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Official Report

**DAY 14**

**Monday, June 9, 2014**

**Pages 698 – 770**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Amittuq)

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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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(Aivilik)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)  
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(Rankin Inlet South)

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(Arviat South)

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**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
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(South Baffin)

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

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk**  
(Netsilik)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)  
*Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, June 9, 2014**

**Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 037 – 4(2):  
Status Update on OAG  
Recommendations**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to update my colleagues on the work my department has done guided by the Auditor General's recommendations.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the safety of our schools and daycares and

the children, staff, and community members who use these facilities is of the utmost importance to us.

Immediately after the Auditor General's report on safety was released, we took steps to make changes to address the concerns raised in the report.

All child care facility inspections have been completed and all facilities have current licences. We also intend to assist licensed child care facilities in non-governmental buildings cover the cost of installing enhanced security systems.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the audit of education in Nunavut has given us a clear indication of where we are currently in implementing the *Education Act*.

(interpretation ends) To fully support student progress and success in an inclusive way, we are providing new literacy and assessment frameworks that support the approved curriculum to be used in every school in Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, to meet our language of instruction requirements under the *Education Act*, we are developing a database to gather data on educators' bilingual capacities at all levels from kindergarten to grade 12.

We look forward to participating in the upcoming review of the *Education Act* by the Legislative Assembly. We are prepared to consider changes to the provisions concerning bilingual education instruction, if necessary, to provide the best education possible to our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 038 – 4(2):  
Connected North Pilot Project**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In today's world making use of the latest technology can provide the support we need to enhance programs and services in Nunavut.

Our partnership with Cisco Canada, SSi Micro, Partners in Research, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has allowed us expand classroom experiences and health services delivery through use of high-definition two-way video communications.

Connected North is a pilot project that began in September 2013 at Aqsarniit Iliniarvik in Iqaluit. They are also working with the Department of Health on a separate project using the technology and connectivity. Through video Internet streaming and video conferencing, Connected North successfully allowed students to connect with subject experts, such as scientists, elders, and community leaders, whose skills and stories can be shared across great distances. Students also connected with peers of the same age throughout Canada to share rich educational and cultural experiences.

Mr. Speaker, this technology will help teachers enhance student instruction and support their professional development by providing video-based mentoring, skills development, and peer group sessions.

The Connected North pilot project is expected to have four phases. The next phase will be delivered at John Arnalukjuak High School in Arviat in September 2014.

We look forward to the success of these pilot projects and the positive impact they have on the lives of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 085 – 4(2):  
Income Assistance Program  
Review**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to encourage our government to reform Nunavut's Income Assistance program.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister of Family Services and her officials for providing a lot of interesting information and detail on the Income Assistance Program currently being delivered by her department.

Mr. Speaker, I was very interested to note that one of the common reasons for income assistance being denied was because of an individual's "budget surplus situation." For some individuals, their assessed income goes over the accepted income threshold because they receive the National Child Benefit



Supplement. As a result, they lose their social assistance benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the National Child Benefit Supplement was introduced by the federal government to provide additional financial support to low-income families with children across Canada. Many of those families also rely on social assistance to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, it appears as though low-income families in the north, those who have the most difficulty in dealing with our high costs of living, are unable to take advantage of additional supports that are intended to help them provide for their children because of this clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement.

I recognize that the Government of Nunavut currently uses these clawed-back funds to provide other programs for low-income families. However, I believe we need to take another look at what is in the best interests of families and children across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Department of Family Services to give full consideration to this issue during their upcoming review of the Income Assistance Program and related legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 086 – 4(2): 2014  
Pangnirtung Graduates of NTEP**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't expect you to call my name.

Today, I would like my fellow residents of Pangnirtung to join me in congratulating Arctic College graduates that just completed on June 5. There was a graduation of the NTEP program, Bachelor of Education Degree. There were 21 graduates on June 5.

I would like to congratulate one individual from my constituency. I would like to congratulate Lynn Kilabuk and I personally congratulate her because she was named after my mother.

Lynn is now a teacher along with the 21 students who took the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and she had the highest grade in her class. I would like to congratulate Peter and Rosie, who have Lynn as their daughter, who is named after my mother. Along with her grandmother, Geela and Marko, her grandfather, I congratulate Lynn for having the highest grade in her class.

I would like to encourage all the young people to continue to go to school, even if they have their own family with them. If you need support, there is support out there.

Another person who was named after my mother, my niece, Nadia Mike, has completed her Teacher Education Program and received a practicum award for working along with her classmates.

I wanted to congratulate those individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 087 – 4(2):  
Wishing Students a Good Summer**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Nunavut. I rise today to congratulate people from my community. They just graduated and there will be no school for the summer.

I would like to thank all the parents for helping their children to go to school. I am happy to say that the students and the parents will be resting or having their holiday for a bit while school is out. I would like to tell them to have fun while they are out there on the land and learn what they are seeing while they are out camping with their parents.

I would like to congratulate the students in my community. Even though things that are not very good have come up at times, they have continued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 088 – 4(2):  
Celebration of Pride Month**

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate the diversity of Iqaluit and its people.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I spoke earlier this year about the importance of taking a strong stand against discrimination. A number of people have asked me why I have been wearing my rainbow tie since June 1.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to take this opportunity today to celebrate Pride Month, which takes place each year in June. Pride Month is observed throughout Canada and a number of other countries to mark progress towards achieving equality and recognizing dignity.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit Pride and Friends of Pride bring together residents of this diverse community in a celebration of our common humanity.

Each year at this time, Iqaluit Pride organizes a number of events, and I look forward to the opportunity to join them with my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, much progress has been made in Nunavut in recent years to recognize the universality of human rights, but there is still much work to be done in overcoming discrimination and ending prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in celebrating the beginning of Pride Month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 089 – 4(2):  
Amazing Race – Cape Dorset Style**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce what had occurred in Cape Dorset. It was called, “Cape Dorset Heals: Amazing Race.” It was a race geared towards healing.

Mr. Speaker, last week, on May 31, this event was planned by Rose Rowsell. Mr. Speaker, over 100 children and women participated in “Cape Dorset Heals: Amazing Race.” They started off during the day at lunch hour until three o’clock in the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, within those hours, from twelve to three o’clock, the children and young girls went to places like the RCMP detachment, the nursing station, the hamlet office, schools, and churches, and they were taught that they go and approach these facilities if they require help.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a very important event to inform the children and young girls that if they need help in the future and if they feel stuck, they can approach these facilities and know where to go.

Mr. Speaker, it ran very well, and after that, they celebrated with a turkey feast at the community hall. Mr. Speaker, due to Rowsell’s work and well-planned event, we thank her. She received support from the teachers and social workers. There were many volunteers who took part in this event and I appreciate them very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member’s Statement 090 – 4(2):  
Congratulations to Graduates of  
Mine Training Programs**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize seven students from my community of Arviat who recently completed an eight-week driller’s program.

I would like to extend my congratulations to, these are the students:

Michael Karetak, Derrick Gibbons, Jimmy Pingushat, Louis Irkok, Jonathan Mukyungnik, Rene Aggark, and Nathan Amarudjuak.

I also extend my congratulations to those students who have completed the welding and trade-readiness programs in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Arviat has been working with many partners to provide mine training and work-readiness programs. The most recently completed drilling program was the fourth intake of its kind for the community. To date, 43 residents have been trained as surface diamond driller’s helpers.

I would also like to recognize Arviat’s economic development officer and the Hamlet of Arviat for providing these opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions on mine training for the Minister of Economic Development and [Transportation]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 091 – 4(2):  
Thoughts and Prayers for the  
People of Igloolik**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say that we are thinking of the residents of Igloolik. Even though they are facing difficult challenges, we think of them and have them in our prayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 092 – 4(2):  
Congratulations to Graduates of  
Baker Lake**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my congratulations to two Baker Lake residents who have gone on to post-secondary programs and are graduating this month.

Mr. Speaker, last week, Dianne Iyago graduated from the Nunavut Arctic College Nursing Program. We are extremely proud of her. She has worked diligently for five long years. Congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend my congratulations to Paula Ikuutaq Rumbolt. You will recall me speaking in this House about Ms. Rumbolt's book, (interpretation ends) *The Legend of Lightning and Thunder*, (interpretation) which was nominated for

a Canadian Library Association Award earlier this year.

This week, Ms. Rumbolt graduates from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. I know that her father, my colleague from Hudson Bay, must be very proud of her.

Mr. Speaker, the success of these two young Baker Lake residents is testament to their hard work and determination. They are fine role models for all young Nunavummiut to follow.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these two young women on their achievements and wishing them every success in their future careers. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akoak.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a very important person to me, and I am glad she came here. She didn't really want to leave her grandchildren at home alone, but I am happy she came. She is a grade 1 teacher in Gjoa Haven at Qiqirtaq Elementary School. She is also the daughter of the late Mr. John Takolik. I am glad she came, but I would like to recognize my wife, Annie Akoak.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet North (interpretation) and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a visitor here in the Gallery from Rankin Inlet. He is an interpreter for the court circuit in Nunavut. I would like to acknowledge Johnny Ayaruaq.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to acknowledge Johnny Ayaruaq, who is also from Rankin Inlet where I reside, although Minister Tom already introduced what he does, so I would like to acknowledge Johnny Ayaruaq, my fellow resident of Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. I would like to announce to members that our colleague, the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak, is ill, so he will not be here.

Going to Item 6. Oral Questions.  
Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 138 – 4(2): Support for Elders

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, elders face many challenges in our territory. When I asked the Minister of Health about a comprehensive elders' strategy, she indicated that they were just starting on it. Last week, in response to questions by my colleague from Rankin Inlet South, the Minister of Family Services indicated that the government had not yet decided on which minister the seniors' society would fall under.

Can the Premier indicate whether his government is considering designating a minister to be responsible for elders' issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Once a decision has been made, we will certainly let the members know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you will know, we have an office dedicated to advocating for women's rights, we have a commissioner who advocates for language rights, and we have recently appointed a representative who will

advocate on behalf of children and youth.

Has the Premier given any consideration in bringing forward legislation that would establish an office to advocate on behalf of elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we do some consultations among the cabinet and our departments, we will consider that. Of course, with the input of the MLAs from our beautiful, smaller communities, and once that decision is made, we will certainly bring it to the House. 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 great answer he just gave us. I look forward to hearing more.

The issues facing elders across Nunavut are numerous. Elder abuse is far too common. Health care issues and access to medical services are growing concerns, with different levels of support in place for Inuit and non-Inuit. There isn't enough suitable housing. No single organization exists to support elders in accessing programs, services, and benefits that they may be eligible for.

Many of these issues are addressed in detail in the proposal submitted by the Nunavut Seniors Society. I believe all Members of the Legislative Assembly

received a copy of this proposal. Will the Premier commit to reviewing the proposal submitted by the Nunavut Seniors Society and give full consideration to how his government can best support this important sector of our population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the most part, the ministers and the Premier don't participate in evaluating proposals, but we certainly are aware of them. In each department, we do have committees that evaluate and assess specific proposals and they are funded based on the merit of the proposal. We will continue to do that, but in any case, we are aware of some of these proposals that do come to our departments.

Once we do have a set plan in moving forward, whether we are getting an elders' advocacy group or not, it is yet to be determine and once that is done, with input from all members, we will certainly move on that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 139 – 4(2): Nunavut Mine Training**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and [Transportation].

As the minister is aware, the Kivalliq region is home to the only operating mine in Nunavut, Meadowbank, as well as two potential mines, the Kiggavik and Meliadine projects.

As the minister is also aware, his department provides funding for mine training through the Nunavut Mine Training Program Fund. The Department of Economic Development and [Transportation's] 2014-17 business plan indicates that \$200,000 has been allocated to the training program.

Can the minister indicate how his department allocates resources under the Nunavut Mine Training Program Fund? 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 would like to say "good day" to my fellow residents of Nunavut, as well as Arviat and Whale Cove. That's a good question, Mr. Speaker. Training to become drillers has been going on for the past three years now. We fund it. Different organizations are involved in deciding how the training money is going to be used. I would like clarification as to what his question was. I didn't quite understand all of what he said, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is asking for a clarification. Can you clarify your question, please, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the minister: can the minister indicate how his department allocates resources under the Nunavut Mine Training Program Fund? 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 very much, Mr. Speaker. As I stated previously, the funding is used by my department so that it can be used for different mine training programs, including the drilling training program. We know that the people of Nunavut will be looking for work and different organizations and government departments are looking into what trades can be created. Also, after you receive the training, we provide job placement assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department's Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy was tabled on March 14, 2007. This document indicates that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation would be implementing the multi-party Nunavut Mine Training Initiative.

