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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Aivilik)

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(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)
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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

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(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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Hon. Peter Taptuna
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David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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
Thursday, June 5, 2014

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, 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 Sammurtook, Hon. Tom Sammurtook, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 10:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, Nunavummiut, Members, and Ministers. Welcome. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 034 – 4(2):
Arctic Bay's Rex Willie Named
Outstanding Adult Educator

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Igloolik and Nunavut, as well as my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, Adult educators perform a vital role in the north, providing adults with an opportunity to improve their literacy, numeracy, and essential skills levels as

they work toward employment or pursue further educational opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce in the House that one instructor from each of Canada's territorial colleges was named outstanding adult educator. The outstanding adult educator awards were sponsored by the Canadian Association for Studies in Adult Education. Founded in 1981, the organization promotes the study of adult education and networking among adult educators in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's recipient was Rex Willie, Adult Educator at Nunavut Arctic College's Arctic Bay Community Learning Centre, and I would like to acknowledge his dedication and hard work today in the House.

Mr. Speaker, as an outstanding educator, Rex has forged partnerships with organizations, such as the Inuit Heritage Trust, Nunavut Youth Consulting, and Carleton University. In particular, he helped develop a community-based mapping project using current technologies familiar to youth in everyday life to maintain and foster valuable cultural ties. This process of active learning through identifying and mapping places of cultural importance not only engaged youth, but elders and cultural knowledge experts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending our congratulations to Adult Educator Rex Willy and his very commendable accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 035 – 4(2):
Council of Federation Literacy
Award Nomination**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: *Ullaakut*, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and the people of Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Council of Federation, I'm seeking nominations for the 2014 Council of Federation Literacy Award. One award is presented each year to someone who has made significant contributions to literacy in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues and Nunavummiut to nominate a person who has supported and encouraged others to develop their literacy skills. It can be a teacher, a student, an elder, or a community volunteer. The deadline for nomination is June 27, 2014. The nomination forms can be found on the Government of Nunavut's website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 036 – 4(2):
Tribute to Fallen RCMP Officers
of Moncton, NB**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the Royal Canadian Mounted Police members who have passed away down south. I know that

this is very difficult for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police today. Today provides a stark reminder that our Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers face difficult challenges.

We send our condolences and prayers to the families who have lost family members. I regret that we have to go through this incident. We send our condolences and prayers to the families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Going to orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 081 – 4(2): 2014
High School Graduates of Iqaluit**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer my congratulations to all of the students graduating in Nunavut this month. It is important to recognize the achievement and advancement of our young graduating population. I hope to see many of the high school graduates continue their journey of learning by attending colleges and universities in the upcoming years.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize some very important people from my family who are also graduating from high school this week. Kyra Flaherty and Rita Claire Mike who are graduating in Iqaluit. Etunaga Akeagok who is graduating in Grise Fiord and Jordan Mike who is graduating in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to draw attention to another family member from Iqaluit who is graduating from the Nunavut Teachers Education Program. Nadia Mike is going to be a teacher. I am very proud of her accomplishments and the hard work that she has dedicated her life to over the last few years in order to reach this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in offering our congratulations to all of the graduates and I wish each and every one of them the very best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 082 – 4(2):
Pangnirtung Fishing Derby**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Pangnirtung and to the people of Nunavut. I thank my colleague for congratulating our family members. This morning I was trying to consider whether I'm going to make a statement about our school graduates or the winners of the fishing derby. So I chose to rise and make a statement on the fishing derby in Pangnirtung. Thank you for congratulating our family members for completing their school.

Mr. Speaker, in Pangnirtung, we set a fishing derby for arctic char and sculpin fishing. I would like to announce the winners of sculpin fishing in Pangnirtung. For those who are no longer able to go out hunting, they're given a competition.

The winners were Naomi Komoartok, who won \$3,000, Peterloosie Kakkee, who won \$1,500, Abraham Arnakak, who won \$750, and Norman Mike, who won \$500. Those are the winners of the sculpin fishing derby.

The winners for the arctic fishing derby were Becky Akulujuk, who won \$6,000. I'm talking about money. Sandra Kilabuk won \$4,000. Geetie Maniapik, Alice Mike, and Bobby Ishulutak won \$1,000 each. Jeannie Nakasuk won \$750, Meena Kakkee won \$500, Oleepeeka Kakkee won \$300, Sheepa Nowyook won \$200, and Jackie Maniapik won \$100.

Those are the winners of our fishing derby last month for sculpin and arctic char. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 083 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Rankin Inlet
Boys Soccer Team**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to congratulate Rankin Inlet's boys soccer team for their participation in the Super Soccer tournament in Yellowknife and also for all the hard work and effort that they put in to get there.

Mr. Speaker, under the guidance of their coach, Paul Stroeder, at the Simon Alaittuq School in Rankin Inlet, (interpretation) and I apologize if I

mispronounced his name, (interpretation ends) these young soccer players, aged between 10 and 12 years old volunteered throughout the school year to earn enough money for the team, their coach and two chaperones to go to Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the team members:

Scott Naukatsik
Tyler Naukatsik
Jason Panika
Braden Subgut
Israel Maktar
AJ Owljoot
Tyrese Sammurtok
Xavier Kubluitok
Qilak Kaput
Leo Kaludjak
Randy Samgushak
Jean Marie Aokaut
Nolan Tatuinee
Wayne Pilakapsie
Luke Kusugak

I would also like to acknowledge their chaperones, Jason Pilakapsi and John Wallace.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to their training, these young soccer players volunteered at penny sales, flea markets, and raffle ticket sales during the school year. They volunteered at tournaments cleaning up the school and helping with the security. They helped cook meals for the Under 19 Girls Arctic Winter Games tryout camp. They even hosted a carnival for the kids in town.

Mr. Speaker, the team raised enough money for their trip to attend the Super Soccer Tournament in Yellowknife, but they also gained something that may be

much more valuable: they learned to work together as a team towards a common goal. That is worth more than any medal.

Again, I congratulate the Rankin Inlet boys soccer team on their successful achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 084 – 4(2): 2014
NTEP Graduates of Pond Inlet**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, education is very important and it's very good that we can be educated all our lives. There are a lot of people who have just graduated and I am very proud of those individuals who have graduated. It touches me too, especially when they're my friends and relatives.

Today, if I'm not mistaken, there are graduates here in Iqaluit who took the Teacher Education Program. We are very proud of the graduates. They will be looking after our young children and we are proud that they will be involved in the future of our children, educating them. I am very proud that they will be looking after our children when some of us can't be with our children. We are very proud and the parents are very proud. We would like them to be involved in teaching our Nunavut children.

Mr. Speaker, today, there are two people I would like to recognize, Eleanor Arreak and Rita Ootoovak. The people of Pond Inlet are very proud of them, as well as their relatives.

One of my friend's wife, Lynn Kilabuk, we are very proud of her for taking her education seriously, even though she had problems. I would like to tell Lynn that her parents are proud of her, but they couldn't be here today due to the weather.

I would like to say that while you are teachers now and we will have our relatives being taught properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. I wish to inform (interpretation ends) members that our colleague, the Member for Quttiktuq is attending to a personal matter and hence, presently absent from the House. (interpretation) I would like everyone to note that.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm taking too long to write their names down.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize in the Gallery two individuals, the Mayor for Clyde River, Jerry Natanine,

and Deputy Mayor of Qikiqtarjuaq, Steve Aulakiak. Welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Enook beat me to it, but I would like to recognize and welcome Steve Kisk Aulakiak, who is my relative, and Gerry Natanine, who is my nephew. I would like them given a warm welcome in the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 126 – 4(2): Iqaluit Air Quality

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As promised, Mr. Speaker, I am continuing my line of questioning to do with the health hazard possibilities of the "dumpcano" that we are currently experiencing here in Iqaluit. I have gone through a couple of ministers already on this line of questioning.

Yesterday, I was informed by the Minister of Health that the Department of Environment actually has the responsibility of monitoring outdoor air quality. I'm sure that his staff was

listening to my line of questioning yesterday, and in the answer from the Minister of Health that there is currently no timeline information on when this will be measured.

I would like to ask the minister today if that timeline has been firmed up with my line of questioning yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. The Department of Environment has the air quality equipment. However, this equipment is intended to monitor only urban pollution, such as dust/particulate levels, and not potential toxins from garbage fire. I can state that at this time.

In addition to the actions being taken with the dump fire, the Department of Environment is working with Health Canada at the present time to see so that the air quality at the dump can be measured. Right now, we are awaiting the proper equipment that will be able to measure the smoke spewing from the dump from Health Canada. That is what I can report at this time in the House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Minister Mike for that update, although I do have a question from his response. He states that they're currently waiting for officials from the Department of Health at the federal

level. I can't stress enough to the minister to encourage him to get those people up here as soon as possible. Can the minister inform me when those officials are expected to arrive in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the fire at the dump here in Iqaluit, I am thankful that the wind direction is generally blowing from both the north and south and not directly to Iqaluit. The wind is naturally blowing the smoke and few times, it comes toward the city.

I mentioned earlier that we will find out about the air quality testing equipment this week and I too want to see the air quality determined. We expect Health Canada officials to come here this week as well. I am expecting news on that later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to getting further information from the minister on the timeline of those officials' arrival so that I can assure my constituents that the air they're breathing is not posing a hazard to their health.

Mr. Speaker, also in one of my responses yesterday, it was advised to me that it is difficult logistically to set up this type of equipment. I would like to ask the minister: is that equipment currently in possession of the Department of Environment of the Nunavut government and what is so

difficult about setting this equipment up? Why is it taking so long? 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. As I just stated, Health Canada officials deal with air quality and we are working with them to make sure that the people of Iqaluit are not at risk. With regard to the equipment that I mentioned earlier, I will have more details on that later on this week to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 127 – 4(2): Nursing in Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, the need for full-time nursing and other health professionals is a challenge facing many jurisdictions across Canada. I believe that to attract nurses to come and live in Nunavut, we need to make that extra effort.

Can the minister provide an update on the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy and describe what new kinds of supports and incentives are being considered to recruit nurses to work in Nunavut and to commit to staying here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu for that question. What we have in place is a strategy that expired in 2012 and it was in place since 2008 to recruit and retain nurses. We have reviewed the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy and it's being worked on at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your answer. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there have been various initiatives in the past which made significant investments into hiring full-time, long-term nurses for Nunavut. Can the minister provide an update on the numbers of full-time nurses, casual nurses, and agency nurses currently working in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Currently, nursing staff is at an occupancy rate of 69.7 percent. In total there are 279 full-time nursing positions, with 193 full time positions filled, and casuals are at 79, other agency nurses are at 39. These numbers are the way they are.

I am also happy that two nurses will be graduating soon, this afternoon. Diane Iyago and Darcy Mason will be graduating from the nursing program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I also congratulate the 2 students who are graduating from the nursing program.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that times have changed. These days we pay huge sums of money to head hunting companies to go out and recruit professionals. Maybe we need to step back in time and find simpler solutions. I recall my mother telling me that when she came to Nunavut in the 1950's to Pangnirtung to go work at the hospital, somebody from the community, Minister Mike's grandmother, actually came up to my mother and said, "I'm going to look after you. You are new to this community and I'm going to look after you." So she was made to feel very welcome and was drawn into the personal and social life of the community. She has remained in Nunavut ever since.

