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**Friday, February 27, 2015**

**Pages 1796 – 1832**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
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(Hudson Bay)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**  
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*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy*

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Environment*

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

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

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

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Minister of Health; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for Immigration*

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

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

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

**David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, February 27, 2015**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickeys, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurток, Hon. Tom Sammurток, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 9:00*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good morning, my fellow Nunavummiut. Ministers, (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier, (interpretation) and members, welcome to the House.

Furthermore, I want to extend a warm welcome to Simeon Mikkungwak for his safe travel to Iqaluit. However, I wonder if I should thank you, as the bad weather seemingly arrived with you. You must have brought the weather system with you.

>>*Laughter*

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 099 – 4(2):  
Annual Staff Award for Academic  
Excellence and Innovation in  
Teaching**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and fellow community members. I say "good morning" and I wish them a good day.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, it is my honour to inform my colleagues that Nunavut Arctic College will be initiating an Annual Staff Award for Academic Excellence and Innovation in Teaching in memory of the late Linda Pemik.

(interpretation ends) Linda Pemik's contributions to the students and staff of Nunavut Arctic College are immeasurable and her career in the north has spanned over 40 years. She was not only active in her college community but also in her local community of Arviat and on social media through her blog. Linda cared deeply about the education of all Nunavummiut and was truly a lifelong learner, innovator, and critical thinker as well as a [mentor] for both students and staff.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Linda Pemik helped lay a strong foundation for all students that crossed her path throughout her career at Nunavut Arctic College. From her early days as an instructor to her final position as senior academic officer, Linda's positive influence on the lives of staff and students and her continuing efforts to offer new and innovative programs and

curriculum will be remembered for years to come.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am honoured that we will be able to offer this Annual Staff Award for Academic Excellence and Innovation and Teaching in her name. (interpretation) 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 Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 210 – 4(2): Conditions at Baffin Correctional Centre**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Nunavut, as well as the visitors in the gallery and my colleagues.

I rise today to express my deep concern and which I feel needs immediate addressing. In January, one of the committees toured the correctional facilities with the life skills counsellors. While touring the facility with members of the committee of which I am part of, several major concerns surfaced based on the condition of the facility.

In this day and age, we congratulate our fellow residents' accomplishments. Just yesterday, we witnessed another cause for celebration for the counsellors who completed their training and, indeed, it was a cause for celebration.

Now, on the other hand, several major concerns surfaced with regard to inmates housed at the correctional facility. I will voice these specific concerns about that facility; mind you I am not trying to take the representation from the Iqaluit members in whose riding this facility is situated. There are significant concerns related to the condition of the correctional facility.

The correctional facility serves all of Nunavut, as inmates from all over Nunavut are housed in that facility, and that is why I am voicing my concerns. As the Member for Quttiktuq, I know that this concern isn't only applicable to inmates from my community, as it is for the entire territory.

Mr. Speaker, there is a cause for concern at the facility housing our inmates, as the condition is substandard. I even saw examples of hazardous substances that would scare anyone and the space seems uninhabitable. Some of the hazards are a cause for immediate worry, and I understood the need for corrective work.

Mr. Speaker, what I heard about the correctional facility was that it has two types of mould. If the mould enters the bloodstream, it can cause cancer. It is absolutely unacceptable to have people at this facility.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I didn't hear any nays. Mr. Shooyook, please proceed.



**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am almost at the end of my statement.

Mr. Speaker, the information we heard about the facility was that it had two types of mould. On top of these hazardous substances, the interior is severely damaged in some places.

Mr. Speaker, our inmates ought to no longer be housed in that correctional facility due to these pressing concerns and health and safety reasons. As the government administering these facilities, we have to conduct a thorough and immediate review of the facility due to the inherent dangers in it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 211 – 4(2):  
Kinngait Venue for Local  
Musicians**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and the listening audience.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a positive development within my constituency in Cape Dorset that affects me on a personal level.

Mr. Speaker, the Kinngait Performing Arts Club opened its doors early this year after converting a portion of the community centre into a space to play music and foster a healthy environment for the youth and the community.

Mr. Speaker, we have many talented people in our communities who have and

continue to contribute positively through the arts and music. Mr. Speaker, with this new community resource, emerging artists can showcase their skills and talents and further develop their artistic expression through music.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to pay tribute to one of the original Kinngait Band members who recently passed away and whom I have personally performed with in my earlier years. Mr. Tayara Papigatuk had a great impression and impact on the music scene in our community and will truly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, join me in the commending the efforts being made by a small group of individuals, namely, Claude Constantineau, Grace Main, Scott Knox, the Hamlet of Cape Dorset, the community justice committee, and the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health, for their contributions toward the Kinngait Performing Arts Club to benefit the wider community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 212 – 4(2):  
Recognition of Tiffany  
Siusangnark**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish my constituents in Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour a good day today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my young constituent, Ms. Tiffany Siusangnark.

Tiffany is from Repulse Bay who hopes to become Nunavut's first female NHL player. Mr. Speaker, at this time, Tiffany is training at the Hockey Training Institute in Barrie, Ontario, sharpening her skills on the ice with a team of youth student athletes with big dreams. Tiffany and her team, the "Stars," have competed against the top level in their division internationally.

I would like to recognize Ms. Siusangnark for following her dreams. It is not easy for a teenager to travel such a far distance for a long period of time away from their family, friends, and community. I would like to recognize Tiffany and to honour her for being able to go to school in a southern institute, even though her family is not living with her, so she could achieve her dream of becoming a hockey player.

Her parents and grandmother had to raise \$24,000. To date, they have raised about \$21,000 so far and they need \$3,900 to go. I am very proud of her and her family. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share my pride with them and provide my support so that Tiffany Siusangnark can achieve her dream. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 213 – 4(2):  
Happy Birthday to Mother-in-Law  
Leah Qappik**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow residents of

Pangnirtung, those who are watching the session.

The reason why I rise this morning is to announce my mother-in-law's birthday, Leah Tauki Qappik. She is celebrating her 80th birthday today. I want to express my joy in her reaching this age and on behalf of the Qappik and Mike families, happy birthday.