Since the strategy's publication, there has been no public report on the initiative's activities. Will the minister commit to tabling a report on the status of the Nunavut Mine Training Initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's a good question posed by the Member of the Legislative Assembly. The mine training programs, such as the drilling training program, are handled by different groups, but they are administered by our department. It trains drillers and driller assistants. We want to plan it so that it can continue throughout Nunavut. It involves different trades associated with the mining industry, including the drilling training program. That's all I can say right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, earlier today, I recognized seven individuals from our community who recently completed mine-related training.

The minister just recently alluded to this, but can the minister describe what mine-related training his department is planning for Nunavummiut in the 2014-15 fiscal year? 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 thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the mine training programs are intended

for people who are interested in working in mines as fully trained workers.

Mr. Speaker, the training can be held for many different disciplines, not just for drilling. There are many disciplines that can be taught in mining and it can be for any mine anywhere. We will talk with the mining companies and the prospective workers to make sure that the training goes ahead properly. It will be for different types of trades. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 140 – 4(2): Homeownership Programs**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Earlier this year, the Legislative Assembly approved over \$4.6 million in funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs for the 2014-15 fiscal year, including \$500,000 for the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program.

Concerns have been raised with me that the Nunavut Housing Corporation may have already spent its 2014-15 budget for this important program and that applications from residents are now being waitlisted.

Can the minister confirm if the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2014-15 budget for the Heating Oil Tank Replacement



Program has already been spent?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Minister of the housing corporation, Mr.  
Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my  
colleague for asking that question about  
the heating oil tank replacement program  
funds for private homeowners to replace  
their old tanks with new ones. Mr.  
Speaker, in regard to his question about  
whether the funds have been depleted, I  
cannot say right now, but I can look into  
it to see how much money is left in the  
tank replacement program. Thank you  
very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. The Nunavut Housing  
Corporation's information for the  
Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program  
indicates that its purpose is to "assist  
Nunavut homeowners to replace heating  
oil tanks in poor condition or that do not  
meet current standards. The program  
will help homeowners reduce the risk of  
environmental contamination and the  
associated costs caused by faulty or  
substandard heating oil tanks and faulty  
installations that could cause fuel spills."

Mr. Speaker, this important program is a  
good example of an ounce of prevention  
being worth more than a pound of cure.

Will the minister commit to reviewing  
the funding levels for the Nunavut  
Housing Corporation's different  
homeownership programs in the

upcoming 2015-16 capital estimates so  
that the Heating Oil Tank Replacement  
Program receives higher priority?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I  
thank the member for his question. Mr.  
Speaker, the whole intention was to help  
homeowners, and the member is asking  
whether that can be looked into. I can  
say that we will be looking not just into  
the fuel replacement program but the  
whole program. Thank you very much,  
Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. The Nunavut Housing  
Corporation's 2012-13 annual report,  
which was tabled in the Legislative  
Assembly earlier this year, indicated that  
a total of 213 applications for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation's  
different homeownership programs were  
"pending or waitlisted" as of March 31,  
2013. As of today, how many  
applications are pending or waitlisted?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I  
thank the hon. member for that excellent

question. Mr. Speaker, at the present time, in terms of the numbers, I do not have them at my fingertips, but I can request them from the department as to how many are waitlisted. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 141 – 4(2): Support for Baker Lake Hospice Society**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Martha Talirug Centre in Baker Lake is run by the local hospice society and provides 24-hour care to those in need. The society receives an annual contribution from the government, but it is clear that the amount is inadequate.

Can the minister indicate how often her officials review the contribution amounts provided to organizations such as the Baker Lake Hospice Society and how often the contribution amount is increased? 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 Baker Lake for his question regarding the hospice society. In terms of the association, the finances are given through contribution agreements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Martha Talirug Centre fills an important need in the community of Baker Lake. In order to continue offering this service, equipment such as vehicles need to be upgraded, staff need to be paid decent wages, and the rising costs of living in the north must be taken into consideration.

Can the minister clarify what kinds of guidance and support her department provides to Baker Lake's hospice society to enable them to address the increasing demands related to providing hospice care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Baker Lake for that question. They sign contribution agreements into the ongoing operations. There is a regional office based in Rankin Inlet. Our family services department has excellent staff in Rankin Inlet. It is over there that they review those contribution agreements before they are given to headquarters in Iqaluit.

That being a society, it isn't run as a government department by the government, so they have to be basing their information for request correctly and concisely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to reviewing the amount of contribution and support provided to the Baker Lake Hospice Society to manage and operate the Martha Taliruk Centre, and give full consideration to increasing the contribution amount at the earliest opportunity? 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 hon. member for that question in relation to what our department could do. Yes, I agree with him that we will need to meet with the regional staff, and then if there are needs to address the issue further, we will do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 142 – 4(2): Iqaluit Landfill Fire**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got some follow-up questions for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services regarding the landfill fire here in Iqaluit.

As I'm sure the minister will recall, in one of his responses to me last week, he stated that one of the roles of his department is to provide support and advice to the city to make ensure that the best solution for this current situation is determined. What alternatives have been considered and is the decision to let it burn the best solution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We are working with all the interested stakeholders on this issue, including the City of Iqaluit, along with Environment Canada, and our own departments of Environment and Health. We are having dialogue on how we can best deal with this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear an answer to my first question. What type of alternatives are being considered? I am limited to the amount of questions I can ask. I'll move on and I will request that information from the minister later on what some of those alternatives are.

Mr. Speaker, in my line of questioning last week with the Minister responsible for Environment, he let us know that there was air quality monitoring equipment coming to Iqaluit, along with Health Canada officials. With Minister Sammurtok's consultations, as he just stated, with other departments, has he been informed, is that equipment in Iqaluit, along with the Health Canada officials? 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 am happy to report that over

the weekend, officials from Environment Canada arrived in Iqaluit to assist with the dump fire situation and air quality measurements were taken at 15 locations from the centre of the smoke, plume, and following the plume for four kilometres. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm assuming that the minister will share that information when it becomes available.

Mr. Speaker, in his response from May 26, he also stated that in southern Canada, there is sometimes a need to use specialized equipment to deal with situations and fires of this nature, and that it is something his department is looking at as to how they can help the city with this issue.

Can the minister describe some of that specialized equipment and inform us whether equipment of that nature is on its way to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The use of specialized equipment and expert technical support is part of our discussions with the city. We are, in fact, discussing whether that would be an option that we need to do, to talk to with the city. We are, in fact, looking at using foam.

However, my understanding is that the foam that is used in the event of an

aircraft accident is apparently not preferred foam to use. However, my understanding is that there is a different kind of foam that would be environmentally acceptable to use. We are looking at all of these options. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

### **Question 143 – 4(2): Consultation with Municipal Leaders**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet, especially the people of Igloolik. They are in our thoughts as they go through a hard time.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the process by which the government responds to concerns and requests that have been formally raised by municipal leaders in Nunavut.

In March of this year, the annual Baffin Mayors' Forum was held in Iqaluit. This important gathering brings together elected municipal leaders to address issues of concern to our region's communities and constituents.

Can the minister indicate when he will be tabling the government's formal responses to the motions that were passed at this year's Baffin Mayors' Forum, including the motion that was unanimously passed concerning the need for a new heavy equipment training centre in the region? 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. I have heard the subjects which the hon. member is alluding to, but I don't have the written material to which he is referring to. Once we have it, we will address it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities represents the interests of all 25 municipalities in the territory. Can the minister indicate when he will be tabling the government's formal responses to the motions that were passed at the most recent annual general meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In relation to issues created by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, once we get them, we review all of them and then I have instructed my departmental staff to begin to create replies immediately. Once I have them, I can bring them forward. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit

to tabling in the Legislative Assembly copies of any presentations that he or his department made at the most recent Baffin Mayors' Forum and annual general meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities? 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. What we talked about is already available. They are not confidential, so I will be bringing them forward. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 144 – 4(2): QEC Procurement and Contracting**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The most recent ministerial letter of expectation to the Qulliq Energy Corporation instructed the utility to prepare an annual report on its procurement, contracting and leasing activities for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

However, an annual report has not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since February of 2011, and that was for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

When will the minister be tabling QEC's most recent annual reports on its

contracting, procurement and leasing activities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as soon as they are available, I will table them in the House. They are presently being translated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the issues that were raised in the 2012 report of the Auditor General on the Government of Nunavut's procurement practices concerned the application of the NNI Policy to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. At that time, QEC argued that it was exempt from the NNI Policy.

Can the minister indicate whether or not the NNI Policy now applies to QEC's contracting and procurement activities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are in the process of reviewing the contracting and we are part of the review with respect to the NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, QEC announced that it had received approval for a 7.1 percent increase in power rates. It is important that Nunavummiut have confidence that QEC is leading by example and finding ways to operate as efficiently as possible.

One of the concerns that have been raised with me is the issue of purchasing non-essential vehicles that are not required for reasons of safety or plant operation. Can the minister indicate if QEC will impose a moratorium on the purchase of non-essential vehicles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been impressed with the new board's active role in trying to reduce the costs of operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

#### **Question 145 – 4(2): Hamlets Act**

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

As the minister is aware, section 34 of the *Hamlets Act* provides that elected

municipal councils in Nunavut “may, by by-law, provide for the payment” of indemnities and allowances to members of municipal councils. Mr. Speaker, however, the minister is required under this section of the legislation to approve such by-laws.

Can the minister clearly explain what criteria he and his department use to determine whether or not to approve such a by-law in circumstances where the municipality that has requested it is in a sound financial position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the *Hamlets Act*, just as long as the hamlets don’t break the law, we can review these, but if anyone contravenes the *Hamlets Act*, it might cause some delays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm how many requests from municipalities under section 34 of the *Hamlets Act* are currently pending before his department? 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. With respect to the member’s question, I don’t have the

information in front of me, but I will find out from my department and give him a response later on. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister, Ms. Ell.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 023 – 4(2): Nunavut Food Strategy Action Plan 2014-2016**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Nunavut Food Strategy and Action Plan from 2014 to 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister Sammurtok.

#### **Tabled Document 024 – 4(2): Contract Activity Report 2012-2013**

#### **Tabled Document 025 – 4(2): Procurement Activity Report 2012-2013**

#### **Tabled Document 026 – 4(2): Lease Activity Report 2012-2013**

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have three documents that I want to table. These are all related; they are procurement reports of my department for fiscal year 2012-13. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Member, Mr. Enook.

**Tabled Document 027 – 4(2): Heavy Equipment Training Centre**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members are very much aware, I have been a strong supporter of training opportunities for Nunavummiut to gain skills that will allow them to take advantage of opportunities in the mining sector.

That is why I am very pleased to table today a copy of a resolution that was unanimously passed at this year's Baffin Mayors' Forum calling for a heavy equipment training centre to be located in the Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) I have one.

**Tabled Document 028 – 4(2): Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013**

**Tabled Document 029 – 4(2): Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October 28, 2013 to December 31, 2013**

**Tabled Document 030 – 4(2): Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014**

I am tabling three reports of members' absences from sittings of the House and meetings of committees and caucuses for the periods July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013, October 28, 2013 to December 31, 2013, and January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. The Hon. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 006 – 4(2): Establishment of a Special Committee to Review the Education Act – Notice**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Kugluktuk, that the Legislative Assembly establish a special committee to review the *Education Act*;

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



**Speaker** : Thank you. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Hon. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

### Item 16: Motions

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Hon. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Motion 006 – 4(2): Establishment of a Special Committee to Review the Education Act

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Nunavut's current *Education Act* received Assent on September 18, 2008;

AND WHEREAS section 202 of the *Education Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly or a committee of the Legislative Assembly shall undertake a review of the statute;

AND WHEREAS the statutorily-required review of the *Education Act* is to include an examination of the administration and implementation of the Act, the effectiveness of its provisions and the achievement of its objectives;

AND WHEREAS Rule 86 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly provides that the Legislative Assembly may appoint a Special Committee "for any purpose or to consider any matter referred to it by the Assembly";

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Kugluktuk, that the Legislative Assembly establish a Special Committee to Review the *Education Act*;

AND FURTHER I move that the following members be appointed to the special committee: Pat Angnakak, Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu; George Hickee, Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk; Simeon Mikkungwak, Member for Baker Lake; the Hon. Paul Quassa, Member for Aggu; and Joe Savikataaq, Member for Arviat South;

AND FURTHER I move that Alexander Sammurtoq, Member for Rankin Inlet

South, Isaac Shooyook, Member for Quttiktuq, and the Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk, Member for Netsilik be appointed alternate members of the special committee;

AND FURTHER I move the special committee be directed to report its findings and recommendations to the House during the fall 2015 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

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. Akoak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 14:51 and Committee resumed at 15:26

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. Good afternoon, Inuit and people watching TV. I would like to call the meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2 and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Finance, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Nunavut Arctic College, and, if time permits, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman:** Is the committee agreed that Minister Peterson's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, please allow his staff to go to the witness table.

