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Public Accounts for 2012-13. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. We will now proceed to Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 008 – 4(1): Appointments to Standing Committees – Notice

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 10, 2014, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aivilik, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with

my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Motion 009 – 4(1): Suspension of the Member for Uqqummiut – Notice

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 10, 2014, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the hon. minister from Netsilik, that Mr. Samuel Nuqingaq, Member for Uqqummiut, be suspended immediately from sittings of the House and meetings of its committees and caucuses until such time as the House reviews the status of this matter prior to the spring 2014 sitting of the Legislative Assembly and makes a determination as to whether it should extend the suspension, end the suspension, or take other action.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date – Notice

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 10,

2014, I will move that Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 10, 2014, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 16. Motions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it... .

Speaker: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): I apologize. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Joanasie.

Motion 008 – 4(1): Appointments to Standing Committees

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Let me try this again.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Striking Committee has reported to the House;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aivilik, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER I move that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Legislation: Tony Akoak, Pat Angnakak, Joe Enook, George Hickee, David Joanasié, Steve Mapsalak, Simeon Mikkungwak, Allan Rumbolt, Alexander Sammurtok, Joe Savikataaq, and Isaac Shooyook;

AND FURTHER I move that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts: Tony Akoak, Pat Angnakak, Joe Enook, George Hickee, David Joanasié, Steve Mapsalak, Simeon Mikkungwak, Allan Rumbolt, Alexander Sammurtok, Joe Savikataaq, and Isaac Shooyook;

AND FURTHER I move that the following members be appointed to the

Standing Committee on Social Wellness: Pat Angnakak, George Hickee, David Joanasié, Simeon Mikkungwak, Alexander Sammurtok, and Isaac Shooyook;

AND FURTHER I move that the following members be appointed as alternate members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness: Joe Enook, Steve Mapsalak, and Joe Savikataaq;

AND FURTHER I move that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development: Tony Akoak, Joe Enook, Steve Mapsalak, Allan Rumbolt, and Joe Savikataaq;

AND FURTHER I move that the following members be appointed as alternate members of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development: David Joanasié, Simeon Mikkungwak, and Alexander Sammurtok;

AND FURTHER I move that the following members be appointed as Members of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges: Joe Enook, George Hickee, David Joanasié, Steve Mapsalak, and the Hon. Keith Peterson;

AND FURTHER I move that the following members be appointed as alternate members of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges: Pat Angnakak, Simeon Mikkungwak, and Joe Savikataaq.

(interpretation) That's it. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion has been carried. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Motion 009 – 4(1): Suspension of the Member for Uqqummiut

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

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, by virtue of Parliamentary privilege, enjoys the sole prerogative to regulate its own proceedings and internal affairs, including the discipline of members;

AND WHEREAS section 18 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly has the power to discipline its members;

AND WHEREAS the Member for Uqqummiut has been disciplined by the Management and Services Board on previous occasions for his unacceptable conduct;

AND WHEREAS it is the judgment of this House that public trust and confidence in the Legislative Assembly and the dignity and reputation of the

institution are best served if the Member for Uqqummiut does not take part in its proceedings;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that Mr. Samuel Nuqingaq, Member for Uqqummiut, be suspended immediately from sittings of the House and meetings of its committees and caucuses until such time as the House reviews the status of this matter prior to the spring 2014 sitting of the Legislative Assembly and makes a determination as to whether it should extend the suspension, end the suspension, or take other action;

AND FURTHER I move that the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly be authorized to impose such deductions on the member's indemnities and recoveries of his allowances as it deems appropriate;

AND FURTHER I move that the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly be authorized to impose such restrictions on the member's use of his constituency budget and Legislative Assembly funds as it deems appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I want to have a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand and sit down when I call your name. All those in favour, please stand.

Mr. Enook.

Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Savikataaq.

abstaining, 1. The motion is carried.
Thank you.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Ms. Angnakak.

Mr. Shooyook.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), I request the consent of this House to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sammurtok.

Ms. Ell.

Mr. Kuksuk.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 1 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Taptuna.

Ms. Ugyuk.

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Mike.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Peterson.

Bill 01 – An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date – First Reading

All those opposed, please stand and sit down when I call your name. All those opposed.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Okalik.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1 has been read for the first time. Thank you.

All those abstaining, please stand and sit down when I call your name. All those abstained.

Mr. Mapsalak.

Members, the results of the vote are as follows: those for the motion, 16; those against the motion, 2; and those

First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Member, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 2 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Mr. Peterson, please proceed.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2 has been read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), I request the consent of this House to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to waive the one-day waiting rule so that Bill 1 can be read today for the second time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 01 – An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date – Second Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Cambridge Bay, that Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* and the *Nunavut Elections Act* to provide for fixed dates for general elections every four years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1, which is a House Bill, is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Member, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2, which is a money bill, is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

We shall proceed to Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1 and Bill 2 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:34 and Committee resumed at 16:46*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order.