She is a tremendous asset to our families, as she treats everyone with love and equality. Those of us who are married into the family continually see her expressions of love. I also want to mention her husband, my father-in-law Petoosie.

Again, my mother-in-law is tireless as she cares for her children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. She passes on traditional skills and in her role as the matron of the family, she teaches women to sew, preparation of skins, tanning, and so on. She has passed on a tremendous amount of traditional knowledge.

I would like for my fellow colleagues and the people of Pangnirtung to join me in celebrating her birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 214 – 4(2):  
Congratulations to Jenny Mosesee**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning"

to my constituents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to express my pride. The Canada Winter Games are happening and Nunavut is involved. Although my community, Qikiqtarjuaq, is not a large community, there is one participant that I am very proud of.

Jenny Mosesee participates in various events. I wanted to mention Jenny Mosesee because I am very proud that she represents Nunavut and our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Member's Statement 215 – 4(2):  
Grateful for Ministerial Visit**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Nunavummiut and (interpretation) the residents of Gjoa Haven, (interpretation ends) ministers, and members.

I rise today to say "thank you" to a couple of ministers that visited my community on behalf of Gjoa Haven. I was happy that they did make it, although there were a few cancellations before that happened. On behalf of Gjoa Haven, I would like to thank Minister Kuksuk and Minister Okalik for coming to my community. They now know what I am talking about and will be talking about every time I stand up.

For the community of Gjoa Haven to see ministers come that far away, every time they see them on TV, they could say, "I

shook the hand of the ministers and I know who they are." Again I would like to say "thank you" to Minister Kuksuk and Minister Okalik for coming to my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 216 – 4(2):  
Nunavut Quest 2015**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Good morning, people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it's a little strange this morning. Maybe due to the fact of Mr. Mikkungwak's return, we seem to have only happy thoughts this morning.

>>Laughter

I want to welcome and recognize the High Arctic, especially Arctic Bay. In the year 1999, they started the annual dog race called Nunavut Quest in English. This race was started to recognize the creation of the Nunavut territory. This annual event is well run and it is very popular.

Mr. Speaker, I was happy to hear from committee members last night that the race will start this year from Pond Inlet on April 14 and they will depart for Arctic Bay. Mr. Speaker, I want to stand and welcome you to Pond Inlet for the start of this race. The people of the High Arctic have embraced this race and it continues to be growing the dogsledding tradition.

I welcome you to Pond Inlet. When they arrive in Arctic Bay, I know Mr. Shooyook will also welcome us to his community. I wanted to raise this and welcome you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 217 – 4(2):  
Happy to Finally Arrive**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to acknowledge my fellow MLAs as I finally arrived in person.

Although I have been watching on TV, as I sat watching in my room at home, I would raise my hand as you voted so far away. That was for your morning smile.

I want Baker Lake residents and all Nunavummiut alike to enjoy this day as it is Friday. Friday always brings smiles to the workforce.

I also would like to congratulate and welcome Pauloosie Keyootak to this House. I'm sorry I couldn't make it in to his swearing-in ceremony, as we don't control the weather.

As I am here now, questions will come up for ministers, and I send them smiles.

>>Laughter

For now, I just send smiles to the people of Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 354 – 4(2): Support for  
Nunavut Athletes**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to share my pride in the person I spoke about in my Member's Statement.

My question will be directed to the Minister of CGS. I believe he is the minister responsible for recreation.

As per my earlier statement, I spoke about the family dedicated to trying to raise funds for their daughter to realize her dream and passion. As per my statement, I stated that she is taking post-secondary courses in the south.

Mr. Speaker, students who are taking higher education... . In particular, her grandmother retired and has no employment income. As per my earlier comment, they require funds totalling \$3,900 to reach their goal. They would like to see the fundraising reach its goal.

Are there any assistance funds available in Nunavut specific to hockey schools or as part of the post-secondary assistance provided for students in those positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for his question. To the residents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, I wish you a good day, along with all Nunavummiut.

The question you raised relates to an individual and we don't have any assistance programs specific for individuals. Students taking courses outside of Nunavut receive assistance for their courses and nothing is set aside for extracurricular activities.

Nonetheless, the member asked about possible assistance and I have spoken to him personally about the matter. I asked for correspondence outlining this request and upon receipt of the written request, we would be able to provide a written determination. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

#### **Question 355 – 4(2): Conditions at Baffin Correctional Centre**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement, I spoke about this issue I want to ask about. My questions will be directed to the minister responsible for corrections.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister if any plans have been discussed, as this facility is hazardous to the health of the inmates. In order to have a safe and non-hazardous correctional centre, what

renovation plans does your department have for the facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the older building requires a lot of extra attention to deal with these challenges. During the capital planning, I spoke about the facility and of the new facility called Makigiarvik that will be opened. Once it is open and we have had the opportunity to transfer some inmates to it, renovations will commence. We have existing renovation plans for this facility. We continue to monitor the building as the status of the mould from last spring and we don't want anyone placed in unsafe conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a cohesive answer and I didn't understand what his response was, so I am asking again. What future plans does your department have for renovations at the correctional centre? This is related to the hazardous substances that are really pressing and require immediate action.

The substances are dangerous to a person's health. The inmates who may be exposed deserve our compassion and this includes everyone working at the facility. I wonder if the department has any concrete plans to address this and when these renovations would take

place, either this year, or if the department has plans to resolve these concerns. That is what I would like to understand at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the new building, Makigiarvik, is opened and operational and when some of the inmates are transferred to the facility, the renovations will commence. I understand that will be occurring soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding with a clear response. Indeed, this is disconcerting to hear and I personally wouldn't want anyone inhabiting those areas.

Has your department made any decisions about a replacement correctional centre? I know that our finances dictate these plans and I understand we have limited funding. Nonetheless, that facility is not fit for human habitation. I feel that even the workers there for the day are exposed to these dangers. I wonder if plans have been made to replace that current facility in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this situation is being monitored and inspections have taken place to determine what work is required to address these concerns. This work is ongoing to try and address these issues. However, we are continuing to review the situation to see what else is required of us in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 356 – 4(2): Status of Site Remediation in Baker Lake**

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

As the minister is aware, a longstanding and unresolved issue in the community of Baker Lake concerns the remediation of the site that was inherited from the Northern Canada Power Corporation.