Thank you. Minister Peterson, please introduce your staff.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Chris D'Arcy and to my left is Andrea Witzaney-Chown, Director of Corporate Policy. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before I start the meeting, I have a Chairman's statement.

Thank you, members. Before reviewing the consideration of the 2014-15 main

estimates, I wish to make a brief statement concerning Friday's proceedings of the Committee of the Whole.

During the consideration of the proposed main estimates of the Department of Family Services, the Member of Arviat South was ruled out of order by the Chair when he asked the minister if a given matter a wise use of government funds. At the time, the Member for Arviat South was advised not to seek an opinion from the minister.

In reviewing the unedited *Hansard Blues*, it is clear that the question was, in fact, permissible, as it concerned the extent to which the government is receiving value for public money, which is a legitimate line of questioning in the House, especially during the consideration of proposed departmental budgets. In this case, the minister was not asked to provide either her personal opinion on a matter or a formal legal opinion on a question.

The Chair regrets the error that was made and is pleased to have the opportunity to clarify the record.

As always, however, all members and ministers are asked to phrase their questions and answers as clearly and precisely as possible so that our proceedings may be as smooth as possible. Thank you.

Members, please turn to page C-7, Comptrollership. Any questions on page C-7, Comptrollership? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm on your business plan, page 23, I see under one of the

objectives is talking about the priority hiring policy. There were recent changes made to the *Public Service Act*.

Amendments were made. I'm wondering, with those amendments in mind, can you state what the priority hiring policy means? And give us the levels of the priority hires. What is the government using to hire staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Of course we all know that we are required to abide by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, so a beneficiary under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement would be a priority hire. Of course, if you are an employee on a layoff then you would be a priority hire as well. In fact, I think you might be a higher priority because you are a government employee, just on layoff notice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer, minister. I'd like to ask if there are any provisions for long-term northerners under the *Public Service Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to Ms. Angnakak for her question. Mr. Chair, a long-term northerner would be someone who has been in Nunavut 12 months and they would be third in line for hiring by the

Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 12 months is a rather short time or period to be in Nunavut to be considered a long-term northerner. Does that mean we expect people to stay a lot shorter than that? A shorter period of time?

What about women and those with physical disabilities? Where do they stand in the hiring policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no priority for women and children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've touched on this before in the House and I want to go back to it. Under the objectives it also says your department is providing leadership and guidance reflecting Inuit societal values. Maybe you can give us some examples of how you're incorporating Inuit societal values when it comes to challenges of the work environment? For example, when we deal with disciplinary actions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the

question. Mr. Chairman, within our Department of Finance HR section, we do have a group that will look after that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that answer. Can you please elaborate which group you're talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we're going to get into the day-to-day operations of the department, I will ask my deputy minister to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. D'Arcy.

**Mr. D'Arcy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within our employee relations and job evaluation group, there is also a division that looks after workplace health, safety, and wellness. Members will recognize that most of the people who are also responsible for the long-term service awards that we have been going around the territory looking after this last little while also assist departments with respect to Inuit societal values and any other interpersonal matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. My next question is: what is the relationship between the department and the Nunavut Employees Union here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge, the relationship between our Department of Finance and NEU is very good. We have regular meetings with NEU. In my capacity as minister, I have heard of no issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that answer. I'm wondering: in regard to the union, has the issue of the number of CSAs been raised by either party? That's all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Department of Finance and NEU do discuss casual employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. What kinds of concerns were raised in regard to the CSAs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe there were concerns as such. There's continuing dialogue between the Department of Finance and NEU. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on in your business plan, page 24, under Financial Operations, what oversight responsibility, if any, do you provide to arm's-length organizations, such as BBDC or Nunavut Tourism? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department itself does not provide financial oversight. There are contribution agreements between the Department of Economic Development and Transportation with organizations like Nunavut Tourism. Under that contribution agreement, there are conditions in the agreement requiring the recipient agency to provide reports and financial accountings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there are any cases of mismanagement, let's say, what would be the role of your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the department who has the contribution agreement with the external group detects issues or have concerns, then they can request assistance to our internal audit services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** If the department didn't raise it but the public did, do you feel that your department would have a role somewhere there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I responded to every rumour and piece of innuendo that is out in the streets of Iqaluit and across Nunavut we'd be a very busy department. If a member of the public has a concern, they should first address it with the department themselves so that they are aware of it and then we can go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under recruiting and staffing, with the new *Public Service Act* coming into effect, what kinds of recruitment tools are you using to get more beneficiaries employed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our mute button isn't working so I'll respond. High-tech doesn't work all the time.

Mr. Chairman, under the *Public Service Act* it only passed last September. We've been quite busy since then. I believe the department is working on a human resources strategy that will look at training for beneficiaries to get them into leadership roles. Identifying, for example, students; co-op training programs that could prepare them for work after they graduate from high

school or post-secondary. We do have people who are attending job fairs, career fairs, to encourage beneficiaries to consider government as a career.

We provide everybody with opportunities for training on the job. We have the intern program. We do have the shorter courses, the three- to five-day training courses for all employees to identify in their performance appraisals so they can gain the skills necessary to do their jobs and other jobs. There is a fair amount to encourage beneficiaries and also to provide them with support and training. Of course, people have to take the training, you're not going to learn if you don't sign up for courses or attend courses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that answer. I would like to go on to the staff housing policy and your department's work around that. How involved is your department in regards to staff housing allocations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Chairman, thank you to Ms. Angnakak for the question. We do sit on a committee but Nunavut Housing Corporation has the lead role in the staff housing allocations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking about the staff housing policy because it's right in their business plan. It says they work with

Nunavut Housing Corporation. Another thing it says in their business plan is that they work with NHC to finalize changes to the Staff Housing Policy and that's why I was asking that. I'm wondering if they can tell us what kind of changes were made to the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That's page 25, second bullet. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Ms. Angnakak's question. I know it is an item in our business plan. We have had one meeting, but again, it's very early in the mandate of this government, it's very early in this fiscal year. The work is beginning and will continue. The priority for positions is decided by the interdepartmental committee, of which we're one of the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate where the minister is coming from, but is the representative on the board at the DM level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's at the staff level, so it would be a member from our staff; it's not the deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go on. It says in your business plan on the same page a few bullets down, "Review and revise the

existing staffing manual to support the delegation of staffing to departments." Can you explain what this means using an example of an actual circumstance where this happened? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. An example would be the Department of Health, where we delegate the authority to hire nurses and, under the *Public Service Act*, they would receive a letter.

As minister, specifying what they can do and what they can't do in terms of hiring nurses, I don't have the exact clauses in the public service agreement, but I think the sections have to do with probation and discipline. There would be examples of where I delegate the authorities to Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. On page 26 of the business plan, it says, "Work with stakeholders on programs to develop Inuit youth employment opportunities and ladders within the government..." Can you elaborate on this statement and what about non-beneficiary youth who might work in the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. We do have the summer student career employment program.

For kids in high school, at least grade 10 and students who are in post-secondary, the government would offer them employment within various government departments, and meaningful employment where there are work plans so that they can gain the skills necessary to continue in that particular job.

In future years, they could come back. There would be year one, year two, year three, almost like a core program where they learn skills so that when they do graduate from high school or university or college or tech school, they do have some employable skills. That's the summer student program.

Of course, we do have students who do come into the government after they graduate from high school or university. As I said in an earlier question, we do provide ongoing training. If the student wanted to become a CGA or a CMA, we would offer training in that area and give them time off to study and write exams. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for that answer. That sounds very good. The only thing is I've heard some, and I think my colleague Mr. Hickes has brought this up before, where we have people who, for example, are studying nursing and then they have summer employment at Community and Government Services behind a desk or something. I think there's some work that needs to happen to make that program a little bit more relevant to some of the career choices that students are making.

In regard to summer students, I see under employee benefits under the business plan on page 27 it also talks about under that funding that summer student employment equity program is out of that. I'm wondering what portion of this funding is allocated to the summer student program and are all the funds expended each year? And if not, how much is left? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The centrally administered funds, I think it's covered under C-8. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Angnakak, for that question. I don't have the precise number with me. The number that comes to my mind is \$985,000 that we make available through the Department of Finance, approximately, for departments to hire summer students.

Of course, departments are also able to use their own resources to hire summer students and we do put a freeze the department's hiring casual employees between the period of April 1 and mid-August so that they can hire summer students.

Again, to go back to Ms. Angnakak's question about summer students, we do our best to try and match students with a job that matches the education or degree that they're seeking in university. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I first want to ask, going back to 2012-15 business plan of the



Department of Human Resources, which the minister has now taken over. In that plan it indicated that the Government of Nunavut's attendance management directive is being finalized and that information sessions have been initiated with departments.

I'd like to know, as of today, what is the absenteeism rate across the Government of Nunavut? Is it increasing or decreasing from previous years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Mr. Chairman, leave and attendance currently is, at the departmental level, is all manual. We as a department we don't have that capacity at this time to provide that level of detailed information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move right along then. The 2011-12 Public Service Annual Report indicates that Government of Nunavut-wide turnover rate for employees is approximately 15 percent. Are you able to provide, according to the information that departing employees when they complete exit surveys and interviews, what is the main reason for people leaving the public service, the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for that question. I always like to answer questions and give some information, but Mr. Chairman, I just don't have that information with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I'll stop there for now. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions with respect to personnel. Let me first ask: are we on page C-7?

Let me get clarification. On December 31, 2013, there were 4,350 positions in the government, of which 1,041 were vacant. Can the minister provide me with a definition of what constitutes a position deemed to be vacant? Let me say it in English, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What constitutes a position being deemed vacant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe the definition would be that there is no one hired into that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are decentralized positions and I think there are 12 of them. Even though there are jobs in the communities and even though the position is deemed to be in the community, because of the time it took, a lot of times, those positions are based in the capital. They have been leaving their original positions and then seconded to positions in the capital.

Do you have a policy in relation to the length of time those kinds of employees can leave their original positions? Those positions are supposed to be based in the community, but it is being taken over in the capital when it's supposed to be in a decentralized community. Is there a time limit, such as within a year, when you can say that that position is now vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I appreciate where he's coming from. I live in a decentralized community as well and we always appreciate the positions being based there.

In any community that has decentralized positions, if a department wants to transfer them to another community or to Iqaluit, they would have to get cabinet approval. That would be the first thing. There is a mechanism that they can use and that's a transfer assignment for someone to a position somewhere, but it would be up to a maximum of three years.

That's usually in a situation where the department had identified a person with

certain skills that they can use elsewhere for a short period of time or for transfer assigning someone where they can gain some experience and knowledge in a new position. The decentralized positions would remain assigned to the community that they were originally assigned to unless cabinet was presented with a request for decision and made a decision to approve the position to be moved elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll use a number then. An employee who works in a decentralized community. For example, within a year if he spends about 50 percent of the work year working in the capital can you state that that decentralized position is now vacant? Based on this percentage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. The position itself would stay where it is assigned to that decentralized community. It's up to the department itself to decide where the work will be done. If it's on a transfer assignment... I think we had this discussion last year and I'm trying to remember the details. I'll just end there for the time being, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the absence of a transfer agreement then would the employee who has been assigned to

some other community within the same year and has been gone and would be gone for more than half of the time. Would that position that is vacant, would that be considered to be fully vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand Mr. Enook's question correctly then my answer would be no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So let me dig a little deeper in relation to Pond Inlet. In our community, if there are employees and you send an employee based in Pond Inlet and it doesn't matter to you if that position who is supposed to be working in Pond Inlet is working elsewhere about 50 percent of time and yet it doesn't matter to you. I'm thinking perhaps that position is supposed to be assigned to the community of Pond Inlet. But it turned out that you are doing otherwise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Without knowing the details or specifics of the particular situation in Pond Inlet. If there's a position in Pond Inlet, the individual that is assigned to that position should be in that position and live in Pond Inlet.