First of all, I would like to welcome Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio or watching the televised proceedings to the Committee of the Whole.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 1. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with Bill 1 and once completed, we will report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. As we proceed now to review the bill, I would like the individual who introduced the bill to go to the witness table. Mr. Speaker, if you can go to the witness table.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for appearing before us. As we proceed, I would like to ask if you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I would like to bring in my officials.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) These are written in English, so I'll state them in English. (interpretation ends) Joining me today are Sandy Kusugak, to my right, the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut, (interpretation) and to my left, (interpretation ends) Patrick Orr, Legal Counsel to Elections Nunavut.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr, welcome. We will proceed. Mr. Speaker, if you have any opening comments, you may now proceed. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*.

Mr. Chairman, the introduction of Bill 1 as the first piece of proposed legislation to be considered by the Fourth Legislative Assembly fulfills a commitment that we made to Nunavummiut at our recent caucus retreat in Kugluktuk.

As members will recall, caucus announced that amendments to the *Nunavut Elections Act* would be introduced which will result in territorial general elections being held every four years. Consequently, the next general election will take place on the last Monday in October of 2017. Mr. Chairman, as caucus indicated in its announcement, this measure will provide the government with a transparent, predictable, and manageable timeframe in which to achieve its goals.

I would also note that most provinces and territories have also passed legislation in recent years to provide for fixed election dates.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that the passage of this legislation would not restrict the exercise of the royal prerogative of dissolution and does not impact section 17 of the federal *Nunavut Act*. This prerogative could need to be exercised in the event of a catastrophic occurrence. Similar provisions exist in other jurisdictions' legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to confirm that the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, which drafted this bill at the direction of caucus, has indicated that the passage of legislation to provide for fixed election dates every four years in Nunavut will greatly facilitate Elections Nunavut's planning and operations.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, many of you are attending a Committee of the Whole meeting for the first time. We have procedures that we follow as regular MLAs. According to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. Those rules are pretty clear and as the Chair, I will remind you of those rules as required.

Are there any general comments? There are no general comments. Does the committee agree to begin the clause-by-clause review of the bill?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please refer to the white legislation binder at your desk for the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 1.

I believe you now have a copy of the bill in front of you, so I will proceed with the bill. Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): If you have any questions after I have received your approval, you may raise your hand so that I can recognize you. Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to Bill 1 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 1 can now immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for that. Mr. Speaker, do you have any closing remarks?

Speaker (interpretation): I will just say “thank you,” as I don’t have any closing

remarks at this time. I also thank my witnesses.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We’re now ready for the next stage of the bill. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Speaker and his witnesses out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. At this time, what is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Bill 1 was the only thing on the agenda for Committee of the Whole, I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report that Bill 1 is immediately ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Mapsalak is the

seconded. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date – Third Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 1, *An Act to Provide for a Fixed Election Date*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1 is now ready for assent.

Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 7:

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

11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 7, at 9:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:03*

Appendix – March 6, 2014



**Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of the
4th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

March 2014

Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts is to:

- Consider main estimates, capital estimates, departmental business plans and corporate business plans; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following Government of Nunavut departments, territorial corporations and Crown agencies:

- Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs;
- Department of Finance;
- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Nunavut Development Corporation;
- Qulliq Energy Corporation;
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission;
- Human Rights Tribunal;
- Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit;
- Legal Services Board;
- Liquor Licensing Board;
- Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council;
- Utility Rates Review Council; and
- Unless otherwise specified in the terms of reference for any other Standing Committee, all other boards and agencies of the Government of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee has additional responsibility for:

- Considering the Public Accounts of the Government of Nunavut and the reports of the Auditor General of Canada;
- Considering the annual reports of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut;
- Considering the annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut;
- Considering the annual reports of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut;
- Considering the annual reports of the Representative for Children and Youth; and
- Considering issues related to the Government of Nunavut's obligations with respect to the implementation of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Standing Committee on Legislation

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Legislation is to:

- Considering legislative proposals;
- Consider Bills referred by the House after Second Reading, pursuant to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly*;
- Consider regulations that are proposed and/or passed by the government; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

Standing Committee on Social Wellness

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness is to:

- Consider main estimates, capital estimates, departmental business plans and corporate business plans; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following Government of Nunavut departments and Crown agencies:

- Department of Culture and Heritage;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Family Services;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Justice; and
- Nunavut Arctic College.

Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development is to:

- Consider main estimates, capital estimates, departmental business plans and corporate business plans; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following Government of Nunavut departments and Crown agencies:

- Department of Community and Government Services;
- Department of Economic Development and Transportation;
- Department of Environment; and
- Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges is to:

- Consider the operation of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House with respect to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

Standing Committee Structure