QEC's 2012-13 annual report indicates that "Significant environmental costs have been identified by the corporation. However, a provision for environmental liabilities was not recognized because the corporation believes it is not responsible for these remediation costs."

Can the minister update the House today on QEC's efforts to have the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development accept responsibility for cleaning up this contaminated site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for his question and welcome to the proceedings. We missed you.

Mr. Speaker, I recall Mr. Mikkungwak brought that question up or raised the issue in November during Committee of the Whole. There has been no improvement since then in terms of getting Canada to acknowledge their responsibility for cleaning up this site. We continue to work with them and ask them to acknowledge their responsibility, but there has been no acknowledgement to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what the approximate cost is of cleaning up the contaminated site in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Based on some very old figures from 2006, the estimated cost at that time was over \$10 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. This issue has been dragging on for many years. What legal options do QEC and the Government of Nunavut have to force the federal government to live up to its responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again thank you to Mr. Mikkungwak. It's a very serious issue. Mr. Speaker, I don't have all the legal details, but the legal opinion we did receive indicated that the polluter pays. That was the legal advice, polluter pays, and that was in the Northern Canada Power Commission. There were some serious spills in the 1970s and '80s, and that was long before the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The legal advice is that polluter pays and it could be very expensive remediation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 357 – 4(2): Lack of Office Space in Nunavut Communities**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the lack of office space in Nunavut communities is an issue that has been raised in the House on a number of occasions.

During his recent appearance before the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, the minister indicated that his department had drafted a report on its Office Space Strategy. When will the minister be tabling his final report on the Office Space Strategy in the House? 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) Thank you for that question. We hired a consultant, Stantec, who has completed, not the final report, however, on January 15, and it has been presented now to the Deputy Ministers' Committee. We will be working with client departments to maximize highest value for space and planning strategies to upcoming lease expiries and demand for new offices. We are, in fact, in the process of completing this process at this point in time. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I got an answer of when it will be tabled in the House; if the minister could update us on that.

I also recognize that implementation of the department's Office Space Strategy has not yet begun. However, members have previously raised concerns that the lack of office space in communities has

affected the delivery of essential services.

Can the minister indicate which communities will be prioritized in the implementation of the Office Space Strategy and the criteria that will be used to select these communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Ministers' Committee was given a presentation on the report in late January, as I mentioned. CGS will use the report to establish an implementation plan to address the office space shortages. Once the final report is done and approved by this government, I will be prepared to table this document. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 358 – 4(2): Capital Planning Process**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I believe these questions remain amongst my colleagues.

As the minister is aware, the Legislative Assembly approved approximately \$205 million in capital funding for the 2015-16 fiscal year during its recent fall sitting. However, Nunavut's infrastructure deficit is evident in the extraordinary shortage of public



housing, modern marine infrastructure, power plants, and other structures. For this reason, it is essential that the government ensures that capital projects are completed following their proposal. As an example of timing, monthly reports should be submitted at the proper times.

Can the minister indicate approximately how many of the government's major capital projects are currently over budget or behind schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. I am unsure if I properly understood his question. Nevertheless, we are monitoring quite a few capital projects, with some at the initial planning stages and others entering the drafting stage, and several projects are currently underway. As to the actual costs, budget overruns, or timing, I don't have that level of detail, so I can't really speak to that. However, all planned capital projects are currently underway. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any person in the role of a consumer has the right to expect fair value for money spent when purchasing goods and services.

Additionally, if I were to use this example, if a person wants to purchase a vehicle and it arrives late or in a

damaged state upon its arrival, I feel that fair value includes the consumer's right for compensation for receiving damaged goods or repair costs to fix the damage to the vehicle they purchased.

In that same vein, our government should have certain expectations from their contractors for quality products. As an example, the objective is to have a facility constructed on time and on budget.

Can the minister explain what actions the government takes if a contracted entity delivers services, but exceeds the agreed-upon schedule or budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the question correctly, all successful winners of any contract don't receive all the funds. There is an amount held in reserve even upon the completion of the contract. Until it is done to the satisfaction of the government, they don't get the rest of the funds. In English, it is called a (interpretation ends) holdback. (interpretation) We wait until the project is completed and reviewed. When it is completed to the satisfaction of the government, they get the balance of the payment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the recent fall

sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved approximately \$34 million in capital carryover funding from the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, delays in the government's current capital projects often create a domino effect and result in the delay of future capital projects. This means that projects related to essential infrastructure in the communities may be deferred until such time as they are prioritized in the government's capital planning process.

Can the minister commit to reviewing the current capital planning process to prioritize the completion of capital projects that are to be further delayed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. There are a lot of reasons why projects are delayed. I can say that if there needs to be another study done, we will do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 359 – 4(2): School Closure Policy**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question and get clarification from the Minister of Education.

I will be using the *Hansard* for February 26, 2015 on page 17. I know these are

still the *Blues*, but the Minister of Education suggested, and I will be quoting an excerpt, "...and I can say to my colleagues that I have directed my staff to look into this issue." From what I understand, he was referring to the school closure policy and the reasoning behind it.

My first question is: when will there be a review of this policy and when do you expect it to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for that question. What I can say is that we know the DEAs follow a policy. We are currently looking at the DEA policies and I am sure that this issue will be brought up. We can deal with it in different avenues, but I can't say when that review is going to be completed and exactly what we expect. I can say that we can look at different options. It could be at the time that the DEAs are reviewing their policies. There will be no change until the DEAs have reviewed their policies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that all Nunavut communities are looking at the completion of the review. They want to have something solid to use. The minister indicated that there are different ways of reviewing the DEAs policies. When could you indicate which direction this review will take or which

option you will be choosing to review the policies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We haven't had any discussions with the district education authorities to date, but we will be communicating with them. We do have employees in the Department of Education who are required to consult with the district education authorities about certain issues. There will be a review of the DEA policies. Right now, I can't really answer your question, as we haven't consulted with the district education authorities on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I didn't clarify enough, but I am glad that the minister indicated that they will be communicating with the district education authorities.