Can the minister clarify whether her department supports any initiatives whereby individuals or organizations from each community make it a point to welcome new nurses and to introduce them to the life of the community outside of the health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu. In the work schedule, in terms of recommendations from 2007 to 2012. Those recommendations the employment situation was reviewed and the nurses, the hiring group was directed to look at nurses that could work full time in the North. So that they would begin to use less of the agency nurses and to review the costs associated with agency nurses. Also, if the nurses would not move around so much because moving around so much costs the government money.

That is the direction that we wish to move forward towards, that are referred to as the recommendations. We are still looking to see how we can improve the situation so that nurses can remain in the North longer. We are still working on that.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, recommendations being considered included improvements to hiring and human resources practices as well as improving orientation, mentorship, and professional development opportunities. At this time Health is still considering the recommendations from the evaluation of the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. We will be able to report on that later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 128 – 4(2): Nunavut Food Price Survey and Security

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all members, Nunavummiut, and to Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Family Services. As the minister will recall, she announced on Tuesday that the government recently completed the second food price survey. In her statement the minister indicated that the prices of 133 items in every store in every community in Nunavut were recorded.

As the minister is aware, there are two main retailers in almost every community in Nunavut; the Northwest Company and the Co-Op. In addition to these main stores, are communities are serviced by smaller locally owned stores. In some cases, food prices are lower in these small stores.

Can the minister clarify whether the stores that were surveyed for the recent Nunavut Food Price Survey included stores that are not owned by the Northwest Company or the Arctic Cooperatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member from Gjoa Haven in relation to the food costs. Our department is not doing the actual counting ourselves. We are providing funding. The survey group in Nunavut, Nunavut Statistics is not doing it. They are reviewing every place where food is sold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I raised concerns regarding the Nutrition North Canada Program during our recent winter sitting in March of this year. In addition, many concerns about the effectiveness of the program were raised in a previous Legislative Assembly.

As the minister is aware, the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board is holding a public meeting in Rankin Inlet next week. The purpose of which is to receive feedback on how to improve Nutrition North Canada. Can the minister indicate if her department will represent the government's concerns at next week's meeting of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Gjoa Haven who wanted to understand more about Nutrition North Canada, which is a federal organization. It is not run by the Government of Nunavut. In time we should be able to hear when all of the surveys are completed from Statistics Canada as to what the Nutrition North Canada has found. That is the way I can answer the hon. member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. I recognize

that food security and affordability is an issue across Nunavut. However, food prices and average household income can differ by community. For example, as the minister will recall, during our recent winter sitting, I noted that the Nunavut Food Price Survey results from 2013 indicated that Gjoa Haven had the highest food prices in Nunavut.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the government's actions to address food security focus on those communities where food prices are significantly above average? 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 for Gjoa Haven for that question. The survey results from last year will be available online. I would like him to understand that those results will be regularly updated. As a government, we will make full use of these results and to determine if food prices are acceptable or not. That is the way I could answer him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 129 – 4(2): NNI Policy

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

I want to follow up on some of the issues that I raised yesterday in the House.

In September of last year, the report on the 2012 joint Government of Nunavut and NTI review of the NNI Policy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

What is the status of the government's work to develop a new NNI policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow Nunavummiut. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, in reference to the question, there's ongoing work on the subject. We're still working closely with the Inuit organizations on the innards of the NNI policy and the areas that need updating will be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 these recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned previously that my department is taking the lead role with the implementation of changes to the NNI policy. Mr. Speaker, as far as NTI, our government, and various departments are concerned, we are working closely on these issues. That is all I can say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) 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 the NNI Secretariat works with the Department of Community and Government Services 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 Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the member's question, it's being dealt with properly by different departments. As I mentioned earlier, my department, the Department of ED&T, along with Community and Government Services, and other departments are working together. Whenever we look at contractors, we make sure that the NNI policy is being fully adhered to or fully inspected.

In response to my colleague's question, he's asking me if it's managed properly. As I stated, this affects many departments. We try to enforce it properly. If we feel that they need a bonus or require a bonus after the project has been completed, we check to see if they do indeed deserve a bonus regardless of the nature of the contract, in accordance with the NNI policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 130 – 4(2): RFI – Incinerators and Land Fills

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. My questions are on incinerators and I have asked him on several occasions. Being that we have a dump fire here right now and lots of smoke coming into town, I figure it's a good time to bring it up again, Mr. Speaker.

In March, there was a request for information from CG&S about

incinerators and landfill sites. Can the minister give us an update on that?
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) Thank you, member, for that question. My department is in the process of looking into the feasibility of how the incinerators can be applied in our communities across Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hamlet of Arviat has been requesting assistance to get an incinerator for the community.

As I have mentioned before, our dump is just about filled to capacity. It cannot be expanded due to regulations and the flight path of the runway. We can't just keep throwing our garbage and letting it pile up because it's not going to go away.

I just want to know if the minister has any plans of talking with the Hamlet of Arviat to pursue the community to get an incinerator. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Arviat is not

the only community in that situation. Other communities in Nunavut are basically in the same situation with their dumps. (interpretation ends) We are in discussions with Environment Canada to look into what might be a feasible solution to this problem. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister state the government's position on incinerators, whether they are for incinerators in our community? 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) I think, in the next few weeks, we are planning to do a tour in the Kivalliq, and I think this would be a terrific item to discuss at the community level. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Question 131 – 4(2): Response to Proposal from Nunavut Seniors Society

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

Mr. Speaker, I was recently given a copy of a proposal submitted by the Nunavut Seniors Society for core funding for their operations. This proposal was submitted to the Minister of Family Services in November of 2013 and the society has not yet received a reply.

Can the minister indicate whether or not she has received this proposal and whether she has considered it? 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 for Rankin Inlet South, Alex Sammurtok, for that question about the Nunavut Seniors Society. We haven't replied to them yet because we haven't decided what that will fall under. However, in the coming months, we will be able to make a decision on which minister this seniors society will fall under. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the different departments of the government have different responsibilities with respect to providing support to Nunavut-based societies and their initiatives. However, I believe that if a society takes the time to prepare a proposal and submits it to the government, they deserve the courtesy of a reply.

Will the minister commit to sending a letter to the Nunavut Seniors Society to

clarify her department's position with respect to their proposal? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Rankin Inlet South for that question. He's asking if we can respond to the proposal from the seniors' society. I will meet with my department heads and see how we can respond to that. Right now, the response I can make is that us, the executive committee, we have not many any decisions as to which group will be responsible for the elders in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have been waiting for a response for six months

(interpretation ends) I appreciate that the proposal to support initiatives relating to the elders might be more appropriate submitted to the Department of Culture and Heritage. Will the minister commit to working with her colleague, the Minister of Culture and Heritage, to ensure that the Nunavut Seniors Society proposal is given full consideration by the government and to ensure that this society is informed of the government's decision? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for Rankin-Inlet North for asking that question. We have been assisted by the Department of Culture and Heritage on this matter. There was a new horizons program that was supported by First Air. I can say that in the coming months we will be carefully making considerations as to who will be responsible for the Nunavut seniors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 132 – 4(2): Baffin Island
Caribou Survey**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly, the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

I have a question this morning to the Minister of Environment.

On Friday of last week there was a news report about a survey on the state of the Baffin caribou population. The population numbers may be alarmingly low. Can the minister explain what next steps his department is taking with the aerial caribou survey results? They did some counting by aircraft. I would like to know the findings of that survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for asking that question.

This month, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and the Elders Advisory Committee are going to be reviewing the results at the end of the month. There will be a further review of the results later on this summer or in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I heard in the news stated that caribou have diminished in number and not as a result of over-hunting, but they also stated that there may have to be a moratorium on caribou hunting on the Baffin population.

I would like to ask the minister, should the hunters be worried about the fact that there may be a moratorium on hunting caribou? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to point out to the member's question that the Department of Environment has not been able to make an opinion in regard to the caribou management plan.

We are working with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the co-management partners, such as Nunavut

Tunngavik Incorporated, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and also the Elders Advisory Committee. The co-management partners do their analysis on the results, so the Department of Environment cannot make an opinion or position alone in regard to caribou management in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his response.

Can the minister confirm if they have a Caribou Management Plan for the Baffin region? When will the plan be publicized? 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. In regards to caribou management in the Baffin region, this is not the first time that the caribou population has declined in the Baffin region. Inuit elders recognize the pattern that the caribou population can decrease or increase. I think there was a caribou quota or limitation back in the 1940's and 1950's because the caribou population was very small.

I can only tell you that the Department of Environment took part in the caribou survey in the Baffin region. The Department of Environment took the lead in the survey. As I have stated, after we have analyzed the survey results the Department of Environment will make

their position known at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 133 – 4(2): Disposal of Old Sanikiluaq Airport

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, who is responsible for airport terminals.

Mr. Speaker, about ten years ago the old airport terminal was abandoned in our community. It is of no use to the community whatsoever. In the past five years I have been trying to get the government to come up with a way to remove the building or have it demolished.

The last report I got was about a year ago and it said that there may be asbestos in the building and proper disposal would be required. Can the minister update us today on the disposal of the old airport terminal building in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his question.

Mr. Speaker, in regards to the member's question, there are many old terminal buildings in Nunavut, including the one in his riding. Mr. Speaker, we have to be

careful in cleaning up the asbestos. We have to make sure that the area around the old airport terminal is cleaned and that it isn't contaminated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we are all aware that care has to be taken when dealing with asbestos. My question is when can we expect some movement on this cleanup? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the member for his question.

As I stated before, we are working to find out if there is hazardous material. Therefore I have no new information on that. This issue has to do with the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 134 – 4(2): Monitoring Air Quality in Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to go to the business plan for the Department of Environment. Mr. Speaker, I realize I could wait until the Committee of the Whole proceedings

next week to get to this question. In good conscious, I can't do so.

Mr. Speaker, although I have been talking about the current situation at the dump in Iqaluit, I would like to take more of a territorial view at environmental assessment. It quite clearly states in the Department of Environment's business plan that environmental assessment and land use planning is the responsibility of the Department of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, during a series of questions that I have had over the last few days the Minister of Community and Government Services told me that the responsibility of air quality monitoring is the Department of Health, who has then told me that the responsibility of air quality monitoring is the Department of Environment, who just told me today that the responsibility of air quality monitoring in Nunavut is the responsibility of the federal government.

Can the minister clarify for me at this moment who is responsible for air quality monitoring in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague, the member for Tasiluk, for asking that question. The member's riding is pronounced Tasiluk, not Tasirluk.

The issue I was trying to raise this when he first asked the question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment at the local community level in Nunavut can

only monitor, or test in the communities on air quality. I have stated that this earlier, that we cannot test the air quality that we breathe. It cannot test the smoke quality.

For example, in this case, we call it air pollution when we refer to the smoke of the fire. As I stated earlier, in the local communities in Nunavut, the air quality can be monitored with the equipment. This equipment is not designed to monitor the smoke as it is intended to monitor only urban pollution, such as dust/particulate levels, and not potential toxins from the smoke from the dump. For that reason, we cannot do a test on dump smoke. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I'm a little bit confused, but if it's there to test the air quality that we're breathing, I understand that you don't want to put the equipment in the line of the smoke, but if the smoke is coming into the line of the community where it's the air that we are breathing, I'm a little unclear of how that equipment is unable to measure toxins in the air if that's the sole purpose of air quality monitoring. Can I get some clarification from the minister, please. 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. I stated that the testing equipment we have cannot measure the smoke. As I stated before, we're not saying that the Department of

Environment cannot do air quality testing. However, I'm saying that the air quality equipment we have can monitor only the urban pollution, such as dust/particulate levels in the community, and not the smoke from the dump.