However, there could be mitigating circumstances. The position itself could be one where the person is required to do a lot of travel to different communities in Nunavut to do their job and/or they

could be in an acting position where they have to come to Iqaluit to participate in meetings and management decisions required to run a department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And the minister added he thinks he knows where I may be coming from. I was just using that as an example because that's all I know. I think I would know that other decentralized communities probably have the same situation. I am therefore trying to ask, even if those people are spending a lot of time outside of their decentralized community, up to half the year, it matters not one bit to you when that position is supposed to be assigned to that regional centre. It doesn't matter if that person has been absent for so long because it's not technically correct that the person is based in, for example, based in Pond Inlet. That's the way I understand it. It's just a word. It doesn't really mean anything. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for sharing his concerns. Mr. Chair, it does concern us. When I say I know where he's coming from, I do live in a decentralized community. At the same time I do see a lot of people in my decentralized community have to do a lot of travel throughout the Kitikmeot and throughout Nunavut, especially inspectors. It seems like they are on planes all the time.

Mr. Chairman, it's up to the deputy ministers in each department to manage their departments. The Department of Finance doesn't manage the deputies. It's their job to manage the department, manage their human resources and their financial resources to the best utilization that is required of the government. There are positions in decentralized communities... they have to ensure that the positions are providing the service as per the job description. I don't know what the particular details are but if Mr. Enook wanted to provide them to me privately then we can assist in that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't trying to talk about one job or one community. It was not my intention to create an impression that I was. However, if it's the case in Pond Inlet then there is also a case in Igloolik and you state that the same situation happens in Cambridge Bay. So that is what I'm saying in general.

However, regardless of that, I don't think I'll get a clearer answer on this. Decentralized communities, there are about 460 jobs that were decentralized. Do you have a policy in relation to those jobs like do you have a breakdown on the maximum days in the year that they could be away from their assigned desk in a decentralized community, regardless of any reason? Is there a limit? Do you have checks and balances in terms of how long a person can stay away? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance does not have a policy itself, but as I indicated in my earlier answer, we expect the deputy ministers and the directors within the department to manage their human resource, so they should be on top of that, ensuring that people travel for their jobs. If they are away for 150 days a year, I can't even begin to imagine what job that is, but if they're travelling for 150 days a year out of their community to do their job, it's considerable wear and tear on their body because we all know what it's like to travel in Nunavut year-round. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think, hon. minister, I can assure you that I don't think it would only be wear and tear on the body; I think it would also be wear and tear on their budget, let alone the body. Nobody does any of this stuff for free.

Let me move on, if I may, *Iksivautaaq*. I want to ask a quick question on job descriptions. Mr. Chairman, rule me out of order if Minister Peterson is not the proper minister to be asking the question to, but sometimes I find it very confusing as to who to ask questions to, especially when it comes to human resources because every department has their own and it seems like it's very easy to "pass the buck" before they answer the question.

Mr. Chairman, would I be incorrect... ? First of all, when a job is advertised, there's a job description, obviously, and some job descriptions for the job that is

advertised sometimes seem unreasonable, where I might almost say that some job descriptions are “plumped up.”

In a case where a job becomes available, is it each department’s own to do the job description? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Yes, each department would be responsible to develop the draft job description. Presumably, the subject matter experts know what duties, experience, and education requirements are for the position, but then they would submit them to the Department of Finance or the human resource section and then we would review them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next on the list, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. I have two, maybe three other questions that I wanted to ask too and I’m not sure if the minister is there, the appropriate minister to be asking.

However, my first one is: does the GN have employees outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Government of Nunavut does have employees outside of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** How many, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. There are 23 outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of those 23, is the minister able to say where those positions are located and what positions are they? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. One is in Yellowknife, seven are in Winnipeg, nine are in Churchill, and six are in Ottawa. I cannot go into detail what positions they are... I cannot provide that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. The other question I had, I am not sure if it is covered under this line item, but how much does the government spend on relocating staff from outside of the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the delay. Relocation, approximately \$1 million for 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names. Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be voted, \$25,566,000. Agreed?

**Some members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Going on to the next page. Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions concern the department's budget capital lease. On page 27, it indicates that you will spend just a little over \$10 million in 2014-15 fiscal year on capital leases for buildings that were acquired as part of the Nunavut Incremental Infrastructure Program, as well as Arviat Health Centre and Winnipeg Boarding Home.

Can the minister clarify how much of this is provided from the federal government for the lease of these buildings, currently? One of the buildings is on here, but I will state it, it's on its own, it's the Legislative Assembly building itself too?

Can the minister indicate how much of this is federal funding?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for his question. I apologize for the delay. For

the capital leases related to the buildings that were leased from the Nunavut Construction Corporation, the total annual leases are \$9,373,000, and we receive that funding through the territorial formula financing agreement we have with Canada, and we do have leases with NCC and that funding goes to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When is this funding agreement for the leases to expire? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. The funding we get under that program is rolled into our territorial formula financing arrangement with Canada, so we will continue receiving that level of funding, but the leases for the NCC buildings expire in 2019-20. CGS would be the department that looks after the leases when that period in time comes for renewal or whatever happens when the leases expire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This might be a CGS question, too. When the leases are done, obviously, there will be an option to renew, which would be CGS. Would the option to purchase, if it's there, is that with CGS too? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. It's a good question. It's something that any tenant should take into consideration when a lease goes to expire; whether to renew or to purchase. In this particular case, I do not know if there is any clause in the agreement with NCC to permit purchase of the building, but it is something we could discuss with CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names. Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Total. Operations and Maintenance, to be voted, \$46, 618,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go back to page C-3. Department Summary. Finance. Detail of Expenditures. Total. Operations and Maintenance, to be voted, \$84,648,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are you in agreement with Department of Finance is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you and the committee for your excellent questions. I have heard a lot of concerns, not only in Committee of the Whole, but also during question period and in conversations with regular members about the human resources. We are going to continue to work very hard on addressing a lot of the issues in the

human resources, and, of course, we will continue to work hard to balance our budgets and manage our finances. I heard Mr. Enook's comment about how 150 days of travel could be hard on our budget.

We will continue to work with our colleagues in the different departments to ensure that everybody is aware of the *Financial Administration Act*, our FAM directives, and our human resource manual, and also the provisions of the public service act so that we could continue on this mandate to strengthen and improve our finances, and to strengthen and improve our human resources section.

I would like to thank my officials who have appeared with me on Friday and today, and also other departments who have worked with us to prepare the main estimates for this spring sitting.

I have to point out, Mr. Chairman, it's been a hard condensed period of time since January. We have worked on the interim appropriation and capital estimates in the winter sitting. We're working on the main estimates and we're also working on the capital estimates for the October sitting. It has been a very hard, challenging six and seven months for all of us, and I appreciate the help and input from all the standing committees and my colleagues. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

Thank you. We will be taking a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:26 and resumed at 16:37

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like now to ask Minister Kuksuk. Do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Yes.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Kuksuk, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon to the people who are watching the proceedings. My fellow Nunavummiut, today I will be here with my officials for Economic Development and Transportation. (interpretation ends) To my left is Pauloosie Suvega, Associate Deputy Minister and to my right, Deputy Minister Robert Long. (interpretation) Although she's not sitting beside us, Tanya Winmill, Director of Finance and Administration, will be here with us. Those are the officials, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to appear before the Committee of the Whole to present the 2014-15 operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

I am pleased that we will be fulfilling important priorities from our government's mandate, *Sivumut Abluqta – Stepping Forward Together*, and continuing to build Nunavut's economy and manage our transportation system.

To help answer my colleagues' detailed questions on program and financial matters, I have with me (interpretation) officials that I mentioned earlier.

(interpretation ends) The budget we are reviewing today is for grants and contributions, compensation and benefits, and other expenses. The total budget I am proposing for the 2014-15 fiscal year is \$60,682,000, which represents a decrease of \$395,000 compared to the budget for 2013-14.

As I explained to the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, there are housekeeping changes to our grants and contributions and an increase of just under \$1 million to the contract services budget for the Transportation Branch, which is offset by a decrease of just under \$1 million to the Transportation Branch's utility costs.

So there are no large program changes in 2014-15, but we will be focusing on



implementing the government's new mandate, *Sivumut Abluqta – Stepping Forward Together*.

One of the priorities set out in *Sivumut Abluqta* is economic growth through responsible development across all sectors. This priority commits the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to a number of activities, including:

- Ensuring the application of sound regulatory processes to attract and manage responsible resource development;
- Encouraging and supporting economic development initiatives that build on and add value to identified areas of potential, including the arts and tourism sectors;
- Promoting entrepreneurship and business development by simplifying rules and making it easy for small business to comply; and
- Supporting the development of current and future Nunavut artists in all media to produce high-quality work and to market their work across Canada and around the world.

There are two additional actions that are also particularly important for the department and these are:

- Reviewing our programs to determine what is working well and what needs improvement; and
- Ensuring that recipients of public funds are providing the outcomes we expect from our investment.

Over the course of this fiscal year, we will pay particular attention to these commitments. We are committed to effective and efficient government, and as a department that spends almost \$22 million in grants and contributions, we recognize that we have a special responsibility both to review our programs and to ensure that funding recipients are accountable to the public.

Implementation of the department's existing programs this year will be guided by *Sivumut Abluqta*, but we will use this year to review our programs and ensure that they are focused on implementing the mandate and enabling Nunavut's success.

The department's business plan for the 2014-15 fiscal year sets out a number of priorities, including:

- Working within the Nunavut Economic Forum, the department will facilitate the Sivumut IV conference and release the renewed Nunavut Economic Development Strategy;
- Following up on the comprehensive review of the NNI Policy, the department is leading work towards a renewed preferential procurement policy;
- The department will use the results of our review of the Sanaugait arts and crafts strategy to support the development of current and future Nunavut artists in all media to produce high-quality work and market their work across Canada and around the world;

- As part of the implementation of Nunavut's tourism strategy, the department will work towards amendments to the *Travel and Tourism Act* and begin working on a cruise ship and yacht management plan;
- We will publish the results of the very successful carving stone deposit evaluation project so that knowledge of new and existing carving stone resources is transferred to communities;
- Our Motor Vehicles Division will implement the Nunavut Motor Vehicle Inspection Program for commercial carriers and begin the process for enforcing the School Bus Regulations;
- Nunavut Airports will work with NAV Canada to identify community airports which would benefit from the installation of GPS systems; and
- Here in the capital, we will transfer responsibility for operations of the Iqaluit International Airport to the P3 private partner and begin monitoring their compliance with all provisions of the construction and operations plans for the airport, including Inuit employment and training provisions.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed main estimates and business plan for the 2014-15 fiscal year are consistent with our new government's mandate and reflect the department's ongoing mandate to develop Nunavut's economy and maintain and improve Nunavut's transportation system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2014-15 operations and maintenance budget of \$60,682,000 has decreased by approximately 0.6 percent since the introduction of the department's 2013-14 main estimates. The number of positions in the department remains at 142.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The standing committee notes that the department's business plan indicates that the Poverty Reduction Division of the Department of Family Services has "completed an options paper" on the government's Country Food Distribution Program, which is administered by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee encourages the Department of Economic Development and [Transportation] to work closely with the Department of Community and Government Services to address the issue of assisting municipalities to

identify funding for the ongoing operation and maintenance of community freezers acquired under the program.

The department's proposed 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "draft a renewed policy to implement Article 24 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, implementing the changes identified in the 2012-2013 comprehensive review of the NNI Policy."

Mr. Chairman, a number of concerns have been raised in the Legislative Assembly regarding issues related to the government's contracting and procurement practices, including the question of whether the current Contracting Appeals Board should be replaced with a new body that has a broader mandate to hear appeals of government contract awards based on evaluative factors beyond simply the application of the NNI Policy.