My question was with regard to a statement you made in the *Hansard*. It states here that the minister has directed the staff, and then the minister indicated that they could go through the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act*. Mr. Speaker, my question was: how are you going to do the review? Which avenue are you going to take? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we are on the subject, they are going to be starting the review soon. The Department of Education staff will consult with the communities. I can't respond to your question because we are just in the initial stages of doing that review.

We know that there is the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act* and in October 2015, the special committee will be tabling a report in the fall session. Maybe we will see some changes at that time, but I can say that the Department of Education staff is currently taking the initial stages to start the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 360 – 4(2): New School for Coral Harbour**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, a letter recently arrived from the Hamlet of Coral Harbour regarding their concerns with the local school. Mr. Speaker, I know that the planning for the school was part of the capital plans.

Mr. Speaker, in following up on this issue, I noted that it is no longer listed in the capital plans, this new school slated for Coral Harbour. Can the minister elaborate why the school for Coral Harbour is no longer listed in the five-

year capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for that question and to the community, as I did receive the correspondence from the Mayor of Coral Harbour on this issue.

Additionally, we have stated that it is already included in the (interpretation ends) preplanning (interpretation) stages and it is still in that phase and hasn't changed. It is still within the (interpretation ends) preplanning (interpretation) stage and work is underway to commence the plans for this new school.

Also, I don't think any announcement has been made that the school has been removed from the capital plan, as it hasn't been removed. It is still in the plans. It is slated to be built in the 2016-17 construction season. The plans have not been changed and it has not been removed from the capital estimates. I just wanted to reiterate that to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a major concern to the community of Coral Harbour and the minister is well aware of that. Do I understand that it is still in the capital estimates? Have you identified some monies to be used for the construction of the school in Coral Harbour? Did I

understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are collaborating with the Department of Community and Government Services on the review of the architectural design. We have continued our dialogue with Community and Government Services on the design of the school. Furthermore, I believe that the Department of Education has set up a meeting with the organizations in Coral Harbour this coming spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that may be so, but the residents in the community are expecting the minister to visit the community in order to explain their reasoning for the new school and why it is a priority for the government. Can the minister set a date? I know there is an invitation welcoming the minister to the community and it is contained in a letter that was sent to the minister, as I received a copy.

I wonder if the minister could commit to visiting Coral Harbour in the short term prior to the springtime and hear why the residents feel this project is an immediate priority for their community. Can the minister identify a date where he can visit the community of Coral Harbour to listen to their concerns? I wonder if he can set that date soon and if

he is able to visit the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are currently 43 schools within Nunavut. Further, we know that communities have all sorts of various concerns related to their local schools and they are all credible.

Yes, regarding my invitation to the community, I know that they wanted me to attend as well as representatives of Community and Government Services. This invitation is one I have read, as I tend to read the correspondence sent to my attention. What I can state now is that we haven't identified a time for visiting the community, but I have been in Coral Harbour in the past and I am entirely willing to visit the community. Nevertheless, I can't pick a date for the visit at this time and don't know when we would be able to make the visit, albeit we will make every effort to come visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 361 – 4(2): Nominations to  
Inuit Uqausinginnik  
Taiguusiliuqtiit**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My second question will be directed to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

I believe it was last fall that a letter was released with respect to people wanting

to create an organization or a board with respect to language. Under Culture and Heritage, they had requested people with interest as a board member. I know that the request for interest has closed.

I wonder if the minister can clarify whether he will inform the public via written correspondence or announcement as to which candidates were successful in being appointed to the Inuit Language Authority. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to say "good morning" to all my fellow residents of Nunavut.

I also thank my colleague for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, yes, we did open that request for interest for people who are interested in becoming board members for that board, but it's obvious that the people who wanted to be a board member had submitted their interest and there will be a review of these candidates. Once the candidates have been identified, vetted, and provided to me and the appointments have been made, I would make the announcement. To date, they still haven't provided the list of candidates who were successful. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Language, obviously, is very important for Inuit. With the advent of the territory, the language has become one that needs to be preserved. For the people of Baker Lake, they have come up with several initiatives to try to preserve the language.

However, the people who applied to be a board member had stated that they hadn't even received a letter saying that their submission was received. They didn't receive any news as to whether they had been successful or whether their submission had been received. That's why I asked the minister if his department could monitor that, as it would be beneficial to hear about the appointments or to send letters of regret to the unsuccessful candidates.

Hopefully that was understandable.  
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The process for appointments to a government board includes notification requirements. Further, the people who applied who weren't successful will receive notification. Regardless of their success or not, letters will be sent out. Yes, I concur with you that my department has to follow the process of communicating with all applicants.  
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. For the appointments, just to make it clear for everyone, the members will be dealing with our Inuit language. How long are the terms of the board members? Can the minister elaborate on the terms of the appointed members?  
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the question he raised about the term of the appointments, I don't have the information in front of me. I will need to have that researched on the length of the terms from my officials and I will commit to providing this information once I have it available.  
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 362 – 4(2): School Closure Policy**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Education as a request for clarification.

Based on his responses, I want it very clear in my own mind as well as for our fellow Nunavummiut because they are the ones who have to follow these legal requirements. My first question is to clarify the issue, as perhaps I didn't quite understand his response earlier. Let me ask this question.

Based on the *Hansard Blues*, the minister is on record as stating he had directed his officials. Let me ask this question this way: did you direct your officials to research as to whom and through which avenue the review will take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. I don't quite understand what kind of study or review he is asking for.

However, what I'm trying to say is that I have asked our officials at the Department of Education to review the school closures over the past year, as they have been quite numerous. I have asked them to determine if it's weather-related or due to mechanical issues. How can we improve the criteria? I asked that question, "How can we improve the process?" That was my question to my officials. That's what I was trying to say yesterday during our meeting. I have directed my officials to look at this issue. I asked whether we could find consistency. That's what I was trying to say yesterday during our meeting.