I don't know where the line of communication is breaking down between us, but I apologize for that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also within his department's business plan, it talks about the environmental monitoring and investigating spills or emergency response. One of the conditions in that is developing environmental guidelines. Does the minister's department have guidelines established on air quality in consideration of toxic chemicals in the air? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for letting me speak about the statement that I'm going to make some time soon, but at this time, (interpretation ends) I'll take it as notice. (interpretation) 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) Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 135 – 4(2): Incinerators for Nunavut Communities

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

Earlier, I asked him for his department's position on incinerators to the communities. His reply was that when he does the Kivalliq tour, it would be a good time to discuss it. I would just like to know if they have a position on putting incinerators into the communities. 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. I think this is a question that I may have answered in a previous session. However, we are looking into incinerators. However, at the same time, these are very expensive propositions to look into, but the reason I mention discussing it at the community level is that we are open to discussing this with the communities. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, incinerators are expensive and may be unproven technology, but I think it would be a good place to start to test one out to see if they work. We are a small community, but we are one of the bigger small communities. Has the minister been having any talks to get funding from Building Canada funds to

get incinerators? 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) As I mentioned again in a previous response to a question, we are still in the process of finalizing the Building Canada Fund. We haven't signed an agreement as yet. However, again, I stress that we are open to any discussions of that nature. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Question 136 – 4(2): Financial Support for Adult Students

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, according to Nunavut Arctic College, in your report which was tabled yesterday, it says that the number of applicants to adult basic education has declined due to the lack of financial support. Can the minister tell us today what is being done to address this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry that I

can't respond to the member's question. (interpretation ends) I'll take it as an advisement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) ...notice.

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. Unfortunately I don't have one. Well, I do now.

>>> *Laughter*

Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 137 – 4(2): Minimum Wage Rate

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't like leaving time on the clock, so I'll get to something else that was tabled yesterday from the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the *Labour Standards Act*.

Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago today, I asked the minister about minimum wage hikes for the territory of Nunavut. In his response there, he said that he will have to make a proposal to look at it and to start the process from there.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that the minister is a very busy man and it has only been two weeks, but I'm wondering if the minister would be able to update me on the progress of that proposal. 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) At this time, we are going through a bigger challenge in terms of employment within that department. We're hoping that we won't be short-staffed in the near future, but at this time, I can only say that we're working on this proposal and hoping that we will make progress in the future on this matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand that there are some staffing challenges there and my apologies that I had let that information slip by me.

Along the same lines, though, in the comparative analysis in the report that was tabled yesterday, it looks at some of the cost of living factors, food, shelter, transportation, clothing, utilities, as we all know, just recently increased, and, where applicable, daycare costs and other miscellaneous expenses.

Mr. Speaker, also in the report, it talks about the Government of Nunavut currently has the highest rate in Canada at \$11 per hour.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the minister is aware that the Government of Ontario has recently put in legislation to increase their minimum wage to \$11 per hour as well.

Would the minister agree with me that the cost of living in Nunavut is substantially higher than it is in the

province of Ontario? 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) I fully agree with my colleague that the cost of living is substantially higher than Ontario. At the same time, as a government, we are looking at the cost of groceries, for example, through Family Services. We have to consider those carefully with also the cost of doing business in our territory. We are working on this and reviewing it with our colleagues throughout our government at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time has expired. 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. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 022 – 4(2): Correspondence to the Ministers of Family Services and Justice

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of correspondence that I have written to the ministers of Family Services and Justice concerning the abuse of social assistance.

Given the importance of this issue, I am tabling a copy of my correspondence for the benefit of all members and Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings. I will also be tabling a copy of the ministers' reply to my correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. The Hon. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 005 – 4(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, June 9, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its spring 2014 sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 21, 2014.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker (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 Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 3 – 4(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

We will now break for lunch and report back at 1:30.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:24 and Committee resumed at 13:28*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. I say “good day” to the people of Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) 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 continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Family Services. If time permits, we will commence with the review of the Department of Justice, followed by the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman’s Ruling

Chairman: Thank you, members. Before resuming consideration of the proposed 2014-15 Main Estimates of the Department of Family Services, I am now prepared to deliver my ruling on the point of order raised by the Member for Tununiq during the June 4, 2014 proceedings of the Committee of the Whole.

In raising his point of order, the Member for Tununiq took issue with the response provided by the Minister of Family Services to one of his questions.

In speaking to his point of order, the Member for Tununiq expressed concern that the minister had accused him of lying to the House.

I have reviewed both the Inuktitut and English versions of the unedited *Hansard Blues* and I have reviewed the audio and video record of the proceedings.

I am satisfied that the Minister of Family Services did not accuse the Member for Tununiq of deliberately lying or misleading the House. This dispute between the members is simply a dispute concerning the interpretation of facts.

Consequently, the Member for Tununiq does not have a valid point of order, no further action on the part of the Chair is required, and this matter is concluded. Thank you, members.

Does the Committee of the Whole agree that Minister Ugyuk’s staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: *Iqsuktii*, please allow the minister's staff to go to the witness table.

(interpretation) Thank you very much.
(interpretation ends) Minister, for the record, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Simon Awa on my right (interpretation) and from Finance, David Kolot. Thank you.

Chairman: Members, we were on page D-5. Children and Family Services. Questions on page D-5, Children and Family Services? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, everybody. I would like to go into the area of family protection services and ask: how many foster care homes do we have in Nunavut currently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to answer this question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, the current

number of temporary foster homes is 223. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. How many children are currently in foster care in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind, I'm sorry that I didn't respond properly to the first question and that I mistook one number for the other. The number of approved foster homes is 225. I'm sorry. Currently, the number of foster homes that children can be placed in foster care are 223. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. How many children are in foster care outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 68 in total not in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister describe what procedures are in place to monitor and keep up to date on the status of children and adults who are sent out of the territory in foster care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Peter Dudding to come to the table if he could be permitted to come to the witness table.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in a different official?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation) Thank you very much. Minister Ugyuk, could you identify your official?

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): This is Peter Dudding on my left. He is the Director of Child Services in Nunavut.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak, could you repeat your question please? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Welcome Mr. Dudding. Can you describe what kind of procedures are in place to monitor and to keep up to date on the status of children and adults who are sent out of the

territory to receive residential or foster care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Peter Dudding answer this.

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

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All children and results who go outside of the territory are first reviewed by a residential placement review committee that looks after these matters across the territory. When the decision is made then for a person to be placed outside of the territory then those situations, those cases are then monitored and supervised by the community social services workers who work in the field in our communities.

In addition, we have 2 staff in headquarters: a child welfare specialist who will monitor their care and we also have an adult services specialist who will monitor the care of the adults. Then regular reports are received from those residences where they are staying. Regular visitation and case planning conferences are conducted. In addition to that, on an annual basis a review of all facilities in which persons from Nunavut are placed outside they are reviewed on an annual basis. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Who sits on the residential placement

review committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we have Peter Dudding provide the details?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: The residential placement review committee is chaired by headquarters staff so that will be either the aforementioned child welfare specialist or the adult services specialist and our director of client services and operations.

In addition to that, then the appropriate staff depending on which region would include the regional manager, the supervisor, the community social services worker, and where appropriate and where possible, the family members will be involved. And in addition if there are other professionals involved for example from Health or Justice services they would also be invited to participate on the review committee.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering now when you say that the department is involved and when possible the family is involved. Can you tell me, do you send children away out of territory without the family's consent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague. The children are sent out for various reasons. Some of them are taken 100 percent by social services and some are just temporarily taken custody of. When agreements are used then the parents would usually take part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: I think that is another area that we could get into. But I would like to go on to what you said about regular visitation. I'm wondering how often does the department travel to see these children that are sent out of territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The visitation requirements, the schools are visited and we have our policy that requires that they be visited twice a year each. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that the department staff here that travel down twice a year to visit each of these children? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The relatives

of the child or the adult would be the people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So how often does the department responsible make visitations other than the family? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): The employees are required to go and review the foster homes. I would like Peter Dudding to answer this.

Chairman: Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The practice will vary according to each case and according to *Child and Family Services Act* standards. The visitation standards are laid out in our policy, although practice will vary according to whether they're children or adults. In addition to that, I'll also point out that we do have a new position of client liaison, where we do have regular visitation presence in the Ottawa area for our children in care as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate how many times in the last fiscal years clients in foster homes in the south caring for Inuit children were visited? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When foster children go down south, social workers in the north agree amongst each other and under a departmental agreement, we have policies about all of them and we follow the procedures. The policies that they follow down there are similar to the policies that we have up here, but not all of them are the same as the policies and procedures that we have up here.

I would like Mr. Dudding to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify first of all the use of language. We actually do not place children in foster care outside of Nunavut. The children who are placed outside of Nunavut would be placed in some form of residential care. Just a point of clarification.

Another point of clarification I would make is in reference to an earlier question about under what conditions the children are placed outside of the territory. Actually, two-thirds of the children who are placed outside of the territory are on a voluntary service agreement or arrangement. To be clear about that, it means that that's an agreement between the department and the parents about the placement of the child outside of the territory.

As I indicated earlier in terms of the... I believe the question was could I indicate the number of times. No, I can't give you the specific number of times because that would be as varied as the 69 children that we have placed, but certainly, in terms of the schedule the

member was interested in terms of a more specific schedule in terms of what the visitation has been, we can provide that.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We spend a lot of money, I think, out of territory to look after some Nunavummiut who have been sent away. That's why I wanted to know if we're really aware of what kind of service they're getting. It seems like we're relying on other people to tell us that they're doing a good job.

I want to go on to what you said about residential care. So if that's not a home where somebody is receiving foster care, what is the difference between the residential care and the group home that we had here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Peter Dudding will respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The group home here in Iqaluit is a parent model, staff supported group home facility that can provide care for up to eight children. The parents in the home would have general training and experience in terms of working with children who may present with emotional or behavioural problems. The programs that we access in the south

would be programs we would use in order to meet the special needs of children, be they medical needs, they may also be behavioural needs or emotional/psychological where the expectation is in terms of the staff or the house parents would have specialized training and have access to specialized services and resources in order to meet the needs of those children. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we go back to the last session when we were discussing the group home and I was voicing my concern about the children being sent down south.

I think the department, through the minister, said the reason why the children are being sent down south is because you don't want the younger children growing up in that institution. And yet this residential care, to me, seems a bit like an institution. Perhaps even more so because now you don't have the parent model. That is concerning to me. Do you feel that the children who were in the group home were not getting the care that they required? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I keep repeating myself about why it was closed. The question was asked. They were sent to that residential place down there. The question seems to be which is better, between the two. I would like Peter Dudding to respond to that. I think he knows the pros and cons of the 2. I'm

not sure how to respond to it so I'll ask Mr. Peter Dudding to respond.

Chairman: Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the *Child and Family Services Act* we are required to look at the best interest of each child who comes into the care of the director. And in doing so, looking at their best interest, ensuring that their emotional, behavioural, developmental, spiritual, and cultural needs are met. A very careful assessment process is undertaken in each case in order to ensure that we are doing our level best. I should add to that, educational and social needs as well. We do are level best to put in place plans of care to meet the needs of those children.

