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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment

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(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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(Arviat South)

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(Tununiq)
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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
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(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

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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)
Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 4, 2014**

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase, 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 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, Members, Ministers, and staff. Welcome to the House. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 030 – 4(2):
Update on PASS**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. I say "good day" to the people of Igloolik and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to update my colleagues on a valuable Department of Education program being delivered by Nunavut Arctic College.

The Pathway to Adult Secondary School graduation program, PASS, provides the opportunity for Nunavut adults to obtain the remaining high school credits that they need to earn their High School Diploma. This can be done in their own communities, on their own time, outside of the high school environment.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Pathway to Adult Secondary School graduation program combines literacy, adult basic education, high school completion, and upgrading courses into one program. It requires a careful examination of each individual's previous course completions in order to develop a plan of action for that individual. Some individuals may only need to complete a few courses. However, for some, it may take a significantly longer time to achieve their high school graduation.

The first PASS course currently offered through a distance learning process, English 30-2, is currently up and running and a new course offering, Social Studies 20-2, began in January 2014.

(interpretation) PASS currently has 26 students enrolled in its programs in the following communities: Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit. The program will be extended into Sanikiluaq and Arctic Bay shortly and further expansion is anticipated for the fall of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, instructors deliver the online curriculum provided through the Alberta Distance Learning Centre. The college also provides trained supplemental instructors, computer equipment, Internet connectivity,

specialized training to use equipment, and space to learn, helping students enrolled in a PASS course succeed in meeting their learning goals so they may earn their High School Diploma.

(interpretation ends) The PASS program supports our commitment to helping all Nunavummiut get the education they need to achieve their career and employment goals. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 031 – 4(2):
Relocation of Cumberland Sound
Turbot Management Zone
Boundary**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut, especially those who are fishing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the relocation of the turbot management zone in Cumberland Sound.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to update my colleagues on a recent development that will further enhance the development of Nunavut's inshore turbot fishing industry, the recent relocation of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Zone Boundary line.

At the request of the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, and supported by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Minister of

Fisheries and Oceans Canada recently approved the relocation of the Cumberland Sound Turbot Management Zone Boundary from its current location to the 12-mile limit at the entrance to Cumberland Sound. The relocation of the boundary will be accompanied by a scientific study on the movements of turbot in the area, which DFO scientists will carry out this summer onboard the Government of Nunavut research vessel Nulijuk.

Fishermen in Pangnirtung have long known that most Cumberland Sound turbot spend the winter in shallower areas inside the existing boundary line, and then migrate to deeper waters beyond the boundary in the summer. The relocation of the boundary to the entrance of Cumberland Sound will allow our local fishermen full and protected access to this important resource. This will in turn allow for further development of the inshore fishery, especially during the open water seasons. The relocation of the boundary also removes the potential conservation threat of offshore vessels entering the sound to harvest turbot using quota from area 0B.

Mr. Speaker, this is another illustration of the ongoing success of the Nunavut Fisheries Strategy and the ongoing successes within the Nunavut fishing industry. With the current project to renew the fisheries strategy, we look forward to more successes in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Minister's Statement 032 – 4(2):
Syphilis Outbreak in Nunavut**

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to update the Assembly on the serious health concern on sexually transmitted infections. In particular, Nunavut is experiencing an outbreak and continued rise in the spread of syphilis.

Syphilis is a highly contagious disease that is spread by sexual activity. It is a preventable sexually transmitted infection. The treatment for syphilis is simple and routine, but if left untreated, it can lead to long-term health complications like heart and nervous system disease and even death. Syphilis can be passed from mother to child during pregnancy, which can have consequences to the unborn child.

Mr. Speaker, this preventable infection is alarmingly on the rise. We now have more than 110 diagnosed cases of syphilis and new cases continue to be identified.

It is very important that Nunavummiut are aware of the dangers of syphilis. People can have syphilis and not know it because they may not have any symptoms.

Mr. Speaker, if people participate in excessive drinking and drug use, it can cloud judgment and reduce inhibitions, which can lead to engaging in unprotected sex. The more sexual partners a person has, the greater the risk they may be exposed to a sexually transmitted infection. If anyone thinks

they may be at risk, I encourage them to speak to a health professional.

The Department of Health provides ongoing education and training to frontline health professionals. We promote safe sex messaging through our public awareness campaigns, including the importance of getting tested and using condoms. Free condoms are available at our health centres.

Getting tested for sexually transmitted infections, including syphilis, and getting the appropriate treatment at the time is essential. Syphilis can be cured with the right antibiotics if treated in time.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge Nunavummiut to be more sexually responsible and contact their health centre should they want more information and assistance in getting tested and treated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Minister's Statement 033 – 4(2): Long
Term Service Award Recipients 25
Years or More**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, we recently gave out long-term service awards to many employees. We continue to recognize our employees and their long-term commitment to our public service.

This past month, more than 200 people attended receptions in Rankin Inlet, Igloolik, and Cambridge Bay to

recognize more employees for their long-term service to our government.

At the reception in Rankin Inlet, staff were joined by our colleagues, Minister Sammurtok, Minister Quassa, and MLA Alexander Sammurtok.

Today, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Nunavut employees who have provided more than 25 years of service to our government. They are dedicated public servants who have contributed to the creation of Nunavut and continue to contribute to the growth of our territory.

On behalf of the government, I want to extend our congratulations to Alexander Sammurtok (Community and Government Services), Mark Gordon (Community and Government Services), Rebecca Kudloo (Education), Eva Noah (Nunavut Arctic College), Patty Greenley (Community and Government Services), Eva Ohokak (Finance), Barbara Harvey (Health), Annie Kamingoak (Health), and Donna Olsen-Hakongak (Justice), who have all contributed more than 25 years of service, and to Marion Thorsen Love (Finance), who has contributed more than 30 years of service to our government.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honouring the individual employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for (interpretation

ends) Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 3: Members' Statements
Member's Statement 075 – 4(2): The
Need for a 24-Hour Care Facility
in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to address the growing need for another 24-hour care facility in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there are continuing care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik. Although these facilities were not filled to capacity when they first opened, there is now a waiting list for beds.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that the government did not expect the need for 24-hour care to grow as fast as it has.

Mr. Speaker, in the community of Rankin Inlet, there are a number of individuals who are waiting for placement in a 24-hour care facility. I encourage the government to consider building its next continuing care facility in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, if a continuing care home were to open in Rankin Inlet today, I am confident that eight to ten beds would be filled this year alone.

Not only are there individuals waiting for a place in such a facility, but patients from Rankin Inlet who are currently in other communities could come home to Rankin Inlet.

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

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

**Member's Statement 076 – 4(2):
Chesterfield Inlet Qajaq Building
Program**

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. I send my regards to all of you. I have some good news and it's happening in my hometown of Chesterfield Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to recognize and pay tribute to a great project in my home community of Chesterfield Inlet. This is a Qajaq program whereby students get to build and then use the *Qajait* that they build.

Mr. Speaker, this program is overseen by Mr. Glen Brocklebank, who has been teaching at the Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet for over ten years. In this timeframe, we have built an inventory of 27 *Qajait* and have had over 200 students participate in the program.

Typically, the students will build and repair the *Qajait* in the spring, and then when school starts in the fall, they get to use them on weekend camps with the school. They have even used these *Qajait* out in Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, as this program is celebrating its 10th anniversary this summer, I would like to congratulate Mr. Brocklebank, his volunteers, and all of their students who have kept this traditional skill alive. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 077 – 4(2): 2014
High School Graduates of Pond
Inlet**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, in June of every year, school is winding down and it's break time and students are happy that they're going to be finishing school.

I want to celebrate along with the people in my community about the grade 12 graduation. We are always very proud of graduates who are finishing high school. As MLAs, we encourage them. Even though they have completed grade 12, they can pursue higher education. I hope they all do that.

In Pond Inlet, they are going to be having a big celebration tonight. My heart is up there with them all, but I have work to do here and I apologize for that because I'm trying to do good work here too.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge our grade 12 graduates:

Jordan Aglak

Lorena Idlout

Lila Koonoo

Emanuel Maktar

Nina Mucpa

Roseanne Ootoovak

Rita Mary Peterloosie

Joseph Primeau

Roger Kaiya Qamaniq

Elizabeth Quasa, and

Megan Sangoya.

We are very proud of you and hope you will continue with your education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 078 – 4(2): Cape Dorset NTEP Graduates

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the Nunavut Teacher Education Program students who recently graduated. I made a mistake when I made my statement about them yesterday. They will have their graduation tomorrow, not yesterday. I made a mistake on the date and I apologize for that.

I'm very happy for the graduates. They have completed what they set out to learn, which is to become teachers. Now things are being set up for them so that they can go to work when the school year starts. I am very proud of them. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for (interpretation ends) Arviat North (interpretation) and Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

Member's Statement 079 – 4(2): Happy Third Anniversary to Son

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to everyone in Nunavut, especially in my home community of Arviat and Whale Cove. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to be able to stand in the House.