I have directed my officials to review the school closure issue, not to do an actual study, but to review the school closure policy. If we are to look at the legislation, the district education authorities in the communities have the mandate to make the decision on weather-related school closures and when they can close the schools. The question was: how can we look at that issue further? I wanted to ensure that every school applies this consistently

with guidelines that communities can follow.

Communities arrive at different decisions based on their local conditions. That is why we have to leave it to the communities as to whether the school should be closed. I believe my colleague is well aware that every community has different environments and weather systems. Due to these differences in the way communities operate, it was my directive to look at how we could have more consistency in how they are applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the reason why I raised the question was due to a response by the minister that it could be looked at through different avenues, through this avenue, and he mentioned them as well, one avenue through the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act*.

The DEAs received their mandate when I became an MLA for my riding. My understanding at that time was that they weren't involved in these types of decisions. I thought they were just going to review the *Education Act*, not the actual policies or the daily operational issues.

That totally confused me because many of us who dealt with the legislation thought that they were not going to deal with the day-to-day operations because there are regulations for that. We assumed they were just going to review the legislation and not the policies or the regulations, which is why I asked if it

would be reviewed through that avenue.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in the  
*Education Act*, there will be a special  
committee conducting a review of the  
legislation. We are all aware that the  
communities have local district  
education authorities, or DEAs. They are  
also included within the legislation,  
which is why I alluded to that avenue.

Now, if we look at the DEAs as being  
part of this legislation, they also have the  
ability to make their own by-laws and  
rules. Perhaps when we are reviewing  
this legislation or the *Education Act*,  
since they are included in the Act itself,  
they can look at different areas. As it  
isn't closed for them, I said they could  
possibly review it through that avenue.  
The question would be what mandate the  
DEAs have within our education system.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker. I don't want anyone to  
misunderstand my intentions as I am one  
of the few advocates of the DEAs  
garnering more authority and I  
personally think nothing should be  
removed from their mandate. I am not  
advocating any removal of their existing  
authority, so please don't misunderstand  
my questioning as advocating removal  
of powers. Personally, I believe that if  
the local bodies had more authority,  
more programs would operate much  
smoother.

Let me raise this question then. At this  
time, the foundation for school closure  
and the policy therein, I'm not saying  
that they should be the same for all  
communities, but when you see no  
consistency in how it's applied, the legal  
foundation, I believe, lays the guiding  
principles for school closures.

Perhaps you could look at that and base  
it on your own perspective. That's the  
way I thought it was set up. Perhaps the  
foundation that you use as the guiding  
principles, I wonder whether the DEAs  
truly understand their own roles and  
mandates and whether that has been  
provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have  
provided that information to the DEAs  
on their authority and mandate with clear  
information laid out and that is provided  
for their usage. Further, the department  
provides copies of our legislation or  
other types of information they may  
require to conduct their operations.

We maintain an open door policy to the  
DEAs and we continue to explain that if  
they require assistance, our officials  
from the department can visit them at  
any time to answer their questions. This  
also applies to areas that they don't  
understand related to their role and  
authority. We can also provide training  
at any time. We are open to working  
with the DEAs, but I wanted it  
understood that we work closely with the  
DEAs, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Oral Questions. Mr. Keyootak.



**Question 363 – 4(2): Conservation Officer for Qikiqtarjuaq**

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

Our community hasn't had a conservation officer for a long time, which has created problems for our hunters in particular. Can the Minister of Environment state or identify when Qikiqtarjuaq could reasonably expect the hiring of a conservation officer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking about that issue. The HTOs in Nunavut, particularly where a local conservation officer position has been vacant for a period, are the priority and we are trying to resolve that in our department to hire officers for them. That is all I can respond with at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is problematic in our community, especially since our local harvesters depend on the sales of their sealskins as part of their income. Hunters have to wait for long periods in our community due to not having a local conservation officer to process their skins.

Can the department focus on those communities without a conservation officer, particularly for Qikiqtarjuaq?

We would like more frequent visitations from conservation officers, as you feel sympathetic to the hunters who are forced to wait for long periods to sell their skins. Can the department set up more frequent visits to these communities and in particular, to our community of Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I completely believe the veracity of my colleague's comment and I know it is a fact. Also, what I can provide at this time is that in those cases, we will look at the concern my colleague voiced about when the community of Qikiqtarjuaq can expect a conservation officer or alternatively, when one can visit their community as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 100 – 4(2): Legal Services Board of Nunavut Annual Report 2013-2014**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Legal Services Board of Nunavut Annual Report for 2013-14 (14th annual report). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Tabled Document 101 – 4(2): Correspondence from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization Regarding Kiggavik Project**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table today a copy of correspondence that I have received from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization concerning the proposed Kiggavik project. I encourage all members to review this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Tabling of Documents. I have two. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members, I have two documents to table today.

**Tabled Document 102 – 4(2): Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act**

**Tabled Document 103 – 4(2): 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer**

In accordance with subsection 20.1 of the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table a copy of an election made under section 7 of the Act.

I also wish to table the 2013-14 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Member for (interpretation ends) Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 019 – 4(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 2, 2015, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the winter 2015 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Item 19: Second Reading of Bills****Bill 14 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
3, 2014-2015 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 14 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 15 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-  
2015 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-2015*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray

the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and Bill 15 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 17 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-  
2013 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 17, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-2013*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 17 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 18 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
1, 2015-2016 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 18 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the  
Workers' Compensation Act –  
Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill adds five forms of cancer to the listed diseases presumed to affect firefighters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 19 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. I have no more. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole [on Bills] and Other Matters. Bills 14, 15, 16, and 18 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:30 and  
Committee resumed at 10:55*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good morning, Inuit, Nunavummiut, ministers, and MLAs. Good morning.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 14, 15, 16, and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back, everybody. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2015-16 Main Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your staff.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, I have my Deputy Minister, Roy Green, and to my left, I have our Director of Finance, Gershon Moyo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. General comments. Do members have general comments? Thank you. I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the main estimates starting on page J-4. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. Mr. Chairman, I believe we are on page J-4.

Within the business plan, specifically pages 157 and 158, I have a question, Mr. Chairman.