In doing so, part of the process is one around selecting and doing matching around the most appropriate kind of placement that is available for our children. I would hasten to add that it is very, very important and of primary consideration of all of our staff to ensure that whenever possible children stay within Nunavut and are looked after here and that the decision to leave the territory for a period of time will always be based on the best interests after we are fully satisfied that the kind of resources that are available within Nunavut to meet their needs, whether those resources are available or not. And if they're not available then a decision will be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe I got a reply to my question. Do you feel the children in

the group home were not receiving the type of care that they required? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to your question the Department of Family Services stopped keeping kids from there. I know there are still a few people there. They will be there until September. It is mainly going to be used for younger women. We have received information from the standing committee on family services. They had concerns about the closing of the group home. It is unfortunate that it had to happen. I believe Peter Dudding can provide more details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answer to the member's question, I believe that the children who were residing in the group home are receiving very good care and that their needs have been and are being well looked after. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: That was a confusing answer as well. Maybe somebody else will take it up. Let me go on now and ask how much of the budget do we spend on foster care in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.. I would like David Kolot to respond to that if he can come back to the table.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms. Can you please escort one witness out and the other back in? Thank you. Ms. Angnakak. In regards to Ms. Angnakak's question, can you please repeat it? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the minister could tell us how much of the budget do we spend on foster care in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. David Kolot will respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: I'd like to thank the hon. member for that question. In the budget that the department has prepared we are looking at spending \$2,549,000 for foster care within Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Can the department tell us how much they spend on foster care outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. David Kolot will respond.

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

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the question. As mentioned by Mr. Dudding, there is not foster care outside of Nunavut. There is residential care for children outside of Nunavut. We are anticipating that we will be spending about \$9,944,000 of our budget for residential care for children outside of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us why we have such a great difference in price between the \$2 million and the \$9 million and we have a lot more children under care in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That's an excellent question. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For disabled people or people who require 24-hour care, the price changes depending on the level of care. I'll have Mr. Kolot elaborate further on that with your permission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kolot: Thank you for the question. For children outside of Nunavut, the terms and conditions of payment are

based on standing offer agreements, which people respond to under requests for proposals. We are bound by those standing offer agreements in terms of placing children outside of Nunavut.

When I commented on the foster care, basically this is money that is related to the food and all the kinds of allowances within Nunavut that we provide, but the residential care is a contract with a provider and it's driven by the rates that are on the standing offer agreements. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister: how much was the budget to run the group home in Iqaluit for the children? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. David Kolot will respond to the question.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have to get back to the member because we don't have the information in front of us. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think now I'm going to go to this question here. What is the long-term plan for children with disabilities severe enough that families are unable to

look after them at home in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe Peter Dudding can go to the witness table. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you very much. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): In regard to the question, Peter Dudding will respond. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the member would mind repeating the question. I want to make sure I understand it clearly.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, please repeat your question.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the long-term plan for children with disabilities severe enough that families are unable to look after them at home in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dudding: That's a big question. It will be as varied at the individual plans because each one of them, and, I am sure that you can appreciate, differ. Let me

say that, generally, the department does support the Nunavut disabilities society. As part of our contributions and grants program and their role is to help develop resources and facilities here in Nunavut.

In addition to that, the department does run a number of programs and services in the territory, adult group homes for example, that provide care to adults with disabilities. In addition to that, we have been operating, as a pilot project, what is called “the alternative family care program”, which has provided an opportunity for persons with disabilities to be repatriated back to Nunavut in order to live their lives here.

There are several means by which children and families can and do plan to bring their children and have their families reunited back here in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe my question was answered so I would like to ask it again. I do not think the Nunavut disability society, “Makinnasuaqtiit” I think they are called, houses can house children that have nowhere else to go.

My question is what is the long-term plan for children with disabilities severe enough so families are unable to look after them at home? Where are they going to go? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague

is asking a question in regard to long-term plan for children with severe disabilities. According to my understanding that we have not resolved or made a decision on that. The Department of Health and my department have to meet together to see if we are going to make any long-term plans in the future.

The group home that is going to be closed usually takes care of disabled children and physically help the children. I will ask Peter Dudding to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To supplement the response, it would always be one with regard to planning with each one of the families concerned, as I indicated previously, 66 per cent of those families are involved with us on a voluntary basis, and certainly part of the planning is the plan around what can be in place for the child to return to Nunavut.

I should point out that in many cases as the child’s medical needs with regard to their disability are dealt with or addressed in the south that they can and do come home, then the successful partnership, as the minister has indicated, with the Department of Health and with the Department of Education in putting together a plan of care so that the child’s needs are met by all of the services that are required is certainly the kind of work that we do on an everyday basis. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your answer. I think we all know that there is something wrong here and I think the priorities should be trying to, I suppose, get those children back here and to get a facility that can house them again, and to undo what has been done because I do not know of one person that agreed with this move. I think there is a lot of concern in Nunavut about the move that was made.

I do not know who likes to send kids away. What concerns me is a lot of those children were unable to speak up on their own behalf, and perhaps they were the easiest to send away because you are not going to hear anything back from them.

When I looked at your business plan on page 114, it stated that \$3.1 million is to provide adult support services in the areas of counselling and support services to eligible adults with disabilities.

Can you tell us what the eligibility requirements are for this program?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite understand the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Can you restate your question, Ms. Angnakak?

Ms. Angnakak: If you look in your business plan, it talks about providing adult support services, and that's for adults with disabilities. What are the

eligibility requirement, because it says here "eligible adults with disabilities".

If you have a disability of sight, can you join? If you have a disability with not being able to hear? What is it that you need to do to get assistance under this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Peter Dudding respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The eligibility criteria for those services would be public guardianship; that refers to persons with an intellectual disability to the extent that they are not able to care for or look after themselves, who would be coming into our care under the hospices of the public guardian. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Ok. I have a little over two minutes here. How many community social workers do we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Dudding to respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dudding: I think it will be more appropriate for Mr. Kolot.

Chairman: Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the hon. member for the question. I'm going to give you the most current update in terms of the total staff complement for the Children and Family Services division. The majority of those positions will be community social work positions.

Okay, for the Children and Family Services branch, we have 73 positions within the branch. At present, we are at 61 percent capacity within that branch. I have mentioned that the majority of those positions in Children and Family Services would be CSW positions.

Even though we're looking at vacancies within that area, we do employ community social service workers on casual appointment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thanks for that answer. Being at 61 percent capacity, that means you have some vacancies in some communities. Perhaps some communities don't have a social worker. How do you deal with situations in a community when there's no social worker there on hand to deal with the crises. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Peter Dudding answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In those circumstances then, we operate on a regional basis. Within the region, communities will have a supervisor who will have multiple communities. So, when those arrangements are made on a temporary, the supervisor in the neighbouring community and his or her staff then will be responsible for providing coverage in the community that does not currently have a CSW. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I ask, then, if there's a crisis that right now, there's something happening in the house down the road and there's children that are in danger, if there's nobody there, as a department, how do you deal with a situation like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there was a case of that kind, and if there's no social worker, the RCMP and nurses would be called. That's the way it has been, but if Mr. Dudding has another situation, he can give us an answer. Thank you.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In those circumstances then, we operate on a

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is correct from experience, I've nothing to add to that.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things, since I've been in the House and talking about children in foster care and group homes, I've had a lot of people from different communities write to me about their own situations. I've feeling that people feel they don't have anybody to talk to, so I guess because I've been bringing this up, I've been sort of the one that people are coming to.

One of the things that I hear all the time from foster parents in communities that they feel that they don't have enough support from the department. Some examples were given to me like when you need to take a foster child to the dentist and you have to go to work, I mean just things like that.

What kind of support is there for foster parents? I am not just talking about financial support, but support in the house to help families deal with the extra load. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a policy at the Department of Family Services; what we do is they try to get some help from social workers. If they do not approach the social workers, they would not get any help.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that that is what they are supposed to be doing, but when they do not do it what is one to do? How does the family get support when they are not receiving it? What is the process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The foster parents can go to the social service supervisors, and if they need more help they can go to the director. If nothing happens, there are regional directors that can be approached. That is the way it goes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Probably my last question seeing I am at 27 seconds. Being a social worker is probably one of the hardest positions to hold. I can just imagine. With that in mind, what kind of support does the department offer its social workers to do their jobs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Dudding to respond to the question because he is a director.

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

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a hard job and we are

keenly aware in terms of how important it is to support our staff and our foster parents. In order to do so, making sure that, in the first instance, our supervisors are well-trained and have the kind of training and support that they need in order to work with their social work staff and their team is critically important.

In addition to that, the department has done a great deal of work over the last year in particular, but certainly in times before, in ensuring that we have a regular training calendar in place for our staff. We have revised our statutory and core training for staff. We have updated and now have in place a wide range of available training materials online for our staff in terms of a whole range of different area of skill they need in order to do their job, and they are regularly meeting with their supervisors and with their regional managers as teams. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We often hear about social workers having burned out; you have a big turnover rate. I think we have no social workers in Iqaluit that speak Inuktitut, and I think that is a real concern.

Do you feel that the reason there is such a turnaround for social workers because of burnout? I could take an online course, but do I have time do that if I am a social worker? Do you know what I am getting at here? What are the uplifting parts that you do for social workers so that they could do their job? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my last question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In April 2013, when Family Services became a separate department we wanted to be able to continue with our work.

It's good that there is a course in Cambridge Bay for social workers. The first year students, when they finished, I was there. There are others that are in the third year of their program. They can speak Inuktitut and they want to have Inuit people in their own language. When we became Family Services in... at that time we wanted to be able to have Inuktitut speaking social workers. That is what we want to do in the future is to train more social workers that speak Inuktitut. I will get Peter Dudding to add to that answer.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. It does take a very special commitment on the part of our staff and fortunately in terms of the support they also provide to each other which I neglected to mention. It is probably one of the most critical areas.

We are very fortunate in terms of having a very committed core group of staff here in Nunavut who have actually quite a long period of service here in the north. It's very important both in terms of their understanding of the culture and the communities that they work in. As the member rightly pointed out we also then have a fairly high turnover in terms of people who come and go.

As the minister has rightly pointed out that the goal in terms of having a workforce that is reflective of the population that we serve. That is to have more Inuit and Inuktitut speaking social workers is not only our legal obligation under Article 23 but it is good social work practice and good for families. That is clearly the direction the department is going in. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. According to the names that I have, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. First of all, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your ruling in relation to my point of order yesterday.

The minister has stated something about group homes and the time for it is now passed. However, I did not come here as an Member of the Legislative Assembly to just let things pass and be forgotten because I have... the government's departments we always believe that we are always expect departments to be looking for better, more positive things.

However, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask about the situation that is no longer in effect so to speak. In order for my question to be clear and so that I can make sense of the answers if the minister could provide me with a clear and concise in answer. We in Nunavut would like to know, there used to be a foster home for a very long time. Can you enlighten me as to why that centre closed and how can the closing of that centre. Is it good for the parents who lost that home? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The children who were there, we thought that for their welfare, it would be preferable to close what is said to be closed. It is now being used by youth. At the Department of Family Services, we also know that services must be provided for the youth. For that reason, there has been a focus. There used to be six, three were sent south and three were sent back home or foster homes or two foster homes. That is the way I could answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope, once in a while, if you could agree with me that we are only talking about what used to be a group home. We know that it's now directed for a different purpose. I'm trying to ask what was used to be. I had asked parents and they have asked me, "How is it better that the children move from here to the south?" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were told not too long ago about the foster homes, about how half of them have reached agreements about sending them down south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does sending children south better than what used to be the group home up here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He is asking how it can be better. I was listening to some noise behind me and the MLA asked about how it could be considered to be better. When a child has been taken over by social services, they have discussions with the parents. They would be sent down south according to policies and protocols. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps what I'm trying to get at is, in relation to the child, we want to see services up in our territory so that relatives can see children in care every now and then. It seems that there was room up here for the children you sent down south, if I could be permitted to say that. What was the situation that resulted in a decision to move them down south? How was that better? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what other answer I could provide. All we know is that, according to our policies, we consider that to be a better move than the way it was. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I understand it then that while they were in that home in Iqaluit that things were not running according to par and were not being looked after well. They were then sent south?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has 6 children there. What transpired was that they were no longer being considered children but youth. In order to think about their welfare in terms of what they would be become and so probably for that main reason that decision was made because. And too, foster parents change. Some no longer continue to be foster homes. There is a turnover. (interpretation ends) Four sets of foster parents, I believe, during the years that it was open. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is what I was trying to get at. When they become teenagers, how would them growing as teenagers in the south be considered better than growing to become a teenager up north? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The children that are sent south aren't sent south permanently. They are not exiled. They are able to come back to the north. However, if there are no placements for them in the north then discussions take

place as to finding solutions for them. I think that we have been misunderstood that we sent children south just like that at the drop of a hat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me then frame my question thusly. The children you sent home, even though you endeavoured not to send them home, they seem to have sufficient places here in the foster homes up here. And yet they were sent south. Was that better for the children and better for the parents?

Chairman: Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of them go back to their parents. Anyone of the children or people in foster care can go back to their real parents.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): When can they return home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We heard not too long ago that half of those children in foster homes have agreed to it by way of agreements. If there are provisions that state when the child should be returned or adult then that would be followed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): So then now I understand that some of the people can be foster parents and some could be sent back home and then some are sent south. Why do they no longer reside in group homes? What were the reasons? How do you determine who is going to be ending up where? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could ask the director in charge to answer this since that is his area of responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each child has a plan of care created for them and it looks at the whole range of needs that I mentioned earlier in order to ensure how those needs can be met here in Nunavut and, if those needs cannot be met in Nunavut, where and what kind of services are required.

Let me just assure the member that the issue in terms of decision for children to be placed outside of the territory only occurs after very careful consideration of what that child's needs are, whether the child's needs can be met here in Nunavut and, if they can't be, then what other kind of services and supports do they need and for what period of time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find it hard to understand and perhaps I may never understand since I may never receive an answer, which is when they were just fine and dandy in this place, and then suddenly, the next time you wake up, the department says, "We've got to send them out." I just can't understand what prompted the department to decide that the place in Iqaluit had to close. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No one in our department has said that the place in Iqaluit was terrible. That is the way I can answer my colleague. We are always trying to look for best practices. We don't use worst practices, but best practices, and that was why the decision was made by our department.

I have been answering the MLA so many times and I don't know how better I can frame the same answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, it's because I don't believe that the department's move is better if I am coming from Pond Inlet and if I have a child residing here. There were parents with children who were residing here. Some of them go to meetings or go to hospital visits. Once in a while, they were able to visit their children and see them.

I'm not interested in finding out who the parents were. However, if you send the

children down south, how is it better for the parents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This affects our department, so I refuse to answer it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Maybe if I ask it this way, Mr. Chairman. Any child is brought into a foster plan and that person would have a boss in Nunavut, and there are foster people in Nunavut, is it better for that child and the parents if the child is sent to the south? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it is better for the parents and children. I don't know how to answer that. It is up to the parents as to how they feel. We are trying to do the best for the child. More than half of these clients were sent south through an agreement. They don't just get sent down there. The foster people and the parents meet regularly.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand correctly, your department has not checked to see if the new situation is better than what they left behind in the group home here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the same question he has been asking over and over. We are trying to use the best practice model. If you put a child in an institution it's known in the best practice model that when the child becomes an adult the child is not close to his kin. We only place children mostly through voluntary service agreements. It is the parents that agree in the first place that the person with custody of the child. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With all due respect (interpretation) I keep asking the same question because you haven't responded to it. You haven't answered it. I would like an answer. That's why I keep repeating the same question. If you answered the question right away then we could move onto something else.

Apparently they understand that these young people... when kids stay together in a group home, as they reach adulthood then that is wrong. It seems like one of your staff said some of the kids have been sent to institutions down south. Now how is that good when the same situation was bad in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The children that are sent out have physical

disabilities. We want to make sure that they are cared for properly. That is why it was done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still don't understand why is it that when they were in an institution in the group home and you just said it's no good for them to grow up in a group home. What is the difference between the two? Why is it good down there and bad up here if they grow up in an institution? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are the chairman. Please keep track of the meeting. I will get Mr. Simon Awa to respond to it.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have just a brief explanation. There was planning done as to how to use that group home. That planning had started previously. When the Department of Family Services became a department it took it over. They implemented the plan that had been started earlier.

I can say that we are not talking about something very bad. People who stayed at the group home or other people that were in other foster homes. We are trying to do the best for them, the best care for them. That is always our intention. And also for their relatives.

That is always our intention. Let us be aware that we are always giving them an opportunity or a chance, if a person is from Nunavut if that person needs care and that care is outside of the territory, we make sure that the parents and the family get an opportunity to go see their children.

We can help them in that regard. Probably twice a year we can bring the relatives down to go see those children in the south. It doesn't matter where the children are. If it's in Nunavut, then the parents are sent to see the children twice a year, in Nunavut and down south. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, minister you stated earlier. I just want to make sure you wanted to make sure something about the chairman. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are controlling or facilitating the meeting. The way I understand that question was posed practically 10 times. I find it impossible to answer it in any other way. I can only respond by telling the truth. That is what I have been doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to say during question period the Members of the Legislative Assembly are allowed to ask questions within their allotted time. When a Member of the Legislative Assembly is asking questions and asks the same question many times. If you don't respond to that question and if you do not want to answer the question you just say you don't want to answer the question. Let's proceed. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It isn't the fact that we want to keep asking questions. It's just the fact that normal people in Nunavut want answers. As you were just told, if you do not want to answer then you don't have to answer. If you don't have to answer then you have to face the fact that you don't want to respond to the people of Nunavut it's entirely up to you if you don't want to respond.

Let me ask again. And the Deputy Minister, Mr. Awa, I totally agree with his comments. We are all trying to do the best for the children and that's what we are supposed to do for the people that we represent in Nunavut. I totally completely agree with that. I've never disagreed with that. The only thing I disagree with is why are we going there?

Inuit, especially Inuit in Nunavut, we have been taught by our elders that family is very important. Families have to stay close together and work together. Whenever families, relatives are together we are always told it is the best thing. How can I be made to understand? How can I understand why that child sent to the south is going to benefit family relationships? How can I understand? How will that support or help family relationships? How can it be better for the family relationship? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The child and the parents are helped by the social worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed further, let's take a 15 minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:56 and resumed at 15:20*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. We're on (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Family Services. Children and Family Services. D-5. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister how the government's document, Inuit societal values, has changed anything or if it has, I know it's a recent document, but has it changed how they deal with children and family? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Simon Awa respond to the question about Inuit societal values. Thank you.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Likewise, within our government departments, we're facing challenges in incorporating Inuit societal values within our programs and services. We face the same challenges as the other departments. Sometimes it's very difficult to incorporate Inuit societal values into legislation and into the policies.

I am very pleased to announce... I'll use an example. It goes through the court and they make a decision through the court that they need to use Inuit societal values within the courts when they start dealing with Inuit and social issues. That was just an example.

With that, we work very hard to incorporate Inuit societal values and we're continuing to work on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Let me ask the minister then: when a couple has to go through the court system to resolve their dispute or sometimes they are separated. According to Inuit societal values, it states that Inuit have to remain together and not separate. Can the minister tell us which one they're using, either or? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member from Arviat, Mr. Savikataaq, for asking that question in regard to the courts. Perhaps the justice minister can respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik, if you would like to respond, please say yes or no. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not available to respond to that question. I'm

not at the witness table so therefore I did not prepare myself for that question. I apologize Mr. Chairman, Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That is understandable. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we will leave societal values behind because I'm not sure if they are being followed. On another matter, I have been told by some of my constituents that if a person is suicidal and they go to a social worker they are told that it is not the social worker's job and they have to go to the nurses. Is that true? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Social workers have a policy on the procedure and the administration. The nurses have authority to deal with them and if the social worker is not authorized or certified to deal with emergency cases or critical cases because there is policy. That is why they can do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Seek more clarity then. Social workers do not deal with suicidal patients. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's critical and if it's vital that they can request. It's very difficult to find out what state of

mind the individuals. But if there is a patient with mental illness there is a mental health worker in some communities that they can take on that responsibility. It's their responsibility to deal with that kind of issue. At least I would appreciate it if they can go to the mental health worker. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq

Mr. Savikataaq: Suicide is as big problem in our territory and my understanding now is that social workers do not deal with suicidal people because they don't have the training. But these suicidal people are sent to the nursing station probably most nurses don't have that training either unless they have a mental health specialist or a psychiatric nurse. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The social workers, if there is an emergency case they have a policy that there is a process for them to follow. Sometimes there are psychiatric nurses placed in some communities. If an individual is seeking help I have no idea if there is ever a case where they are denied but I would like to have Peter Dudding respond further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To add to the minister's response, it would be a normal part of good social work practice and part of the ethical responsibility of any of our staff if a person presents in front of them with

suicidal behaviour or suicidal ideation that as the minister has pointed out, in terms of dealing with the emergency, they would deal with the immediacy of that situation. But as the minister has also correctly pointed out, part of their professional responsibility then would be to make a referral to mental health services in order to ensure that that person got the care that they required from properly qualified professionals. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask the minister. When is it not an emergency when a person is suicidal? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those questions are posed to the social worker. The social worker asks what the client is thinking, but according to the way the client responds, then they can make a decision. It's under the Mental Health Program. Those individuals take care of suicidal people. I believe that's where the misunderstanding occurs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different matter but same subject, that mental health facility here by the high school, how many residents can stay in there? What's the capacity of that place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Health can respond to that as to what the capacity is for that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister Ell, are you prepared to answer the question, yes or no? Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I have the information, I'm having difficulty finding it, so if you can be patient and wait a moment.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, we can wait.

Thank you very much. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you for your patience. The building's name is Akausisarvik, the mental health centre here in Iqaluit, which was recently renovated. There are 16 beds and one-third of beds are being utilized, and the other one-third for long-term care patients. The first one that I mentioned earlier is that some of these beds are used for short-term patients and some of the beds are allotted for long-term use for clients who don't have a place to go, even though they are ready to leave the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much for your response. I would like to remind my colleagues that we finished our review of the Department of Health. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for that. I thought that that was under the same heading as a group home. My apologies for asking on that.