The standing committee also notes that the extent to which the NNI Policy applies to the contracting and procurement activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation remains unclear. This issue was discussed during the hearings on the 2012 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on Procurement of Goods and Services*, in addition to the final report on the 2012 NNI Comprehensive Review, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 16, 2013.

The standing committee notes that the 2008-09 Annual Report of the NNI Contracting Appeals Board was not

tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March 22, 2010. The standing committee urges the minister to table the 2009-2010, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 annual reports of the Contracting Appeals Board in a timely manner.

Responsibility for the Government of Nunavut's Energy Secretariat was transferred from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation on July 1, 2012. The draft 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "provide leadership and oversight in implementing" the government's Energy Strategy, which was originally tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2007.

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. Under this legislation, the purpose of the Affordable Energy Fund is to "hold money appropriated to it in order, directly or indirectly, to subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable." However, the Affordable Energy Fund is not referred to in the draft 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The standing committee encourages the government to clarify which department has responsibility for managing this special purpose fund.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation

administers a number of policies concerning its funding programs, including the Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy, the Strategic Investments Program Policy, the Small Business Support Program Policy, and the Country Food Distribution Program Policy. However, a number of the department's policies appear to have expired.

The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "undertake program reviews to plan activities to promote economic growth through responsible development across all sectors and continue to promote a regulatory regime that will attract responsible resource developers."

The standing committee notes that the government's two central agencies, the Department of Finance and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, will be jointly managing an "external review of government programs" during the 2014-15 fiscal year. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the government's different program review initiatives are undertaken in a coordinated manner.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2014-15 main estimates include \$600,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and \$3,358,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Development Corporation. The 2013-14 ministerial letters of expectation to Crown corporations and agencies were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 17, 2013. The responses to the letters of expectation were also

tabled on that date. The standing committee encourages the timely tabling of the 2014-15 ministerial letters of expectation.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the Nunavut Development Corporation is required by law to "create employment and income for residents of Nunavut, primarily in small communities."

The 2013-14 ministerial letter of expectation to the chairperson of the corporation's board of directors outlined a number of priorities for the corporation. These included direction to "pursue divestment of Nunavut Development Corporation majority ownership at Pangnirtung Fisheries" and to "critically assess the performance of any existing subsidiary company from a cost per job creation position and take corrective action necessary for those companies deemed ineffective according to the corporation's own investment guidelines."

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's new Tourism Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 16, 2013. The department's proposed 2014-15 budget for its Tourism Development Program remains at \$1.8 million. This budget has been used to provide core funding to Nunavut Tourism. The standing committee has requested the minister to table a copy of the department's current contribution agreement with Nunavut Tourism.

The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "review the *Travel and Tourism Act* and

regulations.” The department’s new Tourism Strategy indicates that amendments to the legislation are needed to provide “a licensing system that reduces overlaps with other related licensing processes, an effective mechanism for collecting current data from licensed tourism operators, and policies and regulations to address the rapid growth of cruise ship and yacht traffic.”

Although the standing committee recognizes the jurisdictional complexities associated with the regulation of cruise ship activity, it strongly supports the introduction of measures to more closely monitor activity in this area, including the protection of sensitive sites from damage associated with cruise ship traffic. The standing committee also supports initiatives to work with communities to identify strategies to increase the economic benefits from cruise ship visits.

The department’s 2013-16 business plan indicated that two of its priorities for the 2013-14 fiscal year were to “complete [Development Partnership Agreement] negotiations with Baffinland for the Mary River Project” and to “continue Development Partnership Agreement negotiations with Agnico-Eagle Mines for Meliadine.” The business plan also noted that “similar discussions are anticipated for AREVA’s Kiggavik Project.”

The department’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that “negotiations have yet to be started by either party” with respect to the Mary River Project. It also indicates that “discussions will continue with Agnico-Eagle Mines on a

Development Partnership Agreement for the Meliadine project.”

Given the impact that these major projects will have on neighbouring communities, the standing committee encourages the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on their status.

The standing committee also notes that the department’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to “promote a regulatory regime that will attract responsible resource developers, including by developing guidelines to clarify expectations during socio-economic impact assessments, developing positions on transportation routes and developing positions on oil and gas development.”

On June 5, 2009, the Nunavut Transportation Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department’s proposed 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its ongoing priorities is to “actively lobby the Government of Canada on remaining harbours identified in the 2006 Small Craft Harbours report: Repulse Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Kugaaruk, Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River and Pond Inlet.” Another departmental priority is to “work with communities and port proponents to develop plans for marine infrastructure in communities where port infrastructure has the potential to achieve financial sustainability and multi-modal linkages.”

Although members remain supportive of efforts to obtain federal support for investments in this area, it is recognized that construction costs for major marine

facilities can be in the millions of dollars. The standing committee continues to urge the department to closely examine options for feasible and affordable improvements to existing community marine infrastructure that focus on the safety of boaters and protection of equipment, and which can be undertaken with available resources.

The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that two of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year are to "work with NAV Canada to identify community airports which would benefit from the installation of GPS systems," and the installation of the GPS systems would cost the department little or no cost as NAV Canada would bear the cost, and also to "update the 20-year capital needs assessment for Nunavut airports." The standing committee supports both initiatives.

Earlier this year, hearings were held on the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on the Safety of Schools and Childcare Facilities in Nunavut. The standing committee notes that one of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "implement the first phase of a two-phase process for enforcing the *School Bus Regulations* [under the *Motor Vehicles Act*]." The standing committee recommends that the department review these regulations with the goal of establishing reasonable and enforceable requirements that focus on issues of mechanical safety.

The department's proposed business plan also indicates that it will "continue to work with the Government Liaison division [of the Department of Executive

and Intergovernmental Affairs] on improving the delivery of motor vehicle services throughout Nunavut."

Mr. Chairman, the issue of improving the efficiency and delivery of general identification cards and driver's licences has been raised in the Legislative Assembly on numerous occasions. I would also note that the department's 2014-15 capital estimates include \$2.8 million in funding for the replacement of the government's motor vehicle information system.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2014-15 main estimates include a total of \$21,732,000 in funding for grants and contributions programs. This constitutes approximately 35 percent of the department's total operations and maintenance budget.

One of the goals contained in the government's new mandate statement is to "ensure recipients of Government of Nunavut funds are providing the outcomes we expect from our investment." The proposed business plan of the Department of Finance indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "review the processes for monitoring grants and contributions and ensure that the appropriate controls are in place to assure good value for money from grant and contribution recipients." The standing committee looks forward to reviewing progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and

[Transportation]. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members have any comments on the opening comments? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not too many; just a few. In regard to the Energy Secretariat, what's the main function of this office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Comments? Oh, I'm ahead of myself.

**Chairman:** Just comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. I got ahead of myself here. I got so excited to look at economic development and transportation.

What is the main function of the Energy Secretariat? I guess I'll start off with that as my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question, by my colleague, in terms of clarifying the goals (interpretation ends) it's responsible for the implementation of the energy strategy to address the territory's dependency on imported oil for heating, power, and transportation.

(interpretation) This secretariat, Energy Secretariat, is given to the Department of

Economic Development and Transportation as a responsibility for it's day to day operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If his office were...first of all, how many PYs do you have in this office? I'll ask that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the question of the operation and maintenance of this office, I can have my deputy answer that, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are four positions in that secretariat, two of which are filled at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering with the two positions that are filled, are they directly involved with the proposed hydro project that's been on the government books for a few years now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy can address the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is the lead on that file. We have offered support and encouragement but it's actually their research that's being done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us then what this office is busy doing at the present moment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for taking a while to answer the question. I had trouble finding the specific answer to that specific question. I would like my deputy, Mr. Long to answer that question.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These two employees work inside the office. As an example, they work with the Qulliq Energy Corporation in reviewing certain things. We became part of the Arctic Energy Alliance that reviews energy issues in the Arctic in terms of what the other arctic countries are doing, for example, in Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there are probably more questions there, but I'm going to go on to the Community Economic

Developers Association. What is the department's relationship with the hamlets when it comes to economic development officers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. There could be many varied answers in terms of what the economic development department does in cooperating with the hamlets. Some of those things relate to, for example, many hamlets have community economic development employees and we provide funding to them.

There are also financial resources that the municipalities provide for various economic development projects, such as trails and projects that aren't very costly like minor development projects or minor community projects. They can receive funding through community economic development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the reason or the purpose of providing funding to hamlets to support economic development officers is to help the communities create new businesses. I'm wondering if the department has the information to tell us how many new businesses have been created in Nunavut under this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.



**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I was using just a very few examples in relation to what community economic development officers do. We're mainly looking at small businesses and small projects. We provide funding so that municipalities can do those things.

However, with respect to the specific question, the information is not at our fingertips at this exact moment. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the department will be doing a review on the value or to see if we provide enough money, even to the hamlets, to provide the service or to review how many businesses are being created or if the initial purpose of this is actually being carried out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the way we have discussed this is by way of the department stating that they will be reviewing what businesses are operating, what businesses are in the process of failing, or local businesses that are not running so good. We will be reviewing those programs when we do our program review.

When we provide to the municipalities, they have to make progress reports as to what those local businesses are doing, what those projects are creating and there are many of them.... Which could

be interrelated to each other which would make us be able to assess which areas of local businesses may be running well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for that answer. We will look forward to seeing more development and finding out more about the businesses.

I'm going to go on to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. How many new businesses have been created or supported through the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information so I will get my deputy to respond to that question. Mr. Chairman, through you, if you don't mind.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't answer that question directly but I can give you some information that will be helpful. The Nunavut Credit Corporation has had \$25 million available to it as a loan fund. Several years ago that was at about \$13 million was out in loans. Today all \$25 million of that has gone out in loans and they are currently processing more and have gone back to the financial management board to draw down another \$15 million from the maximum of \$50 million they can have. They have been very busy and

they are doing their job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. It's good to hear. It's a lot of money.

I'm going to go on to country food distribution. When we talk about Nunavut's poverty reduction efforts and I'm looking at your business plan of 168. I'm wondering if the Country Food Distribution Division of your department will be transferred to Family Services under their Poverty Reduction Division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Chairman, I would like to get the Associate Deputy Minister, Pauloosie Suvega, to respond to that question through you if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not going to be transferred from our department but what we do is we work with the Department of Family Services and the Department of Environment with respect to country food distribution. We have to do a little bit more review on how we are going to be spending money with respect to country food distribution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I'm going to go onto NNI Policy procurement on 169 of your business plan. As you know, as we all know that the NNI Policy has been under review for quite a while now. I'm just wondering where we are at with that review at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Chairman, this is just the beginning of the review of the NNI Policy. Looking at the NNI Policy, Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement has to be included in the NNI Policy. We want to keep doing the review as much as possible.

We are not the only ones reviewing this NNI Policy. Other government departments are helping us review the NNI Policy, as well as NTI. At present, we have not completed reviewing the NNI Policy because we are waiting for NTI. What we have to do is work together with all the departments and NTI in order to do some more review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've just got a couple of questions under this branch. My colleague brought up the topic of the Energy Secretariat. One of the things that I brought up during the minister's appearance for the Minister of Housing was working with tenants in public housing to try to come up with

some kind of incentive program furthering their own external education program that they've got through the calendars. Has the Minister of Economic Development responsible for the Energy Secretariat spoken to the Minister of Housing regarding this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member asked whether I talked to the Minister of Housing, who I am. I don't know whether he is asking if I have spoken to myself...

>> *Laughter*

...or if it's another minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How did that conversation go?

Are they going to be looking at involving the Energy Secretariat and energy efficiency programs to assist the Nunavut Housing Corporation with some energy programs with the public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for his question. I myself, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Energy Secretariat, when this is being looked after by economic development...

. Maybe I can get Mr. Long to respond to that question, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very reasonable thing to do. Conserving energy is one of the things the Energy Secretariat is planning to do something with, and we have touched on the idea of public housing being a place where it would be very beneficial. Yes, that will be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the department for that response. As we all have learned and as we all know, there is a lot of money expended in social housing, and any way to mitigate some of those expenses would be money and time well spent.