In the documentation, actually within the 2014-17 business plans, it speaks about the priorities for 2014-15, where it states that the department's corporate structure will be reviewed and again in the 2015-16 plans, it is clearly identified that the corporate structure has been revised.

Now, if you look at the 2015-18 business plans, there is nothing specifically written about the change in the corporate structure. Can the minister identify what changes were made to the department's corporate structure and what improvements you expect in the provision of services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Before I go to the minister, I would like to recognize Nadia Mike and the grade 10 students. Please welcome them to the House.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to try to respond and see if I could clarify as thoroughly as I can. If you look at the business plan, he has a question with regard to that matter. There's going to be no real changes with respect to how our departments are going to be utilizing the budget. I can respond that way. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me start by clarifying my question. With the changes you have already implemented within your department, both the latest and earlier changes with this new budget, what kind of improvements does your department expect? I wonder if you could use an example of some kind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, now I understand the reasoning behind his question. Yes, our department and our corporate structure were reviewed to see how to make improvements and this was undertaken last year. This process has been completed now. The changes to the structure in our department were to ensure our operations were smoother and to have all staff in the proper place to fulfill their work requirements. This is how our department dealt with these changes. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you made the improvements and you had identified your budget, did you have to move staff to different communities? Did you move positions or jobs around? What was happening? Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. I could say that we have been working on this. We have only moved one position and it was the

assistant deputy minister from the Kivalliq to Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to ask when it was that you made the changes. When you were prioritizing for 2015-18, there was also a change with respect to the programs and how they were to be delivered. There were no positions changed, only the program delivery. Within operations... I have too many papers.

The program was transferred from the Directorate to the Community Services Division. Within the operation side, the (interpretation ends) Consumer Affairs Division, (interpretation) along with the Contracting Division, was moved from the Directorate to another area. I just want to understand the reasoning why the divisions were transferred and what improvements are expected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, due to the way they are written, it looks as if they were transferred visually. However, they remain under the (interpretation ends) director of policy, (interpretation) as their head supervisor remains unchanged. The actual reporting structure hasn't changed. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am momentarily at a loss, so if the minister didn't understand

my point in Inuktitut, I need to clarify my point in English.

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that the Directorate Branch is now responsible for consumer affairs and procurement and contract support, which were previously included under your department's Community Support Branch. Why has the department transferred these responsibilities to its Directorate Branch? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The matter identified by my colleague hasn't changed operationally with respect to the (interpretation ends) director of policy, (interpretation) as they have to report to this position. Although it isn't listed under Directorate, it hasn't changed operationally with this corporate structure change. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the same area, I seem to note another change that is observable, so I just want to understand the reason why, in your department's 2015-16 estimates, you have indicated that a new division was created, entitled Policy and Planning. This has been included under the Directorate Branch. Can you indicate how the addition of this division will affect the Directorate's workload and responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know where that information is so that I can answer it effectively. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, let me find the page. It is on page 157, although I am looking at page 158 of the business plan.

I don't have the Inuktitut version of the other document, but I was looking at the Directorate page. Perhaps if I provide some background, the minister will understand my point. In case you don't understand my Inuktitut dialect, I will try to ask it in English for clarity.

(interpretation ends) Your department's 2015-16 main estimates indicate that there is new division titled Policy and Planning, or is my information wrong? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** As far as we're concerned, there has been no change. However, just for clarity, if you allow me to have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Directorate or the advisory and administrative services, there has been no change in consumer

affairs. The only thing that we did is that we have broken out the consumer affairs budget within the business plans.

The consumer affairs office is in Baker Lake. It has been there since the inception of the government in 1999 and it always reported back to the director of policy and planning in Iqaluit. There has been no change in the Consumer Affairs Branch. It's not new. It has been with us, like I said, back since we formed the government in 1999. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll have to get back on that one because my information seems to say otherwise.

(interpretation) While on the same page, on J-4, I would like to ask this question about the work your department was tasked with, which was a review of the legislation and proposed (interpretation ends) amendments (interpretation) to the legislation protecting consumers or buyers in our territory, which is (interpretation ends) the *Consumer Protection Act*. (interpretation) It says that you completed your review and that you have completed your draft report. What I want to ask about is this: when do you expect to introduce those amendments in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the legislation review was first undertaken in 2009 on proposed

amendments to the (interpretation ends) *Consumer Protection Act* (interpretation) with the amendments completed on June 2012. Currently, we are working with the Department of Justice to make sure these amendments are adequate or in line with what we are trying to do. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First off, I extend a welcome to Minister Sammurток and your officials. Within the CG&S business plans, it shows on page 157 that the (interpretation ends) consumer affairs (interpretation) budget will increase by \$200,000 if we look at the 2014-15 estimates. Can the minister provide the reasoning behind this increase of \$200,000? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the reason for the increase in the budget is to accommodate the extra position, as there are currently three people in that division. Additionally, we have to hire a (interpretation ends) manager, (interpretation) which is a new position. That is the reason why the increase in the budget was made, as the funds are broken into \$383,000 in (interpretation ends) compensation and benefits and (interpretation) \$124,000 in O&M costs. That is the reason why we have increased that amount under Consumer Affairs. Thank you.



**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another matter under the Consumer Affairs Division also looks after the granting of (interpretation ends) lottery and business licences. (interpretation) Have you seen evidence of an increase in the number of lottery and business licence applications from the previous year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, the number of lotteries hasn't changed drastically within Nunavut. Within our territory, there are only three lottery licences, with two licences here in Iqaluit and one licence in Rankin Inlet. However, we are in the midst of planning for the opening of a new lottery licence, which I believe will be in Baker Lake. However, as of now, the numbers haven't changed much. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I wish to move to another item within your business plan on page 158 under the listing of priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The first line item is to "Review and consider amendments to existing scholarships and awards programs in order to maximize efficiencies." It states that the review will be undertaken with a view to operate this more efficiently. Can the minister elaborate on how you're going to review scholarships and awards programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this day and age, the number of students graduating from high school in Nunavut is continually increasing and some students take more advanced courses after graduation. This is the reason why we want to review the (interpretation ends) scholarship program, (interpretation) as it is currently specific to students taking (interpretation ends) engineering or technical service requirements. (interpretation) These are the types of issues that require review to consider amendments to existing scholarships. It's mostly to do with engineering and technical services requirements or education that the students will be pursuing. At this time, the total amount set aside for the scholarships is \$80,000 per annum. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds for the (interpretation ends) scholarships, (interpretation) as per the minister's response, were that it is for graduates completing high school. Have these applications for the scholarship increased? Is the entire scholarship fund of \$80,000 expended in a year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, actually I can only respond with an affirmative