On another matter here, on page 115 of your business plan, the third bullet from the bottom says, "Continue to implement and seek out resources to support the residential care work plan to improve residential services case management, and contract management, including family based care development in Nunavut." Can the minister explain what that means? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Dudding to respond to the question. He deals with that Akausisarvik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the creation of the Department of Family Services in April 2013 we undertook an initiative around the residential care action plan. The purposes of the action plan were to improve the quality of care provided to the children and adults who were in our care, to better manage the costs related to those individuals as well as to improve the outcomes for the persons who were receiving service. Part of that residential care action plan has been to, as I referenced to earlier questions, the creation of the placement planning review committee process to really look across the territory at individual plans of

care for all persons who were coming to our attention around placement planning.

With regard to the contract management is to ensure that all of the facilities reviews and the updates around ensuring good quality of care are part of the contracts as we go forward in order to ensure that we are getting the best quality care for the money provided.

With respect to the third item, on family based care development in Nunavut, picking up on the sentiment of this Legislative Assembly which is not new with respect to doing a better job around the creation and the development of foster care and alternative family care and other services and supports for persons who require care here in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a clarification. Is Home Care under Family Services or Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the home care dealt with by the Department of Health but I know that the service that is going to be provided to Nunavut is done by the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, the second

bullet to do with the Auditor General's Report it says, "develop and beginning to implement an action plan to respond to recommendations from the 2013 Auditor General's follow-up report on child, youth, and family services in Nunavut." When can we see this plan being tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Auditor General of Canada will... from the recommendation by the Auditor General... Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the questions that were asked to the minister for people that need care in the southern institution. When they don't have a place to go in Nunavut, if there is no care facility here in Nunavut because we know that there are rooms in those care facilities. For people who need long-term care or those who need care because they don't really know what to do, who looks after those care facilities? Is it done by the Nunavut government or is it federal funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a good answer, I would like to get Mr. Dudding to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to residential care facilities in Nunavut, there are both facilities that are contracted by the Department of Family Services and they are all run by persons who had responded to a request for proposals to operate those programs on our behalf. For example, there are three elders' facilities in Nunavut that are run under contract for the department.

In addition to that, to kind of give fullness of an answer to the member, there are other residential care facilities that are run by our colleagues in the Department of Health as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm talking about individuals who need to stay in a care facility, the ones who are not quite adult yet. Although there are places such as those that... For the ones who are down south in care facilities, do they have Inuit employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, it is done by the provinces and licensed by the provinces, and we don't operate them and their employees are not our employees. That's all I can say to answer the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people of Nunavut would be very concerned if there are no Inuit employees in those facilities and they send those people who only speak Inuktitut down south to be cared for. When you bring Inuit clients down south who speak Inuktitut and the workers don't understand them, then their culture is lost. Has this been considered when you're sending Inuit children down south? Their food is quite different. Do you find out whether this could be done properly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The services are run by the provinces and we look at what kinds of services they provide. I have seen and heard at times that some of them make telephone calls to their family members. Even though they are down south, they can speak with their family members on the telephone. That's a good question and suggestion, and we will look into it again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her answer. Because that is the case. This is just a comment but I have seen and I have thought about this must be very hard for those individuals who have to be sent down south. I just wanted to make sure that the government reviews the situation that I stated that there has to be somebody from Nunavut and probably that has been requested, too, as well. That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Just a comment but do you have any comment to the member's comments? Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Dudding to respond to the comments that the member made.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's an important comment and let me assure the member that part of that individual plan of care, whether it's a child or whether it's an adult, part of that plan of care includes their cultural component in order to ensure that the cultural part of their lives is both respected and promoted wherever they are.

For example, we have an excellent relationship in the Ottawa area with the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre. Of course in Ottawa we are fortunate in terms of having the largest population of Nunavummiut outside of Nunavut. It's an excellent centre where both the care providers as well as the children have regular exposure to their culture, to their language, to their country food and to the other practices that we know are so important. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. According to the list that I have, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We talked about how important social workers are and we do need them and how important they are to the people of Nunavut, especially the smaller communities. I'm just wondering if a

social worker steps out of line is there a procedure that you follow to discipline them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any employee, when they get found out that they have not done very well in their job they would be looked at by the Ethics Officer. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Social workers work with people who need help. I think sometimes that they don't help the people. How can a client if he has a client, what does that person have to do to get help? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Each social worker has an assigned supervisor. The supervisor is supposed to do fact finding if there is an incident and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. on a different topic, you have family violent services. I think we talked a little bit about it. If this many individual and group counseling... is counseling provided by your department or do you get elders or somebody in the community to get involved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are dealing with Family Services. As a department, we will be looking at reviewing the departmental activities to see how the operation could be improved across the board, whether the services be for children or adults. We will be looking at the various services that our department provides. That is what I can answer the MLA from Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a quick question. I'm thinking it will be fairly quick, Mr. Chairman. There has been a fair bit of media focus on custom adoption fairly recently in the media. Part of the priorities listed in 2014-15 in the business plan is to "review the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act*." Is this a media-driven review or was this review planned some time ago? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question. We know that adoption has really increased ever since the creation of Nunavut. Custom adoptions have basically skyrocketed. The people who adopt according to custom, those babies become theirs, but there is a request to review this. I would like Simon Awa to elaborate on this further in response to Mr. Hickes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act*, or ACARA, we call it in short term, is an outdated Custom Adoption Act that was inherited from the NWT and was written back in 1994. As a Nunavut territory, we need to review this Act and update it, “Nunavutize” it, and the review is not media-driven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the need to bring the Act up to date, but I also have some concerns. Custom adoption is a very culturally relevant practice and, in many circumstances, adoptions were done quite informally until fairly recently where there’s actually legislation in place to make sure that there’s legal standing to these adoptions that have been occurring for generations.

How is this review going to maintain the cultural integrity of the current legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for asking about custom adoptions. When we do our review, we will not be the only department that will be coming to a decision. We will be having discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in terms of what kind of input they want. That is the way I can answer it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: What kind of parameters are going to be part of this review? Specifically what I’m looking at is if parents of children that want another family to adopt their children. Are there going to be barriers created or an evaluation process for these families? Will the minister let me know if those circumstances are part of the review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The custom adoption situation is practiced today. Modern Inuit today have their babies adopted by *Qallunaat* so this is a new situation. This situation needs to be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next person on the list. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The first question will be in all of Nunavut the communities all have social service workers. Some have certificates. Those certificates... are very important as a sign of authority for being able to take children away. I know that there was a question relating to that by another of my colleagues and I have been working with them, too. How would Inuit who work in this area and you have answered, minister, about training online, courses online? However, if they are declined who would they turn to for more education? Distance education, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whoever

wants to take the... Thank you. Whoever wishes to take training online... these are under the career development officer. They would need to go through those employees. It could be referenced through there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. for the staff to receive training, so what I'm hearing correctly is that they have to seek training through the career development officer's office from the Department of Education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they begin to work for our department then there certificates and if they are able to get their certificate and they would be able to get appointed. In reference to the computer services, they would need to be done through the career development office if they wish to take courses online. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the casuals that are hired by the department, do the CSSW casuals receive additional training from your office or do they have to seek training from other departments to get the certification so that they can legally apprehend children? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Only the director can provide certification.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. I understand there is legislation in place for child protection. When a child is apprehended, there is a timeline for reporting in order to legally apprehend the child.

My question is after a child has been legally apprehended and after it has gone through court, when a court makes a ruling and makes a decision before moving the child from that particular foster home, would you not have to go through another court process or is that waived? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the director to answer this particular question in reference to the children because there are various scenarios that could be followed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite correct; when the child is apprehended under the child and family services act, there is a strict requirement around bringing the matter before the court. The serious matter of an apprehension can be reviewed by a JP or a judge as the matter proceeds through the court. The director is then required to putting a plan of care before the court. The decision of the

judge is to approve or not that plan of care.

As the minister has pointed out, there are various scenarios because there is a wide range of powers that are provided by the judge in order to dispose of the case.

That will normally include the child if the judge is making the decision that the child is going to be remaining in the care of the director, then the decision of placement will be made at the discretion of the director. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I guess when we look at the child that has been apprehended that the department take all of the child's ID after an apprehension has taken place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Dudding answer this.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect, I am not sure that I fully understood what the question is. If I could ask the member's indulgence may just to restate it so I am sure I am answering his question correctly.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a child has been

apprehended to provide quality of service for that particular child that has been apprehended the department take all of the child's identification cards also to provide quality service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now understand the question. Yes, the director in effect becomes the guardian for that child during the period of time they are in care and as guardian then would have responsibility for the registration identification for the child, things such as health care card, birth certificate, social insurance number, if that has been applied for and signing authority for school records and that sort of thing would be the responsibility of the director as guardian as it would be for a parent and other circumstances. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I guess we will go into the dollar figure here. When you look at child protection and apprehension matters...on your D5, which particular services would be the money figure that would look after all of the children in care? Would that be purchased services, contract services, or grants and contributions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like

Mr. David Kolot to come back here so he can respond to the finance question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question. The children protection services branch is protection services division or call centre basically looks after all compensation and benefits for all these social workers in the various regions of Nunavut.

There is also travel and accommodation. ...I should give you some numbers. The compensation and benefits is about \$8.3 million. There is a travel and transportation of about \$953,000. Materials and supplies is \$230,000. Purchase services of \$1,549,000. There is a very small amount for contract services, season payments of \$139,000, and \$39,000 for other expenses.

The expenditures that relate to residential care placement are not in this cost centre; they fall under residential care facility based division. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are talking about figures; when you look at those figures that have to do with the child that has been apprehended so that they receive quality service, the adult support, I am assuming, is to provide support to the parents that have their child apprehended. In your budget here, how much money are you spending to provide adult support within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like David Kolot to respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question that the member is asking. Adult support services is an umbrella service for a variety of areas within the department; guardianship, family violence, and, basically, under adult support services, we are allocating about \$3,143,000 broken down into travel, a small amount for contract services, and an amount for materials, supplies, and purchase services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all that money that is being spent on travel, is that just within the territory of Nunavut, or the figure that you indicated earlier, \$953,000, is that just within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like David Kolot to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Most of that money is for travel within Nunavut, but some of it is for outside of Nunavut as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are still talking figures here, in your main estimates, 2014-15, contract services, \$31,769,000, how much of that money will be spent within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like our finance director to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The allotment of \$31,769,000 is basically responsible for contracts related to residential care, contracts related to children outside of Nunavut is \$9,944,000, children within Nunavut is \$4,040,000, adults outside of Nunavut is \$12,430,000, adults within Nunavut is \$4,661,000. Those are all residential care related.

There's a small amount of \$694,000 for other contracts. If you look at those contract figures, in terms of the amount that would relate to Nunavut, I think we would have to add up the children within Nunavut of \$4 million, and the adults within Nunavut of almost \$5 million, so I would say \$9 million dollars of that contract services would stay within Nunavut, Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in regard to grants and contributions; is that whole entitlement going to be within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you can understand it clearly, I would like Mr. Kolot to respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, all of the grants and contributions is for inside of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about purchase services? As you stated previously, when the service of building was going to be taken over by the hospital I think the purchase service agreement has to do with the hospital.

The \$4,521,000, is that only going to be used for outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not understand your question about purchase services. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Maybe the minister can identify what purchase services are.

I believe that looks after residential care expenditures. Maybe the minister can correct if I am wrong.

With the purchase services and the group home that has changed to the Department of Health, would the purchase service amount now be going all outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kolot said no, so I say no.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What percentage of the family services budget goes outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. David Kolot will respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. In terms of budget that goes outside of Nunavut, the major area that we are looking at is under contract services. Will we pay for adults outside of Nunavut? Will we pay for children outside of Nunavut?