On this day, it has been three years since June 4, 2011. In Baker Lake, I received a new daughter-in-law when my son married. The Member for Baker Lake should remember that day; it was a very bad blizzard. You couldn't see anything anywhere on that day. That was my eldest son's wedding day. It's their anniversary today and I want to celebrate with them. I want to thank them our new relatives from Baker Lake. They joined our family when my son married and I got a new daughter-in-law.

Even though that day was not very nice, they organized it and had a feast that night to celebrate. We still thank them today. The person who led the ceremony had to come into town too, but the

airplane couldn't come in. They came in at night instead.

I can't be home, but I know my family can see me here and I hug them and I hug my daughter-in-law and son. I'll see you in a few days. I would like to celebrate this day along with my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 080 – 4(2): Full Recovery of Polar Bear Attack Victims

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to rise in the House today for the people of Arctic Bay. My grandson and his in-law were here after they had been mauled. They didn't look really good, but I heard that they're planning to go hunting again today, either to the floe edge or somewhere else.

Tonight in Arctic Bay, they're holding a special celebration and feast to celebrate their recovery. I am so happy that my grandson is going to be able to go hunting again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 111 – 4(2): Incorporating Inuit Societal Values

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's great. I say "good day" to the people of Arctic Bay and Nunavut. I stand here today to say that I'm going to be working on the Inuit culture and I'll be working really hard on it with the Minister of Family Services.

Now that we have our own government in Nunavut, I heard that once we got our government, we would be able to bring back our culture to the forefront. With that situation, I know that the minister is working to that effect and I am proud of the minister for that. As long as you're the minister here, will you continue to work on promoting and using Inuit culture? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Quttiktuq for that question. With respect to Inuit societal values, when this bill was passed, it was one of the five that were passed.

The Department of Family Services is putting together a training program for social workers and they're trying to include in that curriculum *per se* having good relations with other people and confidential matters that no other people have to hear and make sure that they're

kept confidential, and Inuit trying to do something about Inuit problems. That's all under having good relations. Being welcoming will be the other thing. That will be the teaching material that will be taught to social workers.

If a client is not happy how he or she is being helped, then that person would have somewhere to turn to. *Pijittirniq* would be helping others and help each other to deal with social issues. We have many resources that can do that for us in the Department of Family Services. Agreeing with each other is the other.

The social worker and the client need to make sure that they follow the policies. The social workers have to deal with the young people and people and they will work hard to make sure that young people are kept out of harm's way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that, but I feel very strongly about promoting Inuit culture.

We have let go of some of the ways that Inuit used to counsel other people. Before we were affected by the southern culture, we had a very strong counselling system. It's even stronger than the present judicial system that is here now. I was born when that was still being used.

I'm going to work very hard to make sure that Inuit culture and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* are used. I want Inuit to be able to become totally involved in

Inuit counselling and social work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I think that was a general comment, not a question. Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 112 – 4(2): Contacting Inmates with Family

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

On behalf of all the inmates and their families in Nunavut, they need to contact each other once in a while and they seem to be denied of that. I'm just wondering what is the procedure when a family member wants to contact their family members while they're incarcerated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, each inmate is entitled to phone privileges with their families when they're custody. That has been an issue, from what I understand, so I would like to learn more about the member's concern so that I can convey it to the proper authorities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. I have been in contact with a couple of my constituents and they tell me that they go to the

RCMP and ask if they can contact their family member. They are told that they are not allowed to. I would sure like to get that fixed up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) During investigations, certain steps are required of the RCMP. I would need more information if there are other circumstances that inmates may be under for me to reply to that type of question at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 113 – 4(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation General Rate Increase

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq and all of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

In March of this year, QEC applied for an 8.6 [percent] rate increase across all classes. Yesterday, QEC announced that it received approval for a 7.1 percent increase.

Mr. Speaker, it's got to be very clear that anything which minimizes power rate increases on private homeowners and businesses should be welcomed, and it

appears that the Utility Rates Review Council took a very close look at QEC's application.

Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of URRC's report on QEC's general rate application before the end of this week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe that there are requirements under the Act to make sure that the documents are public. I'll do whatever I can to make sure they're provided to everyone in our territory. I thank my colleague for the question and I look forward to filing the report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut recognize that the GN and QEC cannot control the world price of oil. However, Nunavummiut also recognize that QEC must seek every opportunity to control its own costs and expenditures.

QEC's recent general rate application included requests for changes to its terms and conditions of service. Can the minister outline what major changes have been approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, the new board and the new administration of QEC have taken a lot of steps in trying to contain their costs and reducing overhead in certain areas. They are taking all the steps that they can to make sure that the costs are contained and the rates aren't passed on to the customers throughout our territory. I have been very impressed so far with the work of the new board and the administration to date. I look forward to filing updates on what they have done, perhaps, in the next sitting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Minister of Family Services informed the House that the government has recently completed a new food price survey "in every store in every community in Nunavut."

As the minister is very much aware, utility prices are fixed costs for businesses, and businesses are likely to pass their increases on to their customers, especially large retailers that do not qualify for assistance under the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program.

Can the minister indicate if QEC will be cooperating with other GN departments to evaluate the impact of this power rate increase on the cost of food and other necessities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have been in good discussions with the new board and the administration in making sure that the costs are contained to a minimum. I'll do whatever I can to assist with our government in trying to make sure that our costs are transparent for everyone to see. I look forward to working with my colleagues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 114 – 4(2): Human Resource Management

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

As the minister will recall, the 2010 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut, it found that it took an average of 318 to fill a vacant GN position. As of December 31, 2013, 1,040 GN positions stood vacant.

Last year, the Department of Human Resources was dissolved and its functions were transferred to the Department of Finance and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Can the minister indicate what impact this change has had in reducing the time it takes to fill vacant positions in this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Mr. Speaker, when the Auditor General of Canada issued a report, indeed, it was 318 days and I believe she also indicated that 181 of those 318 days were due to departments taking their time getting the necessary paperwork to Human Resources. From the time it got to HR, it was 137.

I am very pleased, as of December 13 of 2013, I believe it's down to 78 days from the time HR gets the necessary paperwork. I'm not saying that's the best we can do, but it's certainly moving in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that there is no perfect approach to managing human resources in the public sector. Some governments in Canada have a very centralized approach to this function while others have a more decentralized approach.

The GNWT, back when we were still the Northwest Territories, for example... . Sorry. The GNWT, for example, has recently gone back to having a

centralized department of human resources.

Can the minister indicate if the government's upcoming program review exercise will consider the government's current approach to human resource management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we have considered that, but I do know that we have delegated human resource authorities to some of the departments. We will be auditing some of the departments to ensure compliance with the overall HR policies. We are stressing to all departments with human resource responsibilities that they must adhere to our overall policies. We are working very closely with them.

We are also working internally to establish the standards of service for every step of the way for a competition so that everybody understands the importance of the competition process, and then we can lower the 78 days to an even lower number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, a number of questions have also been asked during our current sitting regarding abuse of casual staffing process.

Can the minister indicate if the government's new approach to human resource management has given his department adequate tools with which to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. Of course, we do have the *Public Service Act*, which gives me authority to do a number of things. We are reviewing the Human Resources Manual to update it to meet the current climate. We are reviewing the whole casual employment history. I've got a long list of casuals who have, amazingly, for many departments, been working as casuals for more than three years, which was certainly a surprise to me.

I have asked my officials to look into many of those files, but we will see how it goes. The message is getting out to all the departments that abuse of casual employment is something we're not going to condone. I think I answered an earlier question this sitting, convert them to term or put them out to competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 115 – 4(2): The Need for a 24-Hour Care Facility

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation

ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement, I discussed the need for a 24-hour care facility in Rankin Inlet. The Minister of Finance, as Chair of the Financial Management Board, brings forward the government's capital plans to the Executive Council each year.

Would the minister be willing to work with his colleagues, the ministers of the departments of Health, Family Services, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to prepare a business case for establishing a 24-hour continuing care facility in Rankin Inlet? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Interesting question from my colleague. Mr. Speaker, with the unfortunate position of being the Minister of Finance, I have to say that the buck stops here.

In the capital planning process, through the Financial Management Board, we send out a call letter every spring, I just don't have precise dates, to all the departments asking them to bring forward their capital requirements. All departments, of course, respond, including Family Services, the health department, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, with all of their capital, then it goes into the DM level and sent to the Accountability Committee, and then it comes to the Financial Management Board with the recommendations of what the capital

should be. Usually, at the start of the process, it would be well over \$200 million and we try to get it down to an amount that we can reasonably afford within the overall fiscal framework for the Government of Nunavut.

As Mr. Sammurtok will recall, in the winter session, we approved \$150 million in capital for 2014-15 and now we are currently looking at capital carryovers of \$149 million, so we're already at \$300 million in carryovers plus approved capital, and then the capital is coming up for the fall session. I don't know what that will be.