I would like to touch also; my colleague touched onto the review from the NNI Policy. I would like to take it just a little step further. There are a number of recommendations that were part of the NNI comprehensive review. Now that that report has been tabled for a period of time, has the minister's department had a chance to go over those recommendations and evaluate the possibility of implementing...? What is their take on the recommendations that were part of that review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a

good question. As I stated earlier with respect to the NNI Policy, we have to work with the other departments and NTI. Mr. Chairman, if you do not mind, I will have my deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, we are as a working group within the government. The NNI Secretariat and the procurement departments, specifically CGS and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, are drafting a new policy using the recommendations of the two documents that were tabled in this House. When they have completed that work, it will go to cabinet for a request for a decision to negotiate with NTI. Given a “yes” on that, we will proceed with that document into a negotiation with NTI and work out the final details. We have a draft that is in progress at this point and we anticipate that by the fall, we will be able to go to cabinet with that request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank both the minister and Mr. Long for that response, and I look forward to seeing how that progresses. Along the same parameters, is the Contracting Appeals Board for NNI part of that same policy? I’m not 100 percent familiar with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Yes, they are included in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response and clarification. One of the concerns that have been brought to my attention with the appeals board for NNI, obviously, in the opening comments from the committee chair, of which I found very interesting as I am now part of that committee, it took a lot of the questions away that I was going to ask your department today. I think you can thank the committee’s hard work and interpretation of your department, and I hope you really take their comments to heart.

One of the concerns that have been brought to my attention regarding the appeals board is they do not really have any teeth with the department. Just as an example, I’m aware of a contract that was appealed and the recommendation from the appeals board was to put it back out to tender after a one-year term versus the three-year term that it was signed for, and that recommendation to date has not been followed by the department. This leads me to think that there is not a lot of teeth to this appeal board. I would like to get how the minister feels about that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the member’s question properly, he is asking me, whether the contractor doesn’t think that he is being treated properly and if he would go to the appeals board, how I feel about that.

As far as I know, there is little bit that I know about this, but I'm not really sure exactly what the appeals board would do. I can't really have an opinion if there was somebody who went to the appeals board, so I can't respond to that. Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I wasn't clear, Mr. Chairman, and maybe it was a poor choice of words.

What I'm looking for is: during this review of the NNI Contracting Appeals Board as part of the policy, will they be looking at adding more, again I'm using the word, teeth or more authority to other government departments on their appeal recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I understand the question now, but in regard to appeals, not just our department but other departments will have to work with the appeal process. I would like my deputy minister to respond to the details. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question and it's one that is under serious consideration at this time. There is one school of thought, I think.

Maybe the procurement departments would like to see it with no teeth at all and perhaps there are others who would like to see it with a full set of teeth. At this point, that debate is raging and in due course, consensus will be reached, but it is not settled at this time. As you know, the appeals board only makes a recommendation and has a fairly limited scope. There is some desire to see that scope expanded and there is some other desire to see it not. It's an interesting discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe it's just a comment. Within the opening comments from the chair of the committee, it talks about adding a broader spectrum of appeal to that board and I hope that is seriously considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. It's just a comment. I have no more names. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague touched on this a bit, country food distribution. On page 168 of your business plan, in 2013-14, you had just under \$1 million budget and now for 2014-15, it's almost \$1 million more. Are there plans that we should know about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an excellent question and I do want to hear the response, and I want everyone to be on the same page and have the same understanding on how the country food distribution is set up. I will have to have

my deputy minister respond because he has the numbers in there. If you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I will have Mr. Long respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget is lower for 2013-14. We've had a slow uptake to this program, but hunters and trappers organizations are getting more excited about it, so that part of it is being used and starting to be used a bit more.

As we slowly resolve the issue of O&M for community freezers, more communities will become interested in building community freezers. I think it's clear now that CGS will provide O&M funds for it and a fear of not having money to operate it, I think, is slowly going away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official stated that the funding source going out was slow. Can the minister indicate how much of the funding last year was used up, if it was? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the funding, I believe our finance controller can respond as to how much was expended last year. Through you, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, I would like to have Ms. Winmill come to the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official in.

Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the number from 2012-13. It was roughly about \$358,000. What they did when they did the business case for this funding is we realized there were a lot of people who had to get on board with this program, including CGS, for the O&M cost. The first couple of years this program was in effect, the numbers were a lot lower.

With giving history and how our programs had progressed in the past, especially looking at the SCIP and CIIP program, the funding was back-loaded to ensure that once word got out on the program and went around the territory, the pickup would be greater in the later years of the funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Winmill for the 2012-13 budget. Is the 2013-14 budget available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Winmill to respond to this question as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, not at this time, but I can

provide it tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to another matter, on page 169, I just want clarification on the fourth bullet from the bottom. It says, "Perform a Nunavut energy end-use demand study and survey." Can the minister just explain what that is? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite hear the member because I was working with my papers and I could only hear my papers shuffling. I apologize. Can I have the member repeat the question? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 169 of your business plan, the fourth bullet from the bottom, it states, "Perform a Nunavut energy end-use demand study and survey." I just want to know what that means. What is it? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank the member for his question. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Long, my deputy minister, will respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the use of power that is being studied and surveyed. They are attempting to determine some patterns of energy use in Nunavut. That is currently underway. It should be complete by the end of June. This is probably a document that we would be happy to table in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to the next page of your business plan, the fifth bullet from the top says, "Develop options for an energy efficient support program for Nunavummiut." Is there any funding associated with this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the member's question. Before I respond, if there is funding for this program but develop options for energy efficiency support program there are various programs that we want to plan for within our department in Nunavut. We are working with Arctic Alliance we will discuss the energy efficiency support and look for energy efficiency support program and I know for sure that the funding that the member asked about I'll have Mr. Long respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Developing the options for energy efficiency support will be a follow-up to the study we just discussed. In that we

will be looking for methods of encouraging people to be more energy efficient. So perhaps assisting them with ways to seal their houses tighter, insulation, and things like that.

At this point we do not have a budget for that. I anticipate that would come in the following year, in 2015-16, after we have developed a program and have it approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you and I think this will be my last question. On the same page, the last bullet, "Work with communities and other stakeholders to assess potential for alternative energy systems in Nunavut."

Can the minister elaborate on what other alternative energy systems there are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this is part and parcel to my deputy minister's response but it's evident, I'm sure, and the deputy minister has a supplement response to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess there will probably be several alternative energy types that will be explored. Waste heat is an example is one. Solar, windmills, that sort of thing is... those types would be considered as alternative energy sources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said that was my last question and it was. This one is just my last statement. For alternative energy source, I think, in that category, a power line up from Manitoba to Kivalliq would be a pretty good choice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Okay. The next on my list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to say 'hello' to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

In your business plan page 166, the sixth bullet (interpretation ends) "To ensure culturally appropriate and respect for workplace for staff by providing quality training and development opportunities in maintaining open communication across departments."

(interpretation) How do you normally go about implementing this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to respond to that because he is very much aware of it. I would like him to respond to that, please, if it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Before I can respond, I need a little bit of help because our pages are numbered differently. Can you give me



the heading of where you are and hopefully I can find it.

**Chairman:** Corporate Management. Objectives. Sixth bullet on page 166.

**Mr. Long:** Number six?

**Chairman:** Anytime...

**Mr. Long:** Okay.

I think we are working on this. We are certainly trying to follow Inuit societal values and working hard to ensure that that is built into all of our job descriptions, it is in our training plans and it concerns decision-making and Inuit societal values are used in meetings. As we go through ongoing training, this is reinforced and will continue through meetings across the department.

We are opening communications. We are also using a newsletter that comes out monthly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Committee Motion 001 – 4(2):  
Extended Sitting Hours**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know what time it is. Pursuant to Rule 6(2), I move that the Committee of the Whole continue its sitting beyond the hour of daily adjournment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand. All opposed. The motion is carried.

Again, all those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My second question is also on your business plan. On page 167 of your business plan, (interpretation ends) the fourth one, "Community Economic Development Officer Training," in that very first sentence, it states, "The Community Economic Development Officer Training program ensures municipal community economic development officers can acquire the appropriate skills they need to identify and support economic growth opportunities in their communities."

In that same page, if you go to the second last one, "Nunavut Economic Developers Association," in that very last sentence, "The Nunavut Economic Developers Association also coordinates training and certification..."

When you look at those two, they both identify training. What would be the difference? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Long to respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community economic development officer training, \$50,000, is money spent on actual training. The Nunavut Economic Developers Association and their function there as coordinators organize the training and assist the economic development officers in going to the training courses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Flipping onto, staying on that business plan, page 168, the Nunavut Strategic Opportunities Fund, who is that particular fund targeted to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Long can also explain what this money is for, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This fund was used to pick up strategic opportunities. In other words, when there was an opportunity to create employment or an economic opportunity that didn't fit in any of our other programs we would use that one. As you can see from the budget, it's \$25,000 for this year and in the future it has disappeared. That funding is used in other places. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same

page, 168, about the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. I know it is obvious that in Nunavut the mining companies are getting more and more close to becoming active. How does it help businesses and communities in that regard? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you clarify that question, please? It is a corporation. The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. How does it help? I may have misunderstood your question. If it's ok with him and you, Mr. Chairman, I would like him to repeat the question. Thank you

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak. The minister is asking for clarification.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe in looking at this Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and seeing the economic boom with industry, whether it be exploration or mining within our territory which we see coming forth. For private businesses or the community itself, when you look at the first sentence there, "The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is a territorial corporation that supports and promotes economic growth."

How specifically is this particular corporation assisting communities with economic growth? In what essence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the question now. It's a good question.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation that you're talking about is for Nunavut businesses and people to benefit from. With the mining industry getting started in the three regions of Nunavut, this actually helps businesses for start-up costs if they're going to be working with the mining companies or other things. It can be used to help a business start up and that is the whole intention of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

If a person who has an existing business wishes to expand that business, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation can be utilized to do that. It can really benefit private companies in Nunavut. The fact that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation can provide financing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I guess the reason why I asked that question is, having seen industry work within my community, just outside of my community, when an industry wants something or they want particular contractors to start working or do particular work, they do not wait. Industry time is industry time, which is very different from civil time.

When a private business within a community is seeking assistance from this corporation, what is the turnaround time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different sources of funding and this is not the only corporation. There are other

sources of funding. Our department is one of the departments that can provide some credit. The situations would be different. The turnaround time in providing major funding would be different.

However, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I would like to have Mr. Long elaborate on it. It's because some can take long time and others would take a shorter time. Perhaps Mr. Long can provide a clearer answer. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the initial stage of requesting a loan, either for a new business or for a business to expand, there's a period of time when the owner is gathering up papers and getting all of his stuff organized, all the documentation that the loan fund would require to make a decision. I would say today, when an application is complete, the money should be disbursed within three months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and officials for the response. What happens to the local private business that finally gets the assistance after waiting for three months when the industry, as I indicated, does not wait and has already ventured off to another private company? What happens then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry that

I'm unable to respond to the question. However, if Mr. Long has a response, it's at his discretion. I don't want to make a guess as to what would happen. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** That's a good question and there are really two answers to that.

If everything is complete, it could happen a bit faster than that, but I don't think banks would move much faster than that either. On a \$1 million loan, you're talking about going and getting legal documents drafted and that sort of thing.

The other thing that, I guess, the wise thing for a small business to do is if they are looking for an opportunity to tender, then they would be smart to go to the NBCC and say to them, "I'm looking for this opportunity. I would like to apply for a loan. I will not ask for the funds until I get a contract." So then they would be proactive, they would be ready to do the expansion or have the working capital when they need it.

So it kind of cuts both ways. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I have no more names on the list. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted \$13,794,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Next page. Branch Summary. Economic Development and

Transportation. Economic Development. Questions. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are K-5. In the request for the funding, the budget. 2013-14 budget request. It would have been \$395,000 relating to travel assistance to communities. Municipalities that were in there, however, in 2014-15 it is no longer there. Where did it disappear to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that. I will have Ms. Winmill answer this one.

**Chairman:** Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding doesn't go anywhere. Actually it disappears as of this year. It was part of the community trust fund from the Department of Finance. That funding has since ceased. It will not be continued. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is why I asked the question. Why does it cease? (interpretation) Why did it not continue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to hand this over to my deputy minister, Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Winmill.

**Mr. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was only ever intended as a 3-year program. Last year was its final year. It was funded through the federal trust. That was a one time funding provided for that specific purpose. The department, however, continues to support the tourism and cultural industry initiatives through our existing programs either through other contribution agreements in which we had, such as making the strategic investment program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this was quite useful for the communities to access. Did you try and address and impress upon the federal government that this was an important source of money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): For the supplementary, I would like Ms. Winmill to elaborate more on it.