As I mentioned, for children outside of Nunavut, we are estimating the portion of our budget is almost \$10 million; that's the two contractors outside of

Nunavut. In terms of adults, we are looking at \$12,430,000 that is paid to contractors outside of Nunavut. That is the majority of our budget, for the most part, that goes to contractors outside of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a children has been apprehended for so long, and they are placed in a foster home and prior to becoming of legal age, and the department will no longer be holding them once they reach the legal age, how much time does your department prepare the young individual to have all the IDs up to date so that once they become of legal age and the department can no longer have them in care, how much time do you guys take to prepare for the child to have proper identification? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the *Act* that was just amended we increased the age to 26. A person can be the ward of social services up until the age of 26 under foster care. You want to know how long and I think I would like Peter Dudding to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To add to the minister's comments about the extended care support agreements up to the age of 26 for children who are leaving care to add to that is that normally the documentation in terms of identification,

the member was asking about, would be done when the child was coming into care. It would be required, for example, it's part of the course process that we were discussing earlier. That documentation is usually provided quite early on in terms of a child's experience in care. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the official for the answer but my question here was when the child who will soon become an adult prior to the department releasing the child from their care before he or she becomes of legal age and knowing how long it takes any government ID to be processed, photo ID, social insurance number, birth certificate, all those IDs. How much time do you guys start working in completing those documents so that you are providing quality of service to the youth prior to being out of your care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people who deal with the social work. I know that they have to deal diligently following the policy. As the children come of age they usually take care of them so that's how I can respond to the question. The identification cards which the member is alluding to don't come from our department. Through working with GLO that's how we can obtain them especially when they are in the local community. After the session is over, if we are going to release one of our children who was a ward of the state, we will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason that I posed that question is within my constituency one of the youth that was apprehended and prior to the department releasing him he waited well over 1 year to get proper identification. Whether it be photo ID or whatnot, my comment, I guess this will be my closing comment here. Seeing that you have apprehended the child you are responsible as a department in ensuring that you provide quality of service to the child and ensure all proper legal documents are taken care of in the best interest of that child. As you have apprehended the child from the parents so I just want to state that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I think that was just a comment. Do you want to add anything to that? Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We take the recommendation. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, to start off with the Department of Family Services, in their objectives on the fourth bullet, it states, "To protect the rights of children, youth, families, and vulnerable individuals." Just to add to that, many Nunavummiut are dealing with challenging social issues. I am very pleased that your department protects our children.

Yes, we need to promote the rights of children, youth, families, and vulnerable

individuals. We have to pay close attention to make sure that we protect the rights of children and provide quality service to them. I just want to show my appreciation for your department's work for providing that protection. I urge your department to utilize Inuit societal values within your programs and services to the people. I just wanted to make that comment first of all.

I will move on to my question. My first question will be under Guardianship Services. How many individuals use guardianship services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasié for that question in regard to guardianship services. He didn't mention any figures. I'll have Peter Dudding respond. Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak)(interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Dudding.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): He's looking for the numbers.

Mr. Dudding: My apologies, Mr. Chair. Too much paper, I'm afraid. Thank you. The number of adults currently under guardianship is 123. Again, my apology for the delay. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he also state how many... maybe I misunderstood. There are 123 individuals that need to be

taken care of or is it 123 people providing the service. Which one is it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information... adults that are under their guardianship there are 123 of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to the gallery, Mr. Kenn Harper of Iqaluit.

>>Applause

Continuing on, Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states here that they appoint to the court process as to how many foster parents. How many guardians do you have under that program? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 10 at this time. There are 2 public guardians. There are 3 that were received through the court process. In 1 month there are 3. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Moving on to a different topic. *Child and Family Services Act* was amended during the third assembly. Have the amendments improved how the

legislation is implemented to date? If so, how? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The legislation was amended and we are still working on it. In order for the members to understand where we are at I'd like to have Mr. Dudding respond to the question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To remind the member that the *Child and Family Services Act* amendments only came into force in January of this year so the context of this is early days yet I think would probably be the most appropriate answer.

However, that being said, remind the member that what the amendment set out to do was to expand the grounds under which children can be considered in need of protection to incorporate the Inuit Societal Values specifically into the legislation, to ensure that we had a longer period of time around extended care agreements for young people so that we can carry them up to their 26th birthday. These are all good provisions that I think as we see the legislation playing itself out over time I think they will be of great benefit. I would just add again, early days yet.

The one thing that may be of interest and Deputy Awa has already made reference to it is that we have now had our first experience in a court decision where the specific application of the lens of Inuit societal values around the decision of the

court was applied. We are very pleased to see that because it really does then compel the courts and the department to be ensuring that we're not only, as the concern has been expressed, paying lip service to these things but in fact are incorporated in a very real way into the applications that we are making before the courts and the plans that we are making on behalf of children. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the answer. Some of them are very interesting to find out and we would like to also find out (interpretation): he future that the Inuit societal values are followed in the workplace and in their operation of their work and I would also like to ask another question. It states that one of your department's priorities in recent years has been to implement Iligitiaslnik Family Violence Prevention Strategy. How much funding has been allocated to this specific initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the funding I will get Mr. Kolot to respond to that question. We try to get staff with respect to this program that we are doing there is also... I will get Mr. Kolot to respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. member for that question. This was a new initiative that was identified this year and there are many competing needs within the department we have allocated a portion of about \$120,000 for the strategy imitative which covers a variety of operating and maintenance expenses. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When of your department's priorities in 2013-2014 on page 124 in Inuktitut states that in the fourth bullet with respect to Iligitiaslnik Family Violence Prevention Strategy they are working with others to assess programs with respect to funding for women's shelters. They said that they finished in June, 2013. It also states that there is a strategy. The strategy is being implemented. The implementation has been delayed for a year because they have to have staff in place. What kind of staff are you talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question about the Family Abuse Intervention Strategy. Like I said earlier, that we had tried to fill this position, but we haven't had any success. In June 2014, we figured that we will fill the position to staff the women's shelter, and for the Family Violence Prevention Strategy so that the families can be protected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. My last question, Mr. Chairman. In one of your department's priorities in 2014-2015, there are two items that you talk about, the second that you will be working with the *Ilagiittiarniq* Family Violence Prevention Strategy and they will also be reviewing the custom adoption. Can you give us an idea of how you are going to work together on those two things?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be working with the RCMP, Nunavut Tunngavik, and Inuit organizations, such as QIA, the society that work on the women's shelters, the Qulliq Status of Women Council, Pauktuutit, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Family Services to work on the Family Violence Prevention Strategy.

For custom adoption, we know that we will be working with Nunavut Tunngavik offhand. When I get some more information, I will provide more answers to you later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I will use my discretion as the chair and allow you to ask additional questions on this item. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to

have my second round. I want to ask a question that relates to what my colleague, Mr. Mikkungwak, the chair, touched on earlier. It's to do with aftercare. When a child has gone through the foster care system, what kind of support does the department provide for that person that had gone through the system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Dudding to come and sit at the witness table. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Do you want him to respond? Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The extended support agreements are agreements that we can enter into with young people who are aging out of the system, again, up to their 26th birthday. Again, there's a range of supports that are in that program, but they would include, for example, depending upon the needs of the youth, continuing contact with a social worker around advice, support, and counselling.

For example, not in all cases but in some cases, if the youth is remaining in a foster home, we would provide financial support to that foster home and around other aspects of the young person's life, depending upon what their education or training or career goals are in terms of ensuring that in the first instance, they are getting a referral and support to the kind of appropriate programs that would be available to any young person, things

of universal application, but then also ensuring our role as we're no longer a guardian for that person because, of course, they're an adult in that sense.

In terms of our role, then, around ensuring if there were additional issues or problems that they were encountering, we would work them to make the necessary arrangements to provide those kinds of services like any parent would. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. One of the things too that seems to come to mind when a child has gone through the foster care system, it can be very mentally challenging for them, especially if they've had to go through many homes and their care hasn't been consistent. What measures do you have in place to deal with this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes they can't be cared for in a foster home because they are mentally hurt, we sometimes bring them down south to get some counselling, but they usually return.

I will have Peter Dudding supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For children who have

experienced trauma and disruption in their growing-up years, certainly, responding to their psychological and emotional needs is part of what we need to pay particular attention to while they're in the care of the director. It includes some of the earlier discussion we had around the kind of training and support for the foster parents.

In addition to that, depending upon the nature and the kind of professional help that is needed and the trauma, a referral through mental health services for kind of appropriate psychological assessment and counselling is also, again, part of the service that we would provide in those circumstances. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like some clarification to the minister in relation to the operations and my inability to understand some of the policies. I will use an example like the closing of the centre in Iqaluit that used to be open. Who has the final say? Are these major decisions handled by the minister or do they have to go to cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to answer this particular question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier today I stated that it was under preparation prior to us taking over responsibility in terms of how it could be improved. After that has been completed social services workers, people who run it, were diminished their senior staff dealt with the decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you for that answer. So do I understand it that it is not the minister's staff then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still say that the centre was not closed. Its use is different. Using the policy of best practices and so I support that decision that was made because the decision was made for a reason and not for a meaningless reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Answer again. I'm not talking about the ongoing operation of it I was just asking who was responsible for making that decision relating to when the change took place? Did it go to cabinet at that time or do it not? Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry for not having been clear to my fellow Member of the Legislative Assembly. I would like Mr. Dudding to answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the member's question, the decision did not go to cabinet. Again the group home is not closed. The population served is changed. Those kinds of decisions with regard to who the program is serving and the nature of the services that are going to be provided in the program is something, as the minister has pointed, is done with senior staff and the deputy's office. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that you can understand my question, because that is not what I'm asking about. I'm not asking about whether it was closed or not. I was asking who the final say and who determined that the situation would change to the group home?

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood what he was asking that the Director of Child and Family Services reached that decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I will ask the question a different way, Mr. Chairman. So when the minister just said "yes, this is excellent," and then just signed it off. Do I understand it that way? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not sign it.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the minister did not sign off on it, so there is not a final decision yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we were in the Third Assembly, and while you were chairing the Standing Committee on Health, there was a discussion about it, and that is the way I remember it, during the discussions of the operations and maintenance stage. We sit as chairs. There was not a major concern then when the decision was beginning to be arrived at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question got a skewed in red tape. It is very annoying when you get different answer to imagined questions. I just simply wanted to understand whether the minister may

approve that, but I guess it was more complicated than that.

We are on D-5. Before I ask a question, on page 114 in the English, and in the Inuktitut 123, in regard to Support Services, Social Advocacy at the bottom of page 114, it says that, “this program provides grants and contributions that support initiatives for persons with disabilities and women in Nunavut.

So I would like to ask if men don’t ever receive such support financially through this. Is that what it means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with Qulliq Status of Women Council because they deal with women’s issues. I know that it would only come from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook: And again, (interpretation) I’m just asking: are there no support services for men? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won’t answer it here right now, but I will take it as notice and I will provide an answer at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. What a great joy to be expecting something.

My final question is still on page D-5 under Children and Family Services. After the recent division of the Department of Health and Social Services, it would get confusing which department is dealing with what. Therefore, let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, that if you don’t think it is appropriate to ask that question at this time, let me know. It’s referring to children and family services.

I would like to attempt to ask. You transferred a great number of families in Nunavut, especially when they have difficulties, bereavement, or have long-term resentment, and sometimes the parents go through very difficult times. I’m trying to ask. It could be under mental health and you may not be able to answer me. Would there be money for families to use for obtaining support due to difficulties in their minds and in their lives?