If the Department of Family Services can make a good case to the other departments... Remember that we need schools, we need health centres, we need hospitals, we need tank farms, and we need community halls. I have heard the entire list. There's a tremendous demand for capital in Nunavut. Of course, I'm not saying that continuing care facilities aren't important, they are, but they have to be considered in the overall context of what all the capital needs are of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, all too often, good initiatives fall by the sideways because there is not enough collaboration between the different departments or agencies, which all have a share in addressing the related issues.

Can the minister clarify how he works with his colleagues to ensure that all aspects of Nunavut's development,

capital, and operational are addressed in a collaborative manner? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, the cabinet had a cabinet retreat in Kugaaruk and then with our colleagues, we met in Kugluktuk for the Full Caucus Retreat to set the mandate for our government, which includes working with all of the MLAs to deliver projects and much needed capital across Nunavut.

I recall that in September 2004, we had a Full Caucus Retreat in Arviat, in fact, and we actually talked about continuing care facilities. We wanted to have a continuing care facility in every community of Nunavut. Ultimately, there were only two continuing care facilities built, one in Gjoa Haven and one in Igloolik. The initial cost went from \$4 million to well over, I believe, \$15 million to \$20 million and annual O&M costs of over \$3 million to keep those facilities operational.

I meet with my colleagues on a regular basis through the Financial Management Board process, through cabinet strategy, and through cabinet meetings. I met individually or in Full Caucus meetings with all MLAs as equals where we discuss these important issues in Nunavut.

Our government understands what the needs are. It's just a matter of being able to afford everything. It's very challenging to meet all of the needs in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to bringing forward the issue of a 24-hour continuing care facility for Rankin Inlet when he next addresses the government's capital planning priorities? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I will not commit. My colleagues are here, the Minister of Family Services, the Minister of Health, all of the ministers are here, and I'm sure their staff are listening out there. If it is an important issue, they are probably already working on their capital for the fall. We will see how it goes, but I can't commit to what projects will come forward in the fall sitting, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 116 – 4(2): Evaluating Homelessness

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

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the minister made a statement regarding

homelessness in Nunavut. It is quite clear that the way we define homelessness makes a big difference in what the numbers really tell us. In the community of Cape Dorset, there is a long list of individuals who are, in fact, homeless. That list is the waiting list for public housing.

Can the minister explain how her staff is studying the issue of homelessness and whether or not they take into consideration such information as the number of individuals in communities who are desperately waiting for public housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member, Mr. Joanasie, for his question. When we did a survey on homelessness, Family Services staff went to Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. We did not really do the waiting list for public housing.

We want to be able to do a study on every homeless person in Nunavut. We would like to do a waiting list for public housing as well. The study was done in 2010 by the housing corporation for public housing. The homeless people stay with their family or go to other communities. With respect to the evaluation of homelessness, as a government, we are trying to do something about the people who are homeless. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that homelessness is not a simple issue. There are many factors which contribute to the problem. Can the minister provide an update on how she and her officials work with representatives of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address community needs for public housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The Nunavut Housing Corporation does the housing survey and we will work with Nunavut Housing Corporation officials and the people who live in tents or shacks and other places.

We are trying something for those homeless people because there is nothing written in our policy to deal with that right now for the homeless people. I will make sure that we will do everything we can do to make sure that we help the homeless people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm whether she and her staff will be visiting other communities, such as Cape Dorset or Kimmirut, for example, to evaluate the number of people who are truly homeless? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. I can tell the member that the survey that was done is a good start and we can go back to the communities to find out exactly what we should be doing.

When you want to find out as Members of this House, not just in this legislature, when you want to find those important issues and you want to find out exactly what they are, and the minister and the Department of Family Services want to find out what we can do.

The member is asking whether we can go back to the communities and we will go from there to find out more about homeless people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 117 – 4(2): Iqaluit Air Quality

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

Mr. Speaker, as my questions were directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services, there was a lot of concern about the air quality here in Iqaluit due to the “dumpcano,” as it has been coined.

After yesterday’s session, I was informed by the Minister of CG&S that the Department of Health actually has the responsibility as there is a potential for human impact, that the Department

of Health is actually responsible for air quality testing.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health today whether the department has conducted any air quality testing in the city of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Tasiluk for asking that question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health does not monitor outdoor air quality. That is the role of the Department of Environment.

The Department of Environment and Health are currently working with Health Canada to arrange for air monitoring equipment to be deployed in Iqaluit. There are currently no firm timelines of information on what will be measured, and we have been advised that it is difficult logistically to set up this type of equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe tomorrow I'll have questions for the Minister of Environment.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the minister whether there are minimum thresholds for toxic substances in the air established in the territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Tasiluk for that question. As we're not really able to identify the air quality at this time, we are working very closely with the City of Iqaluit, the Department of Environment, and Community and Government Services, especially the fire chief and the city folks, and we're continuing to collect information on the location of the smoke in the community to learn more about the pattern of exposure.

The chief medical officer of health has issued public service announcements to help people make the right decisions on what they can do to protect themselves from smoke exposure and what to do if they feel that they are not able to manage their own symptoms. In the public service announcements, part of the announcement was to stay indoors, keep your windows closed, and if you don't feel well, get yourself checked at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another recommendation that I have been giving to a lot of my constituents, when the smoke is directly impacting their house, is to shut off their air exchange unit so that they're not sucking in air from outside.

In the minister's last response, she had talked about if residents of Iqaluit feel that the symptoms are not manageable and they would have to go to the

Qikiqtani Regional Hospital. Has there been an increase in service demand at the rapid access clinic and the emergency room at the Qikiqtani Regional Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have exact numbers of whether there has been an increase, but there have been a few people who have had symptoms that may be related to the dump fire since the fire started and none of these were seriously ill and none were admitted.

I would just like to add on that there will be times when the smoke from the dump fire might come closer to the community and we have been observing this for the past two weeks. The dump fire has been directly over the city on several occasions when the wind shifts.

Depending on the level of smoke, some people may be at more risk to health effects from the smoke and, if you are affected by the smoke or if the smoke is heavy, you should stay indoors as much as possible, as we said and as you said, with the air exchangers, and the doors and windows closed. If you have to go outside, limit your physical activity while the dump continues to be creating the smoke in the air, especially if it's in the direction towards the town.

We will be providing advisories on the direction of the smoke as we continue to observe the dump fire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 118 – 4(2): Inuit Labour Content for Government Contracts

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I was too loud when I got carried away earlier (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, who has overall responsibility for the government's contracting and procurement activities.

I want to follow up today on the issue of Inuit labour content in the government's contracting practices. As the minister is aware, some of the government's tenders prescribe a minimum Inuit labour content. For example, a current GN tender for upgrades to Taloyoak's arena prescribes a minimum Inuit labour requirement of 30 percent.

Can the minister clearly describe how the government determines the minimum Inuit labour content for capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As the member may know, my department has the responsibility for monitoring the capital projects that we are responsible for. We have regional project officers who are required to visit regularly to construction sites to ensure

that the contracts are being followed properly. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The government has been undertaking a review of its procurement practices. One of the recommendations that were made last year in relation to the NNI Policy was that the Department of Community and Government Services should work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, NTI, and the business community to “discuss current Inuit labour availability and skill set and the planned project in the community and surrounding communities.” Can the minister indicate if the government will follow this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member may be aware, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has the responsibility for the NNI Policy through their NNI Secretariat. However, as a department, we do follow the rules and regulations as stipulated in the policy. Yes, we are in discussions with the interest parties. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is supposed to award bonuses to companies that exceed the minimum prescribed Inuit labour content and the government is supposed to impose penalties on companies that do not meet the minimum prescribed Inuit labour content.

Can the minister clearly describe how his department works the NNI Secretariat to monitor the performance of contractors in meeting their Inuit labour requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Although my department has the lead in ensuring that the NNI Policy is in place and followed by the contractors, our client departments also have project officers and we communicate with them to ensure that these contracts are being adhered to. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Question 119 – 4(2): Capital Planning

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

The government’s 2015-16 capital estimates will be introduced in the

Legislative Assembly within the next six months, during our fall sitting.

The government's current Capital Planning Process Handbook indicates that there are three primary criteria for ranking or rating projects: "health and safety," "mandated programs and services," and "sustainability, economic and benefits."

Can the minister indicate if this approach to establishing capital priorities will be changing before the 2015-16 capital estimates are introduced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're always monitoring capital projects and if their terms and conditions needed to be changed, we have the discretion to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Throughout this year, numerous questions have been raised in the Legislative Assembly concerning the crisis that many of our communities face in the area of waste management.

We know that many communities are not able to meet the terms and conditions of their water licences, and we know that it will cost significant amounts to achieve modern waste management infrastructure, which has a direct impact

on the health of people and the environment.

Can the minister indicate if the government's capital planning process for the 2015-16 capital estimates will place a higher priority on projects in these areas rather than projects for new recreational and leisure facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Nunavut, (interpretation ends) we have 25 communities that we work with and each and every community has their own priorities. Based on the priorities that we receive from the communities for their own communities, our capital planning process is based on the input that we receive from the communities. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, my colleague from Baker Lake noted that projects which address drinking water and wastewater may be eligible for financing under the federal government's renewed Building Canada Fund. The minister indicated to the House that he is "in the process of finalizing that agreement."