answer to that particular question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Additionally, your priorities indicate a future review to provide alternatives or amendments to the scholarship and awards program. Has your department considered increasing the scholarship fund or will this program be cut? I wonder what exactly they will be reviewing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department has committed to this review as per our priorities, but upon completion of this review is the time when we will have an idea of the status. It looks as if it may be increased. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although a review has been identified for the scholarship, will the funds continue to be awarded even if the review is taking place? Will this scholarship program be offered next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Yes, the scholarship fund is topped up every year, and even with the review, the program will continue to provide assistance to our students. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. When will the review be completed and will you table the results of the review in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, we have a plan outlining that the review will be completed within six months and we will have the results. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps as my closing remarks, since my questions are completed, nevertheless, I wanted to encourage the minister and his department to provide as much assistance to our students during their studies, as these funds increase the capacity of our students and to their lives. While we have students from Iqaluit attending the proceedings, we can look at their future as these students may apply for this fund in a couple of years.

Also, with respect to the program, I would encourage the minister to try to make changes prior to the students graduating from high school, and to have the scholarship information provided to the students by his department for our Nunavummiut students and to encourage them to take courses in these fields and take advantage of the (interpretation ends) opportunities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That's just a comment. If Minister Sammurток would like to comment. Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier, Mr. Enook was asking questions about the bringing forward of amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act*. I think, in the minister's response, he said that that was now complete and before the justice department. I think Mr. Enook asked when it would be introduced into the Assembly. I'm not sure if the minister responded or not. I'm just wondering if he can clarify when the changes to the *Consumer Protection Act* will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The member is asking for clarity. Minister Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My answer may have been somewhat confusing. However, if I may, I would like to defer that question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, the current process is that we did updates to the *Consumer Affairs Act* in June 2012 because, based on the preliminary review that was done in 2009, it was recommended that we would gradually interface changes to the *Consumer Protection Act*. At this point in time, CGS, in consultation with the Department of Justice, is undertaking a comprehensive review of legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions to take place before we finalize the legislation and proposal.

Some of the things we are looking at in changes bringing forward in the new amendment to the legislation are that we are looking at cheque-cashing fees, we're looking at money transfer funds, we're looking at cost disclosure fees, we're looking at unfair business practices, and we're doing update and modernization on the cost of credit disclosure provision in the Act. We are also looking at additional credit reporting provisions similar to what is taking place in the other jurisdictions.

Once we get this inter-jurisdictional review done, the next phase would then be to have discussions and do consultations with the various stakeholders and get their feedback before we would do the amendment to the *Consumer Protection Act* and before we would bring it to the Legislative Assembly for their approval. We suspect this could take up to two years before we go through this process and have Justice make the amendment to the regulations and bring them back into the House for their review and approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just a reminder, we have translators that need to keep up.

We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the issue I was trying to enquire about, I just want to provide further information on my earlier question. Perhaps the documentation in the different languages probably laid that confusion as the terms may be different.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-16, Mr. Minister, if you can go to page J-1, you will find the information I was referring to earlier, just to make the question clear.

The reason why I asked about the new division titled Policy and Planning is because it is included in the chart we are reviewing. However, last year in 2014-15, there was no mention of this division. Due to the lack of reference, it looked like a brand-new division with new responsibilities. That is why I enquired about your department's chart and if it was a new division and whether it incurred further responsibilities.

Apparently, the division wasn't highlighted in last year's report for 2014-15 and therefore caused the confusion. Am I correct in understanding that this was the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, my colleague is correct in his understanding. Although it is listed in one area, it wasn't shown on that chart. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question will be in reference to page 158 under priorities. One of my colleagues had asked about the scholarships, but can the minister elaborate, when we look at scholarships, are those to specific education programs, or can the minister elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, in my earlier response, I indicated that it would be for students who are taking technical courses, such as engineering, for example. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at the scholarships in the fields of technical, is that more in relation to all the specific careers under Community and Government Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, these are scholarships awarded to courses that are mainly related to our department. However, if I may, I'll give you a few examples of what they are: engineering, as I mentioned earlier, informatics, community planning, business studies, firefighting, training and prevention, and land administration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. When we look at the scholarships, is that year by year or do they have a closing date for submissions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Yes, they are, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the scholarships, as we all know, prior to completing your high school education, you start looking at possible colleges and where they are located. When we look at the scholarships, prior to their graduation, could the high school students submit or do they have to completely graduate and, after graduating, submit for the scholarship? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before I go to the minister, I would like to welcome Mr. Attima Hadlari to the House. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anybody who is interested in pursuing one of these careers, they can apply after they graduate from high school. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. For the scholarships, how will they be advocated to the secondary schools within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you. As a matter of course, as a department, in

addition to the \$80,000 that I mentioned earlier, we spend up to \$26,000 to advertise these scholarships to the schools and colleges in Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Moving on to page J-4 of the main estimates, I do see that there is a slight increase on purchased services. Is that due to the recent price increases, or can the minister elaborate under purchased services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That increase is mainly due to the sealift situation that we had in Kugaaruk this season where the supply ship could not completely deliver the supplies to Kugaaruk. Consequently, we had to utilize aircraft to deliver some of the supplies to Kugaaruk. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have what I believe will be a brief question under this section.

In the opening comments, the minister spoke to, on April 1, 2013, rolling out the new Municipal Funding Program. As we are coming up to the second anniversary of that program being rolled out, I would like a little bit of information on what the early analysis has been on funding for municipalities

and if it's meeting the needs of the residents of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you very much. However, just to make sure that we give the clear response to that question, I would like to defer that question to my deputy minister.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the most part, the municipalities have been operating within the new formula in terms of meeting their annual budget requirements. We certainly had some challenges for a few communities that have experienced some municipal deficits over the past couple of years that we have been working with those municipalities.