Mr. Chairman, I’ll leave it at your hands. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ll have Peter Dudding answer the question related to children and family services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bereavement counselling services would normally be provided

through the mental health services from the Department of Health. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I don't think my question was clear enough. When families try to look after their children, they go through very difficult times, especially when they have children who, for various reasons, have difficulties. They have to keep looking after their children. I'm trying to ask you, thinking that maybe you have responsibility over it. I kind of think that maybe the Department of Health has responsibility for it.

Are there situations where families...? Is there funding if they need to leave difficult situations like this in their homes? Is there any funding so that parents like this could take a break from having to deal with difficult children or difficult family members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): I think Peter Dudding now understands the question. I understood his answer previously, but I'll have Peter Dudding respond to the question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dudding.

Mr. Dudding: Thank you for the further explanation. I do understand the question more fully now.

In those circumstances, certainly, the Department of Family Services' Children and Family Services Branch would work in providing counselling

services to those families and other supports.

One of the supports the member referred to was something we call respite care, which would be temporary assistance to that family to care for the children. We do that under a whole range of circumstances. If, for example, a family member becomes ill and is unable temporarily to care for their child we will perform that kind of respite care which would have the child moving to a temporary foster home for example under a voluntary services agreement.

Typically our services would be ones that are focused on services directed to the child rather than directed toward the parent in that regard. We wouldn't be providing monies directly to the parent just to be clear about that. We would provide assistance to the parent in caring for their child. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to elaborate on my question and knowing that I might not get an answer perhaps my question may not be nice or appropriate. If somebody has to be moved from their home, who would decide on moving these family members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The social worker, following policy and procedure, they would have to properly follow the procedure. They can only do that by following the proper procedure. The social workers have authorities

according to the policies and if they have evidence or have seen something that is happening and according to the policies and procedures the children can be removed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a child is moved by social services who makes the decision as to when that child goes back to the parents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Tununiq for posing that question. If a child is taken by social services the child would be taken care of by social services and counselled. We are not supposed to keep them forever. If the child becomes able or ready to go back to the parents then as soon as the child is ready to go back to the parents according to our policy then we have to give them back to the parents. Everything is under procedure. They get taken under procedure then they get given back under procedure. It's always very good when a child is able to be given back to the parents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a child is taken by social services, does the child have an advocate or a procedure? Are the parents told, "only if you do these certain things can the child be given back to you." Do you ever do that? Thank you

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is up to the parents. We leave it up to the parents. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I am confused again. Maybe because of our dialectal differences. If you take someone's child, do you tell the parents that they have to do these things, and only if we like the way they were done, then we can give their child back to them? Do you do that? Are you allowed to do that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different circumstances where children get taken away: some of them through abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect. There are different circumstances. The one that used the most is the removal of very young children. They work through an agreement with the parent and the social worker.

There are three criteria that are used to take children. One is the Voluntary Service Agreement, where the parent and the social workers agree on it. The other is the Plan of Care, if there is an agreement that a child is in danger, due to that, the child will have to be with Family Services until that danger has been removed. The third one is rarely used, which is through court. With that last one it's very hard to tell when the child can be brought back. Our

department always has the intention of giving that child back to the parents. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask again if the child is taken away, what is your basis? I'm asking this because we've heard many times in many places that parents lost their kids because of someone's lie. I've seen that, myself. I won't get into that, though.

Whose word do you consider the strongest when you're talking about taking a child away? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who would be the most believable, the way you're asking. From my experience, the child's body would be medically checked. That is how some of it is based, or if a witness calls us. There are many different reasons.

The social worker doesn't just go around looking for children to apprehend, only if someone from the community, because of their compassion, reports them to the social workers, and then they have to investigate. I hope that makes sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll ask another

difficult question. If anyone reports that they suspect that a child is being mistreated, or not taken care of properly. Does everything you hear, do you always investigate every report whether it's true or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my own knowledge if we are talking about a child the files are not open until we ... (interpretation ends) We don't open a file if we find out that it's misleading. Lots of files don't open that way. We can only open the file if it has facts and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Branch Summary. Family Services. Children and Family Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$53,606,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on to the next page. Family Services. Branch Summary. Income Assistance. Total Operations... Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions about income support. To start it off, I guess, I would like to find out the process of issuing income support in the community. I know many years ago the process was the client went in and the assessment was done. If they are entitled to income support, a portion is made in cash to the client and the remainder is usually issued to either the Co-Op or the

Northern Store depending on the choice of the client. Is this still the process today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Income support is under review. We are following what the hamlets want us to do. We are trying to work with the Department of Justice to see how we can improve income support because there are problems with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that it's under review but I'm asking what the current system is. Is it like I stated where a client gets to choose which store they get to shop at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there are cases where a client wants to shop elsewhere, for example, if they can get decent rates from a southern supplier and wanted to order food so they can get cheaper and healthier food for their family is that option available for clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to your question, we still use the same system and your other question, the person that is receiving income support can either go to the Co-Op or the Northern Store or if that person doesn't want to use that money in the community they have the freedom to order from outside the community but we would have to set something up with that person.

If that person doesn't have a credit card then we can ... the person would have to get a credit card to use to pay for the food the person wants to order then the income support can be put into that credit card account and then they can order the food they want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister's staff for the explanation. IN smaller communities usually there's only one person who has signing authority for income support and there are times whether it be through personnel change or if the income support worker is not in the community, where there is no one around to sign cheques at the time. What is the procedure when this situation happens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a director in each region. It is the director's responsibility, if there is an income support worker in a near community that they could be sent to another community to work on income support assistance. Mr. Chairman, I'm requesting to take a five-minute break. I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes. We will take a 10 minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 17:22 and resumed at 17:34

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to refresh, the last question I asked about what happens in a case where there's no signing authority in a community and the minister's response was that usually, there's a director that takes care of this issue and they usually get somebody from a neighbouring community, but sometimes we don't have neighbouring communities that are very close to us.

In cases where it does happen and we do not have a signing authority in our communities, income support people come in for an appointment and they expect to get their money for food, I guess not today, they probably wanted it two days before. What is the waiting period when a situation arises where they have to wait for a signing authority to come from another community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member from Sanikiluaq for asking that question. A majority of the communities have backup. I believe that there's no backup for Sanikiluaq. I'll have my officials write a letter of correspondence to explain further to the member the process for income support when there's no signing authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister could explain why she has to write me a letter to explain why and why she can't explain the process right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Almost all communities have backup workers. I'm assuming that Sanikiluaq doesn't have a backup worker. I will write to him on the procedure of what is done when there is no worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not stating for a fact that we do not have a backup signing authority in our community. I know we have a signing authority in our community right now, but in the past, there have been instances where there has been no signing authority in our

community and it seemed to take a long time for people to get their income support from the time of their appointment to the time they could actually spend money. That's what I'm asking. How long a process is this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't know exactly how many days the clients wait. Since I don't know, I can't respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point I'm trying to get across is there are times that we don't have signing authorities in our communities and in the smaller communities, it probably happens more than you may think. I would like to see a way to have it corrected so that it doesn't happen again in the future because people who are on income support rely on that. They don't feel that they should have to wait for days or even weeks in order to get their income support. I'll just leave that as a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we're on page D-6, Income Assistance, I know that the minister has stated previously that the Income Support Program will be

reviewed and that we will wait patiently for the review to be completed.

First of all, I'd like to when you expect to complete the review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Income Support, it's supposed to be completed by 2015. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): If I can ask two questions at once, Mr. Chairman? You set the date earlier on to complete the review so that it can be completed sooner. In the Income Support Assistance Program what are you going to be reviewing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that they're reviewing the *Social Assistance Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question is you can consider to have the review completed earlier on. Set the target date for this coming winter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we start working on legislation it costs money. That's why we're doing that review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister had stated that the review will cost money. How much funding do you expect to expend for the review? Is it going to be reviewed by an independent consultant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review for income assistance is going to have many impacts, and going to be difficult to review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has your department made a decision as to how and where the review going to be done? Is the review going to be done within your department, or outside consultants? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not sure how long or how difficult the review is going to be. Today our Inuit employment rates is only at 62 percent and with that many vacant positions, perhaps we'll need support from outside of the Department of Family Services. Yes, we'll need assistance from outside of the department because we don't have enough staff within our department.

As the minister had stated, the Income Support Program will be reviewed. It's going to have an impact on other services such as housing, subsidies and other programs. So we have to review how much impact it will have on the other programs and services. Once we find out then we will make a decision but we will definitely need support and help from outside to review our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you starting to analyze how your review will be done and how deep your review will be done? Are you starting to analyze... Mr. Chairman, if I can ask 2 questions. If you are going to be requiring outside assistance are you considering looking at outside of government departments or are you looking at whether you will be getting assistance from other the departments? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have the deputy minister respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will need support from within the government departments and from outside. Because, for example, with the Department of Justice they started the review on social assistance and the policy and regulations. It was initiated then from within the government and outside we will require help from those as I stated before that I still don't know how difficult and deep the review will be. Therefore, I cannot totally respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new government mandate called *Sivumut Abluqta* states that all of these various reviews... will need programs and services to be reviewed within the government and every time during oral questions... any time we ask a question the response is usually that it's still under review now. Mr. Chairman, let me ask, the review that you are going to be doing in your department I know that the target date to complete the review is the year 2015. Have you considered what month of 2015? Will it be in January or December when you will complete the review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be dealing with the ones that have to be reviewed that are on emergency basis

especially to do with social assistance and what we are trying to do is use a computer to distribute social assistance to clients because some of the communities are using computers to distribute income support and this is very expensive to operate. We can't really say which month and what year it will be complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now understand that the review that is going to be done by your department, you have not made any tentative scheduling as to when it's going to be done. Is that how I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy minister to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know what we are going to do in some aspects. We have looked at the social assistance legislation, but for people that need more assistance, I'm not really sure exactly we are going to be doing with that and how we are to make changes to that. We want to have a very good Act in place. That's why we're doing the review.

The minister stated that some communities do not write out checks.

Financial transactions are mainly done through the computer. There is less paperwork and things are more computerized. That is all I can say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on Income Support on page D-6. Income Assistance. The hon. minister mentioned that they're get all the communities are trying to computerize social assistance. Four communities already have computers that they are using. Do you know when all the communities of Nunavut will be computerized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we want to do is that all the communities will eventually be given computers for direct deposits. The software is also very expensive and also need training on. This causes us to slow down because it costs money, and the bandwidth is not operational in communities. We are working with the CGS department to make sure that we can get them computerized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand then that you don't know exactly when all the communities will be able to be using computers to do direct deposits? Do I understand that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my staff answer that question. I would like the member to know that in Igloolik we'll be installing computers to get them online with Income Support. I will get my deputy minister to respond to part of that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated earlier that we will be working with CGS with respect to the installation of computers and software. The minister also stated that some of the communities will be using the computers. The three communities that the minister stated will be using the computer.

Perhaps there will be seven communities that will be able to use the computer. I can't really say for sure, but we have to work with CGS. The rest of the communities that I did name will be completed within two years. That's what we expect to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any more questions. Mr. Chairman, I move a motion to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you very much. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All

those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Hon. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: *Uqaqtii*, 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? Mr. Peterson. 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 6:

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 Friday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:01*