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the GN's applications for funding from the Building Canada Fund focus on capital projects that are intended to

address Nunavut's crisis in waste management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As with everything that we do as a department, public safety comes first. Should funding be required to ensure that public safety is a priority, then that's where the money would go towards. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Question 120 – 4(2): Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is aware, projects to develop campsites and other improvements for the Thelon and Kazan Heritage Rivers have been included in Department of Environment's capital budgets since the 2011-12 fiscal year.

These improvements are needed to reduce the environmental impact on the rivers. (interpretation ends) Without the campsites, the rivers will deteriorate and could be de-designated from the Canadian Heritage River system. This could result in fewer tourists visiting Baker Lake and less income for local guides and outfitters.

Can the minister provide an update on his department's projects to develop improvements for the Thelon and Kazan Heritage Rivers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Baker Lake for that question. The discussions on the benefits negotiations have been halted and have not continued. Regarding the proposal to the federal government, NTI has rejected the process. They have stated that they will start a new process. It is just in limbo as we are waiting on the Inuit organizations, as they were going to start a renewed process in the benefits negotiations. Currently, the governments are waiting for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The minister's reply gives me a smile. For over a decade, the Department of Environment has been involved in negotiations for an (interpretation ends) umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for the Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut. (interpretation) Can the minister provide an update on the status of those negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies for mispronouncing your name.

Mr. Speaker, all I can respond is that the Baker Lake residents have concerns about the benefits package for Heritage River designation. There is a process in that my department is responsible for Heritage Rivers within the Nunavut settlement area that we are discussing. They have that responsibility.

However, for designated Heritage Rivers, I'm sorry, the rivers have been designated and the process for impact and benefits negotiations are the federal government's responsibility. We have tried to move along on the process to date.

As I said earlier, the benefits package has been considered. We are waiting on the Inuit organizations at this time, as they have stated that they will respond to the issue. To date, there has been no response regarding the benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My name is Simeon Mikkungwak. You made me smile.

>>Laughter

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Don't smile.

>>Laughter

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): As the minister is aware, his department has been consulting with the Kivalliq Inuit Association concerning the designation of Back River as a Canadian Heritage River. For example, in the Third Legislative Assembly, they were referring to the wrong rivers, but I know they corrected it. Hanningajuq is known in English as the Back River.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of his department's consultations with the Kivalliq Inuit Association? I would like to know what your department has been doing on the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kivalliq Inuit Association is involved. Without the benefits agreement, it is not sufficient to designate it. Once the benefits agreement is in place, the talks could continue, as I understand it, and then at that time, the response would be possible to his questions. Mr. Speaker, once the benefits agreement is in place, it will be more appropriate to respond to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion: Extension of Question Period

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that the time for question

period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour, raise your hand. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended by 30 minutes.

Back to (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Question 121 – 4(2): Definition of Homelessness

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you to the rest of the Members of the Legislative Assembly who want to go ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I have some questions today to the Minister responsible for Homelessness. I want some clarifications as well.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was asking questions or trying to ask questions to find out what the Nunavut government's position is on homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, let me base my question on the *Hansard* from June 3, 2014, page 23. Mr. Speaker, I know this is not the final copy. However, when I asked the hon. minister this question, she stated, "We have memorandums of understanding with Inuit organizations, such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, in terms of how to define who is homeless."

According to the hon. minister, the memorandum of understanding has been

signed. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would like to ask the designation of homelessness according to how they define it with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Is it different from the federal government's description of a homeless person? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Tununig for asking that question. I know he is asking for clarification from yesterday's debate. We did not have any statistics about people who have to stay in tents and shacks. They are different from other homeless people who can stay with relatives or parents. These are people on the outside. They don't have an actual home that they can sleep in, a house they can sleep in that is considered a home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Perhaps sometimes our different dialects prevent us from understanding each other properly, so our questions are not responded to properly. Let me speak in English. I'm just going to ask the same question in English.

(interpretation ends) When I asked the question as to what the Government of Nunavut's definition of homelessness was, the answer came back and I will quote from the unedited version of the *Hansard*, or the *Blues*, as we call them,

Hansard of Tuesday, June 3, 2014, page 23. I will quote the minister. “We have memorandums of understanding with Inuit organizations, such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, in terms of how to define who is homeless.”

My question today is, Mr. Speaker: is this definition that apparently is in the memorandum of understanding different from the definition of the Government of Nunavut’s position on what the definition is of homelessness? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take the question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: The minister has taken the question as notice. I will continue. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 122 – 4(2): Staff Housing

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Government of Nunavut’s Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy indicates that one of the problems with the government’s current approach to staff housing is that, and I quote, “Another challenge arises from the discrepancy between staff housing tenants and those in private homes or apartments. Government employees who do not use staff housing receive an annual taxable housing

allowance of \$4,800. This is about \$14,000 less than the value of the staff housing subsidy.” Can the minister indicate what actions the government is taking to address this inequality? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kuksuk: Thank you, *Uqaqtittijii*. (interpretation) I will take the question as notice and I’ll get back to the member at a later date. (interpretation ends) I’ll take that as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken the question as notice and I will move to the next member on my list. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 123 – 4(2): Human Resources Management

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m hoping the minister will be able to answer this question. I’m looking to ask the Minister of Finance a question today.

I would like to follow up on what my hon. colleague, Mr. Savikataaq, brought up earlier regarding vacancies and how fast the government is filling positions through advertising. The minister, in his response to Mr. Savikataaq, stated, if I recall the number correctly, that there are over 1,200 vacant positions across the Government of Nunavut. I would like a little bit more detail on what specifically his department is doing to fill these vacant positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could make it a hat trick, but I won't today.

Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated earlier, I'm stressing to my department, to all ministers, and to all departments to review their casual employees, to convert them to term or go to competition. Of course, that requires the departments to update job descriptions and that has to go through the Department of Finance.

Our job evaluation people are working closely and diligently to review job descriptions to ensure that they meet the qualifications and duties meet the requirements for the job. Of course, they would also review who reports to the position because you can't go to competition until the job description is updated and we would have to identify the position is within the current organizational chart. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I would like to go a little bit further with it.

Mr. Speaker, out of the casuals that are listed in the annual report tabled recently ending March 31, 2013, there were 1,742 casuals across the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, also in that report, in 2012-13, there were 25 direct appointments made and in previous years, that number has been as high as 132 direct appointments being made.

What is this government's policy on direct appointments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Hickes, we have no problems at all considering direct appointments if it's a position that is desperately needed within the government and there's a qualified beneficiary or an individual out there. If there has been a competition, for example, and nobody is qualified or applied or there's a person in a position who is doing quite well for a number of years, we will certainly consider them.

I don't think there is ever been any hesitancy from our government to consider people for direct appointments, but again, there are policies and procedures in place for departments to follow process. We're not just going to direct appoint an individual and put them in a position that they're not qualified for or don't have a good chance at succeeding in that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that clarification. Mr. Speaker, one of his comments

during that response piqued my interest where, if you've got a beneficiary in a position for, in some cases, up to six or seven years, I would like to think that that person would be qualified to do that job.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of money expended advertising for positions and if there has been no movement forward from a department on advertising a position because they've got a CSA in there for such a long, extended period of time, I am a little unclear as to what the policy would be on bypassing that step and saving the government some serious dollars in advertising and direct appointing some of these long-term or, in my opinion, what should be long-term employees of the Government of Nunavut if they have been in their position for an extended period of time. I would like to get the minister's response to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I understood Mr. Hickes' question, but again, as I have indicated earlier, we are stressing to the departments, if they have casual employees, to take the necessary steps to convert them to term positions or put them out to competition.

Again, if there is a person in a position and it follows proper steps and it warrants a direct appointment, we will consider it. Again, we're not going to direct appoint people just for the sake of direct appointing them. The departments will have to follow the established policies and procedures and go through

those steps before it comes to cabinet for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 124 – 4(2): Firearms Licence Application Process

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A few days ago, I asked a question in regard to this issue, but I would like to direct my question to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice.

(interpretation) I know that it's very difficult to get a firearms acquisition certificate from the government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I know that the Department of Justice is responsible for that. It's very difficult to obtain those firearms certificates.

I also would like the department to consider that it is springtime now and many Inuit are hunting for game. They are hunting for the food that they like to eat. They are going to make dry meat. They will prepare meat the way they like it. However, they need firearms acquisition certificates and they have to wait a long time for their certificates. Sometimes they need to be assisted in filling out the forms.