**Chairman:** Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was funding that was provided to the Department of Finance. They were the ones that, through a business case, provided us with the \$395,000, so they were in charge of that program. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did your department go to cry at the Department of Finance to have that proceed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Again, I would like Ms. Winmill to respond to this question, if she wishes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Winmill.

**Ms. Winmill:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money was no longer there. It was provided as one-time funding through the feds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, in the 2014-17 budget request, it says that in 2014-15 that you were going to review the *Travel and Tourism Act* and Regulations.

What specific amendments are being considered to the legislation and when do you plan to introduce them at the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are dealing with it. We are in fact doing a review, in terms of the specific time it will begin but I think Mr. Long can answer that better than me. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our *Tourism Act* was inherited from the Northwest Territories so it came here as one of their acts in 1999. We have not seriously updated it since then, so we're looking at quite a number of changes in the tourism industry.

For example, there is no reference, whatsoever, to cruise ships or... within the Act. So, how do our tourism officers inspect such a thing and then deal with it? So, we have to include those types of things and then just, the rest of it is to review it line by line.

One of our other objectives within the tourism strategy is to simplify the regulations, so we need the Act to change to allow that sort of thing to be considered, as well. I would suggest that those are probably the two most significant matters in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on this subject, if I could be permitted to ask, some of us have addressed this issue and the yachts and the cruise ships, if they seem to be going wherever they could go and they are everywhere. Wherever they want to go, they go. Wherever a ship wants to go and tangle, they do and we will never know what they do.

Those of us who are Inuit, in fact, all we are told is that, don't touch, don't touch and yet there is nobody monitoring them, so how will we be addressing these things. They have complete freedom to do whatever they want, wherever they want to go, wherever there are animals, and wherever there are

archaeology sites, how are you planning to address these? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember the question. This is definitely a serious concern. Archaeology sites and places where Inuit used to reside long ago, the Dorset cultures and other cultures, prehistoric cultures and so on. Yes, in terms of what we would do, we need to be addressing that taking a serious look at it. However, in terms of the specifics Mr. Long can address that a bit more if you do not mind, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We certainly share Mr. Enook's concern. How we will approach that in the legislation development process will be consultation. We will be discussing these issues with communities, getting their feeling and input on it. We'll try and incorporate as much of that as possible and as we can do legally to protect our land, our animals and that sort of thing. That is the strategy. Until the consultations take place and we have a clear idea of what people's concerns are, we won't have a method of fixing it. Once we know, we'll certainly do our best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder when the community consultations will happen with respect to this and how long will you be consulting with the communities? How long will it be until you report to

the House on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like my deputy minister said, we will be consulting with the communities first and then report on it. I will get Mr. Long to respond to the other questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** I can't put an exact timetable on it but certainly the process will begin this fall. By the time it is passed as an act, I would guess it will be a year and a half. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for the response. Also with respect to tourism, your department proposed 2014-15 main estimates include \$1.8 million in funding for its tourism development program. Last winter this was a concern that tourism... we didn't know whether tourism was utilizing the money properly. Some of us were worried that we wanted the money to be used properly and we questioned some of that usage.

Can the minister tell us with respect to all the concerns and worries that happen out there, what have you done to ensure that this does not happen again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Since the inception of Nunavut, the government will have to make sure that we are... in Kugluktuk we talked about all of the things that we should be doing to see whether the money is being used or expended properly because there are many different things that we have to do to make sure that the money we are spending is spent properly and for it to be looked at every so often to make sure it is being spent properly. I'm not exactly sure what we have done so far to this. We are dealing with this right at the present time. I would like to get Mr. Long to make an update as to what new strategy has happened since then. If he could respond to that question, through you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are we doing now? We have quarterly meetings with Nunavut Tourism at which their work plan for the year is reviewed. We look at the things that they had set out to do. Have they accomplished them and have they accomplished them well? We also look at their financials at that time. We consider whether the money is being well spent.

The specific issue that blew up in the newspaper regarding one attempt at a TV initiative was with the Lifetime Network in Florida. A Balancing Act was the name of the program. It is a national program in the states. We spent \$70,000 to be on that program. It was one of three major initiatives over a period of a couple of years that Nunavut Tourism undertook. It did have some

impact that could be measured by the number of hits on the website. It was not exceptional.

Nunavut Tourism was instrumental in bringing Canada AM from CTV up here. That had an amazing impact. They went from 200 hits a week to 2000. They got many minutes of broadcast time, which is estimated to have had a value of over \$1 million. So we have two airs where our money was invested. The \$70,000 did not work exceptionally well. The other one was extremely well.

They were instrumental in bringing up the Amazing Race Canada. We got wonderful exposure from that. It was an extremely good investment on our part because it didn't cost us anything.

These were three different attempts at getting TV shows and getting exposure. Two of them were extremely good, the other one was sort of average or not great. That is not a bad batting average as far as I'm concerned. There were certain inaccuracies in the newspaper article. Regardless, that was how it worked.

The other thing I would say is that I just received word that this year Nunavut Tourism has just completed their audit. Their books were in good enough order that it took three days instead of two weeks. There was one journal entry required. There was no need for a management letter because the auditors could find nothing to complain about. Thank you very much, Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I beg to differ but I'm not an accountant, unfortunately.

(interpretation) I'd like to ask the minister, maybe this is not one of the minister's portfolio if you can stop me, Mr. Chairman, if I'm in the wrong with respect to Economic Development and Transportation still with respect to Nunavut Tourism. There used to be, at one time, hon. minister, in the Kivalliq region. There probably is one at the Kivalliq region. People who take training with respect to guides being trained to do tourism and they have some training here in Pangnirtung, would go to teach tourism guides.

I have not seen this for quite some time, maybe because it did not continue. Can the minister respond to me? If not, I would like to be able to get some understanding...maybe it is under the Nunavut Arctic College.

Have you considered taking the guide training to the people of Nunavut?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I would like to respond to it but I will get Mr. Long to respond to it for clarity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been some guide training and some other training going on over the past four or five years. Most importantly though, Arctic College has been working



over the past two years to develop a whole set of new tourism training courses. Those are now ready to be rolled out. Arctic College is working in cooperation with Nunavut Tourism and others, so I think you'll see a significant difference, improvement in...and a lot of those old courses are updated, as well.

I think you'll see a real difference in the level of training that happens over the next few years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now leaving tourism, I will talk about mining. I have asked some questions and it is very important to me that we have to work together or the development partnership agreement policy, especially to do with communities that are close to the mining companies. This development partnership agreement policy is very important.

Can you enlighten me, Mr. Minister, with respect to the agreements to the Mary River, Meliadine... what kind of development partnership agreement do you have in place for those mining companies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. He asked that question before, that I can remember.

Mr. Chairman, the DPA that the member is talking about, we said, and the member knows, that up to today, we

have a DPA with the mining companies, Agnico-Eagle, the one that is near Baker Lake, we have a DPA with Agnico-Eagle.

It is an agreement between us and Agnico-Eagle, at the present time but we will be talking with the Mary River, Baffinland, shortly and others. Exactly where we are at, at the present time, with development partnership agreements... we have an agreement with Agnico-Eagle at the present time and I know that there will be others that we will have agreements with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister about the people who are working at Mary River. How important is the development partnership agreement to your department, and what would you do in order to start a development partnership agreement with other mining companies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to a development partnership agreement, it would be between... . There are quite a few partnership agreements.

They would have to consult with the communities and the surrounding communities around the mining camp. The Nunavut government would have to consult. The mining companies themselves would have to consult and they would require a DPA. There's a process there where it states how the

DPA could be initiated. There's a process that we need to follow if they need a DPA. There are various processes to follow.

Mr. Long is more knowledgeable about how the process works and how it is initiated, so I would like him to respond. Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will consider a DPA after a mining company has received their development permit from the federal government and after they have settled their IIBA with the appropriate land claim group. The DPA is voluntary. We ask them if they want one. The mining company decides whether they want to enter into that discussion with us and have one or not.

You mentioned three mines. The first one, Mary River, of course, has now got their permit and they have their settled IIBA. I talked to the vice-president of Baffinland a few weeks ago, about three weeks ago, and said, "If you guys are interested in discussing a DPA, we're ready to talk to you." They have not come forward and said, "We're ready to talk," so they have not asked for a meeting.

In the case of Meliadine, I don't believe they have their IIBA settled and I don't believe they have their permit, so that's a little bit premature for them, although Agnico-Eagle has one with Meadowbank and they probably will be interested.

Did you mention Kiggavik as the other one? That's still in the advanced exploration stage. They're still

struggling with NIRB. Nothing has settled there for them yet. They're a year or two off from even considering it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess, Mr. Chairman, where I get confused is one day, I am led to believe that there will be a development partnership agreement, that it's in the best interest of the mines to have the agreement, yet it's voluntary.

(interpretation) Let me ask this question. Can there be a mining company or a development company in Nunavut without ever having a development partnership agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there could be a mine that refuses to negotiate one and so, it is not mandatory and they could operate without it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's shocking. (interpretation) For those of us from Pond Inlet, the mayor in particular, we were made to believe that they require a DPA. I apologize to all the

Pond Inlet residents because our understanding was that it was mandatory to have a DPA. Now I am confused. I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Just a comment. Thank you. Next person on my list, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I only have one question here. We'll see how it goes. In the main estimates, it describes economic development that the department has the overall responsibility for leading the strategic direction and promotion of economic development in Nunavut.

I understand that there are a number of different programs and policies in place to stimulate growth in Nunavut. I recently had a really simple description of what economic development means and the description that was given to me was 'The more hands that touch a dollar that enters Nunavut is what really stimulates growth.'

As an example, maybe the minister will be able to understand in simple terms. If a southern contractor built a building up here, brings all their own workers and very little of the dollar that is spent on that construction is spent in Nunavut. It all leaves the territory.

Whereas, if a local contractor gets the contract to build something and has local suppliers getting the materials from, local employment, those people in turn shop at local stores, buy boats and Hondas and vehicles and groceries and gas and the list goes on and on, more and more people touch that dollar.

How is your department working within your programming to make sure that every dollar that enters Nunavut touches as many fingers as possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know that I cannot respond to that but I do understand. Yes, our department is economic development for Nunavut and we are to develop smaller companies and through our programs we are to provide programs for smaller businesses and to support the smaller companies or even larger businesses.

Since we are the economic development in our department, if I understood your question clearly, if we are going to develop within Nunavut communities and we can provide support to purchasing in Nunavut and by providing support and if we are going to hire within Nunavut, either for goods and services to be purchased in Nunavut.

For example, such as providing loans through NBCC, there are various avenues that we can use that are coming from our department and that could benefit private companies, if I understood your question correctly so that is how I am responding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** I'll stick to my promise. I just have the one question, but I just will finish off with a very brief comment. I really want you to encourage your department and your staff to continuously work to the effect of

maximizing the economic benefit of every dollar that enters this territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just a comment. Next on the list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have only two regarding economic development. My first question will be to the minister. How does this department division assist a community with rich exploration activity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, although I would like to respond to the question, I don't want to guess, so I will not provide a response. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated I had only two. I guess my first comment will be his department has all that information regarding all the economic activity with industry, whether it be exploration or whatnot. I guess that would be my first comment regarding the first question there.

As I indicated, I said only two questions. My second question will be under the economic development portfolio again. In tourism and cultural industries, what more emphasis will his department do with the Heritage Rivers in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is more than one department responsible in regard to Heritage Rivers. If Mr. Long has a response, I ask that he responds to that question because I probably wouldn't respond to it properly. Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say that the Heritage River designation on rivers makes it a very attractive tourism venue. What we should be doing is training, financing, and supporting more tourism businesses that will work on those rivers, fishing, canoeing, and things like that.