Given that the last review was done about two years ago, it is my intent this fiscal year to undertake another review of that funding formula to make sure that it covers all the operating and lifecycle maintenance that is required for municipalities to operate their programs and services. When we come back for any increases in the future, we will have a report to be able to substantiate the funding requirements for municipalities.

I just want to make sure that the funding we are providing is adequate and that it is being administered properly. I think this review would provide more support back to municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the recent media coverage here in Iqaluit as well as in my colleague Mr. Enook's community on not so much the infrastructure, but the maintenance of vehicles, for example, here in Iqaluit, there has been a lot of focus on the infrastructure and lack of maintenance. It only leads me to think that basically, a lot of those would stem from either from under-funding or not utilizing the budget dollars allocated appropriately.

My question to the minister would be: what does the Department of Community and Government Services do to oversee municipal and city spending to make sure that they are meeting the needs of residents of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we have started to do increasingly now is to monitor each community's situations, whether it be financial or maintenance. We have directed our staff to visit communities more frequently and also to have a dialogue with municipal staff and councils so that we can always have sort of a better picture of what is actually happening in each community. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. When staff from the department go into the communities to speak to the municipal representatives or with the City of Iqaluit here in town, do they actually do a tour to actually physically

take a look at some of their infrastructure and mobile equipment?

What I am getting at is that some equipment can have a very long lifecycle if it's maintained properly, yet some equipment, if it's not maintained properly, has a very short lifecycle, which doesn't meet the criteria or the parameters of the lifecycle replacement for mobile equipment especially.

I would like a little bit more detail on what type of information is gathered by the Department of Community and Government Services from municipalities and the City of Iqaluit, and what type of information their staff looks at when they go into the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't do the community visits myself. (interpretation ends) Just so that we get the right information on what actually happens during these visits, if I may, I would like to defer that question to the deputy minister.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, from within the financial perspective, there is monitoring and evaluation staff that does the reviews quarterly and annual financial reports for all municipalities. One of the concerns that triggered the program review and the complaints that were coming back from the municipalities is that they felt that there were not enough consultations between Community and Government

Services and hamlets with respect to working with them on their challenges with some of the programs and services.

As part of the organizational review, we have completed a branch called the director of community support and that's a director with three program managers. The responsibilities of those program managers are to provide ongoing visits to municipalities and meet with councils so that they can hear any concerns or challenges that they have. At the same time, they will have a checklist where they will go around the communities and take a look at the mobile equipment and other infrastructure to see if it's properly maintained. If there are challenges, we can work with the municipalities, similar to what we did in Pond Inlet, to make sure that the equipment is well maintained. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$11,986,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Now we're on Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of quick questions on J-5. Your department's 2015-16 main estimates include a Community Support Division. According to your department's 2015-18 business plan, \$462,000 was budgeted for this program in 2014-15 and \$831,000 was budgeted for the program in 2015-16. I wonder if you can explain

why this budget has nearly doubled in the last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're trying to find the page that the member is referring to. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 159 of the business plan, right at the bottom where it says, "Community Support." The budget used to be \$462,000 and you're proposing \$831,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the division that my deputy minister responded to just a while ago on the Community Support Division. There are four PYs there. There is one new one, the director, and three program managers. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on, your department's 2011-12 annual report on the *Emergency Measures Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in November of 2012. The 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports have not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. When will your department's 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be happy to table those next week. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. During the Legislative Assembly's recent fall sitting, you indicated that your department was initiating discussions with regional associations and the federal government to determine how you can cooperatively fund the mobile equipment specifically for search and rescue organizations. As of today, how many meetings has your department had concerning the issue and what were the outcomes of these meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had at least three meetings with the federal government and one with the Inuit organizations. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second part of my question was: what were the outcomes of these meetings? What kinds of discussions were held? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.



**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I'll ask my deputy minister to elaborate on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The primary reasons for the discussions was to see... . In addition to the federal government and the Inuit organizations, we have also engaged NAMA in those discussions as well. What we're trying to come up with is some sort of accountability framework where, if we purchase equipment for search and rescue, we've got to make sure that it's being maintained, but there has been no commitment either from the federal government or the Inuit organizations for a commitment to provide funding for search and rescue equipment.

What we have been doing as a department is we have been looking at, currently, any surplus equipment in terms of snowmobiles and other all-terrain vehicles. Through our Surplus Disposal Policy, we're trying to add those types of vehicles as surplus to the search and rescue teams to ensure that they have that equipment to undertake the searches, but we are just really in the preliminary stages right now of trying to develop some sort of fiscal framework and work with the other organizations to come up with a partnership for funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one final question on this particular area. You mentioned that you are in the preliminary stages with the talks on the equipment for emergency organizations. I'm just

wondering: over the next year or maybe even two years, what is your plan and how many meetings are you planning to have with these organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not able to give him specific dates. However, our dialogue with both the federal government and also with the Inuit organizations is ongoing and at any given time should they be available to meet, we're always there. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. As per Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and will report progress to the Speaker.

Thank you, minister and your staff. Sergeant-at-Arms, please assist witnesses.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

#### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Sammurtok. The motion is in order. All

those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to return to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): He would like to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? (interpretation ends) I hear no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

### **Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Attima Hadlari from my constituency of Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hadlari is a very busy man in the Kitikmeot, but one of his important duties in the Kitikmeot is that he works as an advisor for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. He has been doing that for many years, so we appreciate all the hard work he does and recognize and welcome him to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board at two o'clock in the Tuktu Room and a reminder also that

tomorrow, there's a meeting of the Full Caucus at 10:00 a.m. in the Nanuq Boardroom.

### *Orders of the Day* for March 2:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
  - Motion 19 – 4(2)
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 14
- Bill 15
- Bill 16
- Bill 18

21. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) This House stands  
adjourned until Monday, March 2, 2015,  
at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:58*