We have to abide by all legislation and policies in order to avoid charges. People would like to feed their fellow Inuit and provide nutritional food to the public in their communities. How are you going to provide support to the people who are still waiting for their firearms acquisition certificates and need assistance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware that this is a stumbling block that we all encounter. I met with the federal government minister and discussed this matter. We looked for ways as to how we can have a better deal with this.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is still responsible for this issue, but through Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and through the close deliberation and talks, we would like to resolve this issue in the future. I was very pleased that the federal government did not deny our request to look into this further so that we can work closely together to resolve this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his response. I know that for many months, they can negotiate and have discussions on that. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly and as an experienced board member, it's evident that they have been dealing with this issue for quite some time.

As the minister had stated, he has a close working relationship and he will have to work and discuss this issue with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. How is your department discussing this matter with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated so that the beneficiaries can provide

game and support their fellow Inuit while we are reviewing this hunters' support program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have to involve Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and we have to discuss this if we are going to complete this issue. We will encourage Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to find alternate ways of dealing with firearms. We need to abide by the land claims agreement. We have to find a better solution for this issue. Therefore, I can't provide a concrete response as to when this will be concluded, but we will need to resolve it for our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his response. Yes, there are many Inuit out in the communities since it is springtime. They will be harvesting for food, whether it is in their local community or outside of their community. They will be harvesting or hunting for food. Can the minister inform us of whether he can report to us as to how or what they have been dealing with? How can they provide support to the harvesters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will need to discuss the matter with the federal minister. I would like to hear their position first. I was very pleased to hear from the federal minister that they are open for talks and he does want to see a better solution for this. I know that we will be able to resolve this issue some time in the future. It will be for the best interest for the beneficiaries of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 125 – 4(2): Long-term Casual Employees

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up a little bit along my lines of questions to the Minister of Finance but to the Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, which has the employee training and development under its responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, out of the long-term casual employees that I was talking about with Minister Peterson, approximately three-quarters of them are Inuit. One of the concerns is technical qualifications. Are long-term casual employees being identified for training opportunities through Mr. Premier's Office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of initiatives and a number of programs that we deliver through the executive and intergovernmental affairs department. We work with the Department of Finance to identify how we can progress and get more trained employees, especially into the managerial senior positions. It's one of those things that we continually try to improve and we do have a number of programs that we follow through on.

Of course, with our Inuit employment coordinator, we do have a number of other initiatives that involve all Nunavummiut and all employees. That's one of the things we are trying to do, especially try and fulfill Article 23 of the land claims agreement. It's one of the obligations that this government has. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are ongoing initiatives with the federal government in Inuit development training programs and with our partner, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm also going back to the 2012-13 Public Service Annual Report. In the employee development section, it quotes that a needs assessment is conducted annually across the GN in the first quarter of each fiscal year to identify current training needs.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to go back to the casual employees again. Are

departments being directed to look at current casual employees to coordinate a lot of the great training opportunities that are available through the Premier's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs? Are those employees specifically being targeted to access some of those training programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For some of these training programs, they're application-based and irregardless of whether the person is employed by the government or as a casual, these applications are reviewed and based on merit, they're either accepted or encouraged to apply into another program. One of the things that we try to do as a government is to try and meet this obligation of Article 23 and we encourage all of our young people of Nunavut to stay in school so that they can get employed within government.

These training programs that exist are specifically for GN employees, especially the managerial and senior personnel, even specialized positions that we do have in some of our departments. Of course, when we talk like that, there are the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* principles that we use.

As I indicated the other day, we do have four approved mentors and trainers in one specific program, the Sivuliqtiksavut Internship Program. We do have trainers identified, supervisors identified, and it

is not only being held in Iqaluit; it's in Cape Dorset, Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung, and I believe it's in Gjoa Haven. The training programs aren't only being held in Iqaluit here; it's throughout Nunavut and we hope to increase those numbers, especially for that specific program.

We encourage other employees, whether they're within the government system already or casuals, to make applications to the government. It's one of those things that we do want to see more Nunavummiut participate within the employ of the government.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated before too, there are a lot of folks out there that, once they get trained up, pursue other careers within other organizations or industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response. Mr. Premier, that leads me to my next question and I'll preface it with a little bit of a comment. I had asked him questions on the intern program earlier this week and I hope to see double or maybe even triple digits involved in that program at some date down the road.

Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns of this government is employee retention. Although this government has made some substantial increases in that category over the last few years, I still think that when we've got good employees that we have hired under a casual basis and we provide them with the opportunity, I think some of those people will respect that opportunity that was provided to them and will stay with

the Government of Nunavut and, hopefully, have a long and distinguished career within the government and may not even search out outside opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get the minister's, I want to say opinion, but I can't ask that.

>> *Laughter*

I would like to hear from the minister how his department is moving forward to increase retention of employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very difficult to answer that question because there are a number of partners that are involved; NEU, the Nunavut Employees Union. The main retention tool is, of course, salary and it's one of the things that we do have to pay attention to. With the help and collaboration of all departments, it's one of those things that we hope to improve. It's ongoing.

As the member noted last week, attracting people, especially in the managerial directorships or specialized levels, it's very difficult for this government. One of the retention tools is, of course, salary. I encourage all casuals and Nunavummiut to apply into the government. We have been trying to get more Nunavummiut to get employed within the government.

Of course, school being our number one priority in our *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, there are great opportunities there for graduates to further their careers while they're working, whether it's for the government or other organization. There are opportunities there for them to get working experience within the government and further their careers. There are also other training programs that we have, including furthering their careers through education, college, and universities in other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 019 – 4(2): Waste Management Correspondence

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter from Mr. Adam Malcolm, a high school science teacher in Gjoa Haven.

In my Member's Statement on Monday, June, 2, 2014, I spoke of the importance of waste management initiatives and the need for all of us, residents and government alike, to work together for the future.

Mr. Malcolm's letter is a good example of the kind of initiative we need to encourage and support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 020 – 4(2): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2012-2013

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am pleased to table the Nunavut Arctic College 2012-13 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Tabled Document 021 – 4(2): 2012 Annual Report under Section 12.1 of the Labour Standards Act

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As promised, I am pleased to table the 2012 Minimum Wage Annual Report under the *Labour Standards Act*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 2 and Bill 3 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:30 and Committee resumed at 15:57*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2 and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Family Services and, if time permits, we will commence with the review of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the main estimates for the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Minister Ugyuk, do you have officials that you

would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister and her officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. *Iqsuktii*, please escort the witnesses in.

(interpretation) Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Ugyuk, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Deputy Minister Simon Awa and on my left is David Kolot, Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and the hon. members of the Committee of the Whole, I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Family Services.

On April 1, 2013, the Department of Family Services was established to provide a single window approach of social supports for Nunavummiut that provide for basic necessities and promote self-reliance. During this first year, the department has focused on

identifying its needs and priorities and gaining a sound understanding of how the divisions that have come together will support each other to achieve the mandate of the new department.

There have been numerous gains in many of our program areas over the past year, such as planning for the progressive rollout of the income support delivery system, the department's strong presence at the federal/provincial/territorial table regarding discussions relating to the renewal of the labour market agreement, implementation and staff training with respect to the *Child and Family Services Act* amendments, and the continued development of the Five-year Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

Mr. Chairman, for 2014-15, the Department of Family Services has been allocated a budget of \$122,411,000, which represents an increase of 7.6 percent, or \$8,620,000, over the last year's main estimates. The staff compliment for the Department of Family Services has increased from 180.6 PYs to 196.1 PYs in the 2014-15 main estimates.

This budget reflects:

- Additional funding of \$2,816,000 for social assistance contributions in the social assistance program.
- Increased funding of \$437,000 for homelessness contributions.
- Increased funding in the amount of \$300,000 for shelter contributions.
- Additional funding \$2,500,000 for residential care placement contracts.
- An increase of \$2,621,000 in compensation and benefits.

- A small decrease of \$54,000 in other O&M expenditures.

The Corporate Management Branch has been provided with 5 percent of the department's 2014-15 budget and is responsible for setting overall departmental direction and leadership in key areas of strategic planning, policy development, Inuit employment planning, financial management, and poverty reduction.

Over the upcoming year, our corporate management priorities are designed to allow us to continue to build organizational capacity and establish a sound foundation for the Department of Family Services. Much of this work related to our corporate management priorities will entail working collaboratively with other government departments, agencies, and partners and we look forward to building on the relationships already established over the past year and advancing these important priorities.

The Children and Family Services Branch has been allocated 44 percent of the department's 2014-14 budget and provides a range of support services for children and vulnerable adults who may require assistance and other specialized support. Key business plan priorities for 2014-15 focus on ensuring wellness, safety, and quality care is delivered to clients.

The Income Assistance Branch has been allotted 38 percent of the department's 2014-15 budget. This branch assists Nunavummiut 18 and over in achieving their goals for independence and self-reliance by offering a variety of benefit programs that provide financial and

other support to satisfy basic needs for shelter, food, and clothing and to assist in the transition towards employment.

A key priority of the Income Assistance Branch is to conduct an Income Assistance Program review. The work will be guided by the government's key priority of *healthy families through strong and resilient communities*, as outlined in *Sivumut Abluqta* 2014-18.