The new training programs that are just being rolled out, I think, is a really good starting point to aggressively develop some adventure tourism packages around those rivers. We have the various programs to make that happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 173 of your business plan, fifth bullet from the bottom, I'll read it. "Undertake an Economic Impact Study on Tourism to determine the impact of tourism activities on the Nunavut economy and the impact of external economic factors on tourism in Nunavut." I want to ask the minister if all this year the department has been pumping millions into economic activities, tourism stuff, not knowing the results. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an excellent question. I'll have deputy minister, Mr. Long, respond to you. If you don't mind, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** As we review programs and consider how successful they have been, this is a process to look at tourism from that perspective. There is statistical information available in some areas, and some there is not. We have to continue researching through exit surveys and things like that to determine if we are doing well in tourism and if we are getting a good bang for our buck. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on tourism, cruise ship tours are mentioned a few times and how to get more economic benefit out of them. Is the minister looking at studies to see how much money the communities pump in before the cruise ships come and how much money these cruise ships actually leave behind? I believe in many cases it's a net loss. Has that been looked at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. I remember parts of that being asked about at another date. It can be looked at another date. It can be looked at in two ways. We can look to see how much revenue it is making the communities. I believe Mr. Long looked at the figures at some point

and I would like him to respond to that, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I'd like to say that the economic development officers, we encourage them to look at what the investment was and if there was any profit from it. Where we find that we're not making any money at cruise ship tourism then how can we make it better in that community? How can we develop better products? How can we fix our pricing so that some money will be made?

It's a contentious issue. I know there are people in this room and in some of our communities that are not fond of cruise ships. Others seem to think it's pretty good. It appears to be a mixed blessing. If it is going to happen I would certainly like to see that more money is left behind and not at a net loss. We will be working aggressively with the economic development officers and with Nunavut Tourism to try and make that better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the response.

**Chairman:** Sorry. We will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:54 and resumed at 19:05*

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have quorum. I would like to commence with

the meeting. Mr. Savikataaq, you've got the floor.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on tourism, I just have a question on Nunavut Tourism employment. Are they bound by the same criteria for having to hire beneficiaries first, if at all possible, or can they hire anyone from anywhere they want? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my (interpretation ends) associate deputy minister (interpretation) respond to that question, Mr. Suvega, if it's okay with you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of organization, Nunavut Tourism is bound by the rules set by the Nunavut Tourism board. We certainly encourage all the agencies that we fund for priority hiring policies and a lot of them do create by-laws and policies for just such activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official just said that it's set by the board. That didn't answer my question whether they're bound by having to have priority hire beneficiaries. Can I get that question answered whether they have to hire beneficiaries first? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like Mr. Suvega to answer that question as well, (interpretation ends) associate deputy minister. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, legally, we have no mechanisms to force organizations that we fund for priority hiring. We certainly encourage them to do so on the strong themes of things like Article 23 within the land claims in terms of organizations that the Government of Nunavut funds. Legally, we start to get into some unique territory when we're asking or telling organizations on priority hiring policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I hearing correctly that they cannot force them to have priority hired beneficiaries? They can't even put that into contribution agreements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Suvega to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have to consult with our colleagues within the Department of Justice to see if we can insert language into contribution agreements of that nature as well as with our central agency

in the Department of Finance before introducing a change like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, how many permanent employees does Nunavut Tourism have and how many of those are beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Suvega to respond to that because they have the numbers. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have those numbers currently but we can provide them shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that. If we could have those numbers before the end of sitting if at all possible. Going on to a different matter, on page 176 one of the priorities, second bullet from the bottom is, "Publish results of the carving stone deposit evaluation project." Is there any funding available to get this soapstone? It's all dandy to know where it is but it's another story to mine and retrieve it. Is there funding for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Suvega would like to respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Currently there is no specific funding dedicated to the extraction of carving stones. However, some of our programs in the department can be geared towards specific economic activities. We also work closely in partnership with many other organizations external to the Government of Nunavut including Inuit organizations to see how we can find creative solutions in accessing these sites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you state what programs are available to get funds to mine the soapstone? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That program can be run by other departments on the outside of the government. But Mr. Suvega can explain that fully. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, just as an example, applicants could access one of the programs like strategic investments programs. We also work with many of our partners in the federal system such as CANNOR to see if we can find, again, creative solutions

to funding proponents and their activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For more clarity, can these funds be obtained by an individual or does it have to be a society or a hamlet? Can you explain that?

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. I would like that to be explained by Mr. Suvega. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our programs, such as the Strategic Investments Program are geared towards individual businesses or societies such as not-for-profit organizations or municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this will be the last question. On page 177 of your business plan, the third bullet from the bottom. I think it was touched on earlier but it says, "Promote a regulatory regime that will attract responsible resource developers, including by developing guidelines to clarify expectations during social economic impact assessments, developing positions on transportation routes, and develop positions on oil and gas development."

Can you explain what they mean by that? What has to be changed? What do they assume should be changed? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Suvega would like to answer the question, so I would like him to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all work in partnership through instruments such as the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Some of these regulatory changes occur outside of Nunavut. It could be a federal change or it could be a change on how the institutions of public governance are set up and govern themselves. We work in partnership with many of our partners, such as the federal government and/or Inuit organizations, to see where we can find efficiencies.

One of these examples would be on how proponents or mining companies consult within a community on proposed projects where, 20 years ago, it was unheard of for a proponent to actually hit the territory and come to our communities, sitting and explain what their proposed projects are. You fast-forward 20 years and the proponents are much more prepared now in terms of not just communicating what their proposed projects are, but also communicating in our language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.



**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I want to tough around tourism as well. I know that Nunavut Tourism has been working on, I guess, in partnership with the department, cruise ship and yacht strategies. I think there are some concerns around that. I'm wondering: how is Nunavut Tourism working with the communities in developing tourism opportunities right at the community level? What kind of foundational work, I guess, have they done at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We thank the member for that question. A related question was asked, but to elaborate more on the specific issue, I would like Mr. Suvega to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of that is in partnerships, working with communities in raising awareness, marketing tourism-ready products, how to conduct business with cruise ship passengers. Some of it could touch on areas such as regulatory changes from the federal side, also things like search and rescue and emergency preparedness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm getting at is: how involved is Nunavut Tourism when it comes to, for example, outfitters? What kind of support do outfitters get at the community level? I know they go to meetings and stuff like that, but as a

business, to run their business, what kind of support does Nunavut Tourism provide to local businesses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Suvega to respond to that question as well. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of it is through member services with licensed outfitters. You also have a lot of work that may occur outside of the relationship with Nunavut Tourism. Let's say, for example, if an outfitter needs assistance starting up a new business or an expansion of their existing business, there's a large network of partners throughout the territory where potential outfitters could access if they wanted to do a business start-up or an expansion on a new product. It really depends on the type of activities that the outfitters want to engage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm having a Joe Enook moment where I feel my questions are not being understood.

I am trying to say I know they can access other partners. I am trying to get the role of Nunavut Tourism at the community level; I know that they have been doing a lot of work in regard to marketing and going to Florida and all of that, but what I am trying to get at is what work are they doing in the

communities? How are they assisting community members?

For example, in Clyde River they are getting famous for their jumping where you jump off the rock. How are they assisting the community in attracting tourists to come to their community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Suvega to continue, if you don't mind.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, we do not encourage Inuit to jump off high rocks; that is an illegal activity. A large portion of it really is through marketing, not just externally, but also working with communities to ensure that they are linking up with their partners on trying to get some of their products ready.

For example, if they are a member and they know there are certain activities that could be projected throughout the year, some of it is dialogue between the outfitters and with Nunavut Tourism directly.

Some of it is through outreach on regular programs that Nunavut Tourism conducts annually, and it really depends on work with partners. It could be conferences, meetings, or conferences with other partners like NEDA or municipalities when they hold their regional and/or annual general meetings.

It really depends on the kinds of activities that the outfitters are engaged in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Can the minister tell us how often Nunavut Tourism travel to communities per year, and where was the last community they visited? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we have the information available, it would be nice if Mr. Suvega would provide that, if you do not mind, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have that specific information here tonight, but we can certainly get it before the sitting resumes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the community tourism and cultural industries program, it says it supports investments in community infrastructure linking cultural industries. Can you provide us with an example project that is under this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Suvega can provide an example.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of that is through our existing facilities or visitor tourism and information centres or in the creation of hopefully future visitor centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going on to mining, minerals and petroleum resources. What kind of programs and services does your department provide to excavation companies who want to come and explore in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I misunderstood, I'm sorry. Are you talking about mining? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, you understood me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I appreciate it that we are at the same wavelength. I'm not sure what specific activity you're talking about. If it is understood, I would like my ADM, Mr.

Suvega, to answer that, Mr. Chairman, if it is okay with you. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a specific program for encouraging exploration or the actual activity of doing exploration, but we provide services such as prospector courses and/or work with partners, such as the NWT-Nunavut Chamber of Mines, to provide information for the industry that's interested in doing development work in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer, but I would like to ask the minister: what kind of incentives do we have to get exploration companies to come to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Suvega to elaborate on some of the things that he mentioned. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question. A few points on that. From a jurisdictional standpoint, we have one settled land claim. That's very attractive from an investor perspective in trying to deal with single agencies or as few agencies as possible when doing some of the regulatory work.

In terms of post-development activity, we have the development partnership

agreement, which is another incentive for the industry, which can lead to things such as increased employment, investment in infrastructure, improved socio-economic conditions, and a minor example might be something like how mines are learning to be better employers in a multi-cultural setting on a mine site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two more questions. The first one is: how many exploration companies were in Nunavut last fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Suvega can respond to the question, if it's okay with you. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with one of our territorial partners on this, the Nunavut Geoscience Office, to produce an annual activity report, exploration and mining, and we can provide that tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is: as a department, what do you expect for this coming summer and over the next fiscal year in terms of exploration? What's the interest? Do you expect more mining companies or less or the same? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Suvega is in a better position to answer in terms of what the outlook for exploration in Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although we don't have the exact figures or numbers as to what to expect, it has been pretty stable for the last little while, although for the past few years, there has been a decline in exploration across the north, not just within Nunavut. Some of that is driven by market conditions and the cost of commodities across the world. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name I have on the list, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a whole lot of questions, but I will begin with page K-5, Economic Development. My first question will be in relation to the grants and contributions directed more to smaller communities, non-regional centres. Are they the priority in terms of contributions to the smaller communities for the purpose of creating employment? If I was clear, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Suvega would like to answer that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have any specific policies that spell out prioritizing non-decentralized communities over decentralized communities. A lot of our programs are geared toward driving economic activity, accessed through a wide variety of groups, non-government organizations or individual companies, and municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the official for the question. Just for your consideration, I wonder if... The non-decentralized would like to have some funding as well, so that's why I asked the question. When they ask for funding from the government, because the decentralized communities usually have access to the government departments... That's what I wanted to make a comment on, just for the consideration of the minister's department. That's what I wanted to say.

With respect to administering the development partnership agreements, even though they don't have to have a development partnership agreement, if the government and the mining companies can have a development partnership agreement, can that agreement make money for the government? If I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will give that question to Mr. Suvega, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the development partnership agreement, the government can make revenue by charging taxes, such as corporate taxes or payroll taxes. The royalties do not go to the Government of Nunavut, but they could go to the Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think somebody mentioned it earlier on. The gold mine near Baker Lake has a DPA. Has there been any funding or revenue coming to the government of Nunavut because of the DPA? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member is asking about the DPA and if the government has been making any... Thank you. I'll get Mr. Suvega to respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't collect any money but we collect money as a government from corporate taxes and the taxes paid by the employees. I would not have any answers to that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. I wonder if the Minister of Finance would know how much money they

collected from corporate and payroll taxes thus far from the Meadowbank mine near Baker Lake?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Only the minister would be able to defer it to another minister. Only if the minister is able to or wants to answer the question. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I would get some information to the members when the information is available, if you don't mind. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will wait for your answer. Not just for me, but for the other members. My last question is with respect to mining companies and oil companies. In the 2014-15 priorities, the sixth bullet states that they will assist with respect to devolution agreement, will the Nunavut government is in negotiations with... what kind of assistance will they provide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my Associate Deputy Minister to respond to the question. It's not just us that the question should be directed to but I will get Mr. Suvega to respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Suvega.

**Mr. Suvega** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Organizations such as the

Inuit organizations and Community and Government Services deals with subsurface rights. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names. Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$21,960,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. 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.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move 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. Hickes. The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) 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. There is a meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 of the Special Standing Committee on the Review of the *Education Act*, 9:30 in the Tuktu Boardroom, for members only of that committee.

*Orders of the Day* for June 10:

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 Tuesday, June 10, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:45*