The Career Development Branch has been allocated 13 percent of the department's 2014-15 budget. This branch researches, develops, and implements a coordinated plan for labour market training programs and apprenticeship and administers the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program. These main estimates reflect the transfer of the responsibility for the governance of the *Student Financial Assistance Act* and the *Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations [Certification] Act* from the Department of Education to the Department of Family Services. Accordingly, the main estimates have been restated to reflect this transfer. This transfer now allows the governance and delivery functions to be reunited under one department, which supports one of our key priorities for 2014-15 of integrating the apprenticeship program into the Career Development Division of the department.

Mr. Chairman, 2014-15 will be an important year for the Department of Family Services as we continue to build upon our foundation and collaborate with key departments to streamline programs, services, and processes to build capacity and acquire the

infrastructure required to help support us in achieving our mandate.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have reviewed the 2014-15 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Family Services.

The 2014-15 operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Family Services is approximately \$122.4 million, which is almost \$9 million more than the budget for 2013-14 when the department was newly established. The creation of this department included the transfer of various divisions and programs from other GN departments, and the standing committee appreciates that the Department of Family Services still faces a number of transitional issues and growing pains.

Members encourage Department of Family Services officials to continue working closely with their counterparts in other departments, especially the departments of Education and Health, to ensure that no Nunavut resident encounters problems while accessing services and opportunities during the ongoing transition period.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports the concept of providing a single window approach for social support services for Nunavummiut, providing protection for the most vulnerable in our society, promoting self-reliance, and working towards improvements in standards of living. Frontline workers, such as social workers, income assistance workers, and career development officers, must receive adequate training and support, as well as the necessary resources to carry out their responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman, members of the standing committee have expressed concerns regarding the number of clients requiring specialized care and support who are being sent south to other jurisdictions for residential care. It has been noted that facilities such as children's group homes in communities such as Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet are being re-profiled, which has required alternative placements for the children who were originally receiving care in those facilities. Members caution the minister in this regard and encourage her to work with her officials to find alternatives to sending Nunavut children to other jurisdictions.

Standing committee members stress the importance of making greater efforts to keep children close to their families and communities in Nunavut and look forward to updates on the department's efforts in this area.

Mr. Chairman, members are aware of the many challenges facing the department in delivering services to children, youth, and adults in vulnerable situations. Members look forward to updates on departmental initiatives, such as the review of the *Aboriginal Custom*

Adoption Recognition Act, the implementation of the Family Violence Prevention Strategy, and the development of a homelessness strategy.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services has the responsibility of delivering Nunavut's income assistance programs, which are directed towards assisting families and adult individuals to meet their basic needs.

A number of concerns have been raised with respect to income assistance policies in such areas as assessment and eligibility, the abuse of benefits received, and support for income assistance clients facing housing issues. The standing committee looks forward to the results of the department's upcoming review of the Income Assistance Program and anticipates that the findings of this review will also address issues relating to poverty and food insecurity across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services, as well as the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College, administers a number of programs and resources related to adult and post-secondary learning, including the provision of financial assistance under such programs as FANS, the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program. The standing committee encourages ongoing communication and coordination between all departments to support Nunavummiut wishing to enter the labour market and to encourage apprenticeship and trades training opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that

individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Joanasié. (interpretation ends) Do members have any opening comments? (interpretation) I have no names on my list for general comments. We will proceed with the page-by-page review of the department's main estimates starting with page D-4. (interpretation ends) Family Services. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome this afternoon to the minister and her colleagues. In the business plan, it states that the department will establish a vision in collaboration with the public, outside partners, and other departments and agencies. I'm wondering: where are you at now with this exercise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have my deputy minister provide a proper response. Thank you.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can use one example to answer your question. I can use the Nunavut Food Security Coalition as an example. Many of us are partnering in that group, for example, the government, NTI, and the different government departments are a part of this in this

coalition. Last month, the coalition held a meeting in Iqaluit. That is one example. I can also say that outside of Nunavut there are different jurisdictions like the provinces, the federal government. We get involved through federal and territorial meetings when they were dealing with all of Canada. We are involved in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to remind the Members of the Legislative Assembly when you are asking your questions please let us know what page you are asking about. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that the department went through an exercise to address the strengths and the weaknesses in the three key areas; financial and in their policy and admin structures. What is the status of this review and what did you find out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Simon Awa would like to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Family Services has been running for a whole year and we are still discovering where we need to be fixed or strengthened and where we need to do more work. We are finding more and more of that out.

For example, when the Department was created they did not have any policy and planning department or branch and we had to create that. The finance department and human resources falls under corporate services. They needed more staff and help.

There are other things that are not quite settled yet. I think some of the Members of the Legislative Assembly know that some of the work is still being held by the Department of Family Services. Some of the things that are now under our department are still being handled by other departments. Like the minister said in her opening statement, there are some challenges in this coming year that we need to work on to set up the Department of Family Services properly. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Awa. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer, minister. I see, too, that an assessment is being done to address the adequacy of resources in order to provide the programs and services as per the mission statement.

What have you found out from this review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Awa to respond to that as well.

Chairman: Thank you. I will allow Mr. Awa to respond. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The areas where we need more help are our local community staff people, our social workers, our income support people, and the frontline workers in the communities. We need to support them more from headquarters and the regional centres. We need to give them more support. That's because we have many staff members and the department hasn't really settled down yet. We have many staff members who get paid by the hour. We really need to concentrate and give more support to the local frontline workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I also see that the department is reviewing legislation to identify areas that may require attention. Can you elaborate what the outcome of this review was and which ones you have identified as a priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Awa will respond to the question as well.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were told to make sure that we look at the actual Act that the Department of Family Services falls under.

In the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, right now, the Department of Family Services has not set an absolute priority yet. After we set up the priorities, we will have to table them to the government and try to

get approval for the things we want to prioritize.

For example, there was a lot of debate about how we can correct the Custom Adoptions Act, so we have to really look at it. For example, do Inuit traditional adoption laws need to be reviewed again? Does that need to be studied some more?

There's also the income support money. There are many different things that we need to make policies and priorities for, and we will need to get approval for them once we set them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I remind members to state which page you're referring to in the business plan. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You recently went through an exercise to identify, review, and assess the priorities for the department as a whole. Can you tell us what the outcome of that exercise was? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past year, the executive met to see how we're going to proceed going forward, what we're envisioning for the future, and what should be the priority. The Department of Family Services recognizes that this work will proceed as the year passes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan, page 111, it talks about the draft Social Services Transformation Plan. Can you tell us what that means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Thank you for referencing the page. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Please wait a moment while we look for the information. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the question as to how we envision Family Services. On the transformation plan. How do we envision negotiation or discussion on Family Services. We based that on the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations in 2011 when they made recommendations to Family Services. We are working on those recommendations.

Also, Family Services is now working on what their priorities are. We are also considering an amendment for family and child legislation. We are also considering the new entity Child and Youth Family Representative. So those are our priorities to respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for that answer. I would like to go now to the business plan of page 112 where it talks about the Makimaniq Implementation Plan.

In terms of the five-year Poverty Reduction Action Plan, can you elaborate on how the action plan will help Nunavummiut who suffer from having the highest poverty rates in Canada? Will they actually get food on their plates using this plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. During our initial meeting in Rankin Inlet we were making plans for five years for our policy planning. As to how we can have five-year poverty reduction action plan and what are the reasons there is poverty.

During that meeting in Rankin Inlet we discussed child rearing and also for elders during June 2013 meeting. We have considered that and I know that we want to achieve our goal and the member is asking how we are going to provide support through this action plan. It's impossible to provide support right away to the people who are needy but we are now moving towards providing support towards poverty and have poverty reduction. We are now accumulating or compiling information on how we can utilize the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. According to the list of my names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we're on page D-4 in English. I believe that this page can have many issues, but in your business plan on page 109 states that

using the Inuit societal values as their guiding principles.

How are the Inuit societal values being utilized in your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member is aware of how Inuit societal values can be incorporated into Family Services. When the legislation was amended there were six guiding principles to be used for family services training programs: there is respecting each other, providing service, negotiation, and working together. Those were our guiding principles were passed in 2013. They're all in the legislation now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the minister have just stated, we are all aware of that, because those are our Inuit societal values, and we're very proud of them. I'm not too sure if they're being used at the local level. It seems like the practice of Family Services usually run into stumbling blocks, and any elders say that our family is being broken up because of the Family Services guidelines. Have you ever considered reviewing this issue or are you just paying lip service? Are you going to try and put those into practice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank the member for providing support to Inuit societal values during our tenure. The social workers and childcare workers have to abide by their own policies and regulations and follow protocol. Inuit societal values are now included in the legislation. There is no choice but to abide by them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is why I'm asking these questions, Hon. Minister, because I took part. I also believed that Inuit societal values were going to be utilized. I also took part and was lead to believe that societal values were going to be used, because they're in the legislation. Today, they're not even being used.

That's why I'm asking the question; what do you do to encourage the Family Services staff to utilize Inuit societal values? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot tell you exactly how they are going to be utilized, but I can tell you that they are being used to train the social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Perhaps I should ask my question by saying that the social workers have a very challenging job and they have lots of

issues to deal with. We want Inuit societal values to be utilized with the department to be used to deal with family issues. How do you train your staff to use Inuit societal values? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the social workers are listening and they use the policy regulations and protocols. We use various Inuit ways of dealing with counselling. We can request for support to help in providing social counselling. I can only tell you that we can ask for help, because some of us know what the Inuit societal values are. We have to abide by the legislation and proper protocols. I just want that to be known. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're still on the topic of legislation, we're on page D-4. Mr. Chairman, although I'm not going to identify a page, but if you allow me to ask a question, back in March 2013, when you were on this side as a regular member, you suggested that the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* contributed to homelessness in Nunavut. You stated this when you were still a regular member. Do you still hold that view? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going

to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's also in the Poverty Reduction and Homelessness Strategy, I think you just tabled the document yesterday on the survey results. Just to get clarification. I believe in there it states that homelessness is contributing to a lot of social issues in Nunavut, not just in Rankin Inlet, not just in Iqaluit, and not just in Cambridge Bay. When you were drafting the legislation, are you going to involve the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was asked previously. My staff is going to the regional communities to ask questions and to meet with the public, organizations, and the hamlets to see what kinds of stuff that we can assist the communities with. We're going to be including all the communities. That's the answer that I can give the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I asked the question is because the hon. minister didn't respond to the question at the time because she didn't know the answer. Are you going to be conducting the survey in just the three regional communities? There are about 23 communities that

have homeless people. Are you not going to the smaller communities and you will only be looking at the three communities? Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stated last week that this was the first survey that we are doing on people who live in tents and shacks in the regions. The hamlet councils will be asked about what kinds of information we can get from them with respect to homelessness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) you stated that the regional centres will be given a survey, but will you be going to such communities as Pond Inlet and Rankin Inlet as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we go back to the regions, we will be going to

the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What does it mean to go to other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is asking what it means to go to other communities. We will be going back to the three regions and then from there, what the regions do is they give information to other communities in their region. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the people of Pond Inlet. I'm sorry to the people of Pond Inlet that we were not considered for the survey at the present time. It's too bad. But the three regions. You already did the survey on the three regions with respect to homelessness. I think there were 98 people. What are you going to do after you find out from the three regions about homelessness? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why are we just looking at the three regions in Nunavut? Because we don't have enough time. That's why we go to the three regions. What we do is by

telephone we do a survey of people that are homeless, especially people that live in tents and shacks to find out what the problem is in each community.

Mr. Chairman, this is the first survey that we are going to do with respect to homelessness. As a government, we will find out what other stuff that we have to do with respect to people who are homeless. The smaller communities will be surveyed but we are looking at the three regions because they can communicate to the smaller communities. From there we can give information to other communities as well as work with the various organizations with respect to people that are homeless that live in tents and in shacks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the people that do not live in the larger communities are not being involved or they are inconvenienced. It's too bad that the government does not seem to be looking at the smaller communities. When will you be finishing with the survey and when will you be giving us information in the House?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After we come back from the regional communities and do a survey. There are 22 communities that we will be getting in touch with respect to homeless people. Just to let the member know. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I will ask this as a last question. It seems that I am understanding that homeless people who are out there that the survey does not include those people who are homeless in the community. I also understand that if I'm a boarder in someone's home, and as long as I can remain a boarder in someone's home, I am not considered homeless by our government. I understand that. I also thank you for your response.

The other question that I have, Mr. Chairman, is that the survey that you did stated that there were about 98 homeless people in all of Nunavut. Once you find out how many homeless people there are, how long are you going to do the survey? And how long after the survey is completed, will you reporting to the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first part of the question is not true because that's not what we're saying. As a government, we're not saying what the member stated. We have to tell the truth and what's truly out there. We will find out when we get the results of the survey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Enook.

Point of Order

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I am

misunderstanding because we don't have same dialect. I want to raise a point of order because she is calling me a liar. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I can ask you if I can make a point of order because she is telling me that I'm not telling the truth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: A point of order has been raised. Mr. Enook, what is your point of order?

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, in the Legislative Assembly, we cannot say that other Members of this House are not telling the truth. If I understand what the minister is saying, my point of order is that she is telling me that I am not telling the truth. That's my point of order.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk, you may speak to the point of order. Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Tununiq is saying that he thinks that the government is not taking care of the homeless and does not have care. I am saying that I don't think his response is true. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Ugyuk, you may speak to the point of order. Ms. Ugyuk.

Thank you. The translation did not come out clearly. Can you please speak to the point of order, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to the question, the way we understood it is that it was not our belief as a government that we do not care about the homeless. That is not true. I would like to take a look at the *Blues* first. Thank you.

Chairman: In the matter of judgment of interpretation, I will report back tomorrow. Thank you.

We will continue with the questioning. Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Still on this page D-4, I think we are still on page D-4. I would like to go back to the employees of the Family Services Department; I should have asked more about that. In reference to the community social workers, if I should not be asking about that right now then I can ask it in some other area. However, I would like to ask what should their level of education be or would you rather ask this when we get into career development? However, if you would allow me, then that is what I am now asking. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to the community workers level of education; in order for a person to

become an employee in that field there are various levels of employees. They have different levels of education. They get their jobs depending on what specific things they should be responsible for. They are identified in that manual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Next in relation to the names on my list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to stay with homelessness a little bit, if I may be allowed. Mr. Chairman on February 26, 2013, the minister of the day responsible for homelessness made a statement that there are more than 1200 Nunavummiut in need of housing. On March 14, 2013, during a Member's Statement, the current Minister responsible for Homelessness, as a regular member, stated and I'll quote, "While this figure may seem high, I believe that it does not come close to reflecting the true state of homelessness across our territory."

Mr. Chairman, were the survey parameters of the recent study being done or the criteria of the survey different from the previous survey where the 1,200 number came from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that people have become to misunderstand the present numbers. The numbers that we were talking about came from the housing corporation's numbers initially. The most recent survey is using a totally

different methodology. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister be able to inform me of what those differences are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have the deputy minister explain the differences. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the difference between the 2014 snapshot of three regional centres and some communities by phone that were surveyed was based on absolute homeless criteria. The 2014 absolute homeless criteria were different from the 2010 general survey that was conducted by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, which also used other criteria, including hidden homeless and also at risk of homelessness. There is a difference between the criteria that were used in 2010 and also in 2014. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the quote that I just quoted in the minister's Member's Statement from last year, she was saying that "it does not come close to reflecting the true state of homelessness." Why would this survey be done where it would not reflect the

true state of homelessness in Nunavut?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can answer
by saying that the first one we were
using based its information on different
parameters than the one we did. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
If you will indulge me, I have another
quote from that same Member's
Statement, and I quote, "It seems that the
only homeless shelters within Nunavut
are those provided for by independent
societies with contribution agreements
from the government. However, many
community-based societies are run by
volunteers who burn out and sometimes
cannot keep up with the administrative
burdens of running a shelter."

Under the section of the Policy, Planning
and Corporate Services Division of the
minister's department, how are they
working to overcome these challenges
and barriers for society-driven shelters?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much.
Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference
to what I said before, I can answer it in
this manner. The present department that
I work with is basing their numbers on
the absolute homeless. However, we
expect that eventually the problem in
relation to homeless people, their

problems will be addressed. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: My apologies if I wasn't
clear in my question. I was asking more
on what kind of financial resources or
human resources are being improved to
provide shelter services? As the member
stated, this is a growing problem in
Nunavut a year ago. In my opinion, I
don't think it will have gotten much
better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much, Mr.
Hickes. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a
homeless shelter in Iqaluit. They are
funded more now than they used to be.
The funding for that homeless shelter
has increased compared to what it used
to be. I have stated that we will be going
back to the communities outside of the
regional centres. We will be hearing
more from them. We will be hearing
them through our regional offices so we
expect to be able to have more
information. The gaps that are
considered to be there.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Back when this member's statement was
spoken last year there was a news article
that came out the next day. It was
quoting the minister as a member. It
asked the justice minister if his
department had collected any
information on whether people who are
removed from homes because of the

Family Intervention Act find housing in the smaller communities.

I'm just wondering, many community-based societies are run by volunteers. She mentioned some of the larger centres like Iqaluit that have shelters. But what is being done in the smaller communities to provide shelter services for people in addition to repercussions of the *Family Intervention Act* out of the basic homeless population? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to the Act, it is under the Minister of Justice. In terms of what I know personally, the people who work in the Department of Justice now have to work with people who become homeless after having been kicked out. How their situation should be caused to be improved. However, we do know that there are a lot of them. Thank you. We do know that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I wasn't clear in my last question. What is the Department of Family Services doing in smaller communities to provide shelter services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is only one facility in Iqaluit and I don't know of any other community in Nunavut that

has a facility like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So no other community has any societies that have applied for any type of funding under any shelter funding availability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no homeless shelters in the communities. However, in Gjoa Haven, we are starting to talk with them because they want to create one or start one in their community. We have to work with them through our office in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just going to go back to another quote that was provided to the media a little over a year ago that "After an extended period of time, these temporary homes can pose added risks to an individual's health and well-being," she said, and sometimes who have no home of their own also end up in southern cities. What type of risks have residents of these shelters been exposed to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That quote is still in use. We always want to explain how we use the money that is given to us

by the government and those people who don't have adequate places to stay in homes or if that person becomes homeless through abuse and people who are in danger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page 111, it talks about assessing the departmental team to “determine the existing array of skills and knowledge, identify key skill gaps and take steps to strengthen the team in the first year of operation.”

Now that the minister has been in her position for... I know it's only a little over half a year. You're only partway through that. What are some of the steps that you have taken to identify some of those skill gaps to date, and is that the purpose of some of the new PYs that were implemented into this budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for asking that question. The Department of Family Services considers it very important that they have to be fully aware and fully understand things that can cause us problems with Family Services. Social workers are committed to the learning materials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the status under that quote that I made from the business plan, it talks

about various training initiatives that are underway across the department to help address gaps that have been identified. Can the minister let the committee know what some of those training initiatives are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're putting together things that can improve our work and also improving our correspondence, and also the private and confidential matters being properly archived, and also following policies properly, more training for social workers, and income support for food. They're trying to digitize the whole Income Support Program, and education about nutritious food, and how they learn more about handling food and stuff through computers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question. Hopefully, my final question, it all depends on the answer. Also on the same page of the business plan, on page 111, the third bullet down talks about assessing the adequacy of resources to provide the programs and services to achieve the mission statement of the department. In the status it has “the department completed this assessment and is working collaboratively with other government departments to secure the resources needed to achieve the department's mission.”

Would the minister be able to elaborate on the status for the members, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand your question correctly, the heads of Family Services would meet to decide what direction they want to go to. What the mission and proper tools to use for social workers. That's how I can respond to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response regarding social services. I'm sure there are other programs and services in the department. Maybe if she can elaborate a little bit more on the other services provided by her department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has undertaken the work required to identify its financial policy, information data, administrative and human resource needs, and will continue to work collaboratively with other government departments to develop a plan to address shortfalls in these key areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I can actually remember this will be my final question under this category.

>>*Laughter*

Would the minister be able to let us know which departments that she's collaborating with under which programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, very much. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't see the light when it comes on. The different groups that we work with are Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on poverty reduction, custom adoption groups, the Department of Health, Department of Finance, and the Department of Education. The wildlife organizations are not involved.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short question. Thinking about this I'm starting to understand things. What you counted were the people who actually don't have a place to sleep? People who have to sleep outside or somewhere else. People who don't have anywhere to stay at all. People who have to stay in shacks are the absolute homeless.

We also consider people who have a place to stay but they are just waiting for a home. Although they have a place to stay they don't have their own place. In our area I don't know of anybody like

that. There may be people in that situation, so I understand now that the work you did was to identify those people who are absolutely homeless. According to what I understand, the people who have places to stay or places to sleep are not really as worrisome as those people who are absolutely homeless, who have to stay in shacks and tents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could understand the poverty reduction program. We are putting together a five-year plan for poverty reduction. One of the causes of poverty is homelessness. I think people have a hard time connecting the two. Right now we don't have any policies telling us how to handle people like that. I hope you understand me, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to first ask, under D-9, the grants and contributions of the department in its main estimates show that contributions for homelessness initiatives will be doubling from the previous year. I would like to know how this money will be allocated for 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is generally handled by the Department of

Health and it is moving to Family Services. The shelters for homeless people are funded in total of \$300,000. The one in Iqaluit operations it costs \$700,000 to operate it. That figure is lower than the actual operating costs. The \$400,000 is added to the operation of that facility. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister for her response. I will move on to another topic. On the payment for rent, the rent scale was amended on the Third Assembly. Has the Department of Family Services noticed that since the rent scale has changed, has it had an impact on Inuit? Do you see more people trying to obtain work because of the rent change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if they had done a review or analyzed but I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question correctly, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and their units that they are responsible for they are responsible for the rent scale. Every time the rent scale changes or if any price change such as for electricity and heating fuel and for providing services of the unit. Every time there is a change, the recipients of income support have to follow the

change. Yes, the amount of funding we use changes when there are changes in anything like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand then that the amendments for rent scale because of that there are more people looking for jobs... previous income support recipients are now looking for jobs because of the rent scale amendment?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are trying to find the figure. Can we get back to the member with the information before the session is over? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 111. Moving on to another topic I just want to get further clarification on the last bullet. Review the implementation of social services transformation plan. Can you elaborate further on the Social Services transformation plan details? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Although this was asked, I would like to ask Minister Ugyuk if she would like to respond to that question.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. Although Mr. Hickes had asked that question earlier on that Family Services or Social

Services are trying to enhance their transformation plan for Nunavummiut and according to the meeting minutes of the review of Family Services or Social Services, the Auditor General's Office had audited Social Services on how we can provide improvements for policies for youth and children, and we're looking at how we can improve those. Also, we will start working on the child and youth representative. We're now starting to establish that program and it's part of that. Although we're not responsible for it, we are going to participate and be involved, and that's my understanding.

The Department of Family Services will work together with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to work on the social services provision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to ask the question that was already asked. I should start listening to the proceedings more carefully.

My last question is in regard to your opening comments. The department is going to have 16.5 PYs. Which branch or division will they be in your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for his question. I'll have Mr. Awa respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the department has been established, I can say that we're still not complete in establishing the department. There are still some programs and services that we're still missing and that we require. Also, we still need some programs and services to be transferred to the family services department. As I stated before, we would like to finish the transfer of those programs and services to the Department of Family Services.

In regard to the six PYs, if they're approved, I can say that we require four social service workers in Igloolik and almost two for home care, as well as one more social worker position and others that we would like to see. However, to respond to your question, these are the six positions that I have just identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. I came up with a couple of more questions. In the priorities listed on page 112 under 2014-15, the fourth bullet down talks about contributing to the development and implementation of GN's Human Resource Strategy. Would you be able to inform the committee here on what contribution the Department of Family Services makes to that development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can't remember which bullet he said. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on the same page, the next bullet talks about working with Nunavut Arctic... . Sorry. The fourth bullet in the priorities for 2014-15.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Fourth bullet on the priorities, page 112. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Family Services is taking steps to address resource shortfalls that come along with the establishment of the department in April, 2013.

Achieving the intent and goals of the department is challenging due to the inadequate resources that accompany the restructuring initiative. The department has undertaken the work required to identify its financial policies, information data, administrative and human resources needs, and will continue to work collaboratively with other government departments to develop a plan to address shortfalls in these key areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next bullet states that you're working with Nunavut Arctic College to develop career path training for the

various professions within the Department of Family Services for positional qualifications to lead to more successful employment opportunities.

What talks have you had with the Nunavut Arctic College? What specific professional designations are you looking at coordinating with the college? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're now starting to meet with the Nunavut Arctic College. We just recently held a meeting with Peter Dudding of Nunavut Arctic College in Cambridge Bay to strengthen the training program so that we can enhance it for the Department of Family Services. We dealt with that during our meeting with Nunavut Arctic College.

There was an official coming from the Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit, and also Cambridge Bay Nunavut Arctic College officials. We discussed this matter because we want to have a good training program for the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page it talks about the senior management team prioritizing the department's inventory of legislative work and to develop a plan to advance the work on this privatization. In the status on the previous page in 111, it states that "the department has developed the inventory for legislative

needs, and are working on prioritization."

I understand that prioritization may not have occurred yet. Can we get a description of what is contained in the inventory of legislative needs for your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question was answered a little while ago, but the custom adoption legislation is one and we have not changed some other legislation. I'm not really sure exactly which legislation will be done, but poverty reduction is one that we are thinking about. Under career development, we have the *Apprenticeship Act* and Regulations, *Student Financial Act* and Regulations, child and family services, custom adoption, and food security. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question; when you talk about the apprenticeship division of your department, how many PYs are in that division currently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you wait while we look for that information? Thank you.

We will get Mr. Kolot to respond to that question so you can get the numbers.
Thank you

Chairman: Thank you. I will allow Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you for the question. The apprenticeship division was recently transferred over from the Department of Education to the Department of Family Services. I believe in our current staff compliment we have a registrar of apprenticeship trades and training, and a supervisor of apprenticeship trades and occupations. Those are two PYs that have come over with the apprenticeship. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I promise this is my final question, Mr. Chairman. Are both those PYs located here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): For clarity, I'll get Mr. Kolot to respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the PYs is in Iqaluit and the other one is in Arviat. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I don't have any more names. Family Services. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,831,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I make a motion to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. (interpretation) All in favour of the motion. (interpretation ends) All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and her officials out.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Angnakak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. 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 June 5:

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

- Bill 3

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 3 – 4(2), this House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 5, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:53*

