



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**2nd Session**

**4th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 36**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2015**

**Pages 1892 – 1966**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Amittuq)

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

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(Hudson Bay)

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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(Aivilik)

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)  
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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*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**  
**Tuesday, March 3, 2015**

**Members Present:**

Ms. Pat Angnakak, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase, 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 Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut, and welcome. Members, ministers, the (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) visitors, interpreters, and our staff, welcome.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 104 – 4(2): Early Childhood Education Elder Consultation in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my

fellow Inuit, residents of Aggu and Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As expressed in our mandate, *Sivumut Abluqta*, education is the number one priority of this government. With a strong commitment to building quality academic programming, firmly grounded in the societal values and traditions of our people, our elders, students, and graduates are building a brighter future for our children.

(interpretation ends) Earlier this month, the Nunavut Early Childhood Education Program of the Education Programs Division at Nunavut Arctic College facilitated a consultation with Inuit elders, experts in early childhood development.

(interpretation) Facilitated by Nellie Kusugak of Rankin Inlet and early childhood education program coordinators Myna Ishulutak and Aaju Peter, these meetings included the participation of ECE Diploma students as “learners” in knowledge, sharing, and teaching.

Elders discussed and made recommendations for integrating Inuit culture, knowledge, and language into the ECE program to maximize opportunities for graduates to demonstrate skills, knowledge, and attitudes required to work with Nunavut children in a group setting.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, these consultations were held to review the college's Early Childhood Education Program outcomes and to create strategies for integrating Inuit culture, knowledge, and language into all course content.

Mr. Speaker, with input and advice from our elders, the weeklong discussions offered valuable opportunities for curriculum enhancement and the incorporation of Inuit-specific content.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, during the consultation, elders were professionally filmed and lectures on early child development are being produced in order to create permanent Inuit-specific resources that will contribute to increasing the quality of early childhood education programming for Nunavummiut.

I would like to thank all those elders and early childhood educators for contributing their time, knowledge, and experience to this collaborative process: Miriam Aglukark from Gjoa Haven, Atoat Akittirq from Igloolik, Meeka Arnakaq from Pangnirtung, Qaunak Mikkigak from Cape Dorset, Chris Mikeeuneak, Early Childhood Educator from Arviat, Oleepa Nauyuk from Pangnirtung, Elisapee Ootoova from Pond Inlet, and Kootoo Toonoo from Cape Dorset.

We are very proud of them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no other names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kuksuk.

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

#### **Member's Statement 228 – 4(2): Congratulations to Elaine Uppahuak-Prusky**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate a constituent of mine on recently completing a program. I'm very proud of her for that.

(interpretation) Elaine Uppahuak-Prusky, who is here today in the House, (interpretation ends) who is Nunavut Arctic College's Senior Business Officer, has successfully completed the first course of the Certified Aboriginal Professional Administrator In-Person Program. A graduation ceremony was held on February 19 in Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Certified Aboriginal Professional Administrator Program is to enhance the knowledge and skills of senior and aspiring administrators working in aboriginal communities and organizations through professional training and a national certification process. This is a unique program in Canada and I'm very pleased to be able to recognize Elaine for her accomplishments which will help to inspire others to do this program.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Marcelo Parungao who is also here today, the college's Bursar and Chief Financial Officer, for serving as her mentor for this program.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our congratulations to Elaine on her accomplishment. (interpretation ends) Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 229 – 4(2):  
Nunavut Participants at Canada  
Winter Games**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Canada Winter Games has just wrapped up yesterday and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the participants from Nunavut for their performance.

Mr. Speaker, this year, Canada celebrates "The Year of Sport." It's about recognizing sporting excellence and history of sport in Canada.

In Kugluktuk, we're making history as well. My community continues to prepare young athletes for competition.

Mr. Speaker, representing Kugluktuk at the Canada Winter Games were Julienne Angulalik and Sarah Power, and of course, their coach, Attila Csaba and their manager, Maria Csaba. Julienne and Sarah competed in table tennis and placed ninth overall in the women's doubles and team competitions. They also competed in singles competitions.

Mr. Speaker, it is great to see our young athletes from Nunavut participating in sports throughout our nation. This leads to healthier living and more active lifestyles.

Congratulations to both athletes, support staff, and volunteers who are an integral part in making these Games happen.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating their achievements and wishing them and all young Nunavut athletes continued success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 230 – 4(2):  
Tribute to Qikiqtarjuaq Divers**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share some celebratory news regarding some individuals, although many residents have heard about this longstanding local initiative.

In our community, we have commercial divers who dive all year long, in the winter and in the summer, conducting their work. I want to recognize and acknowledge their success as these divers have been invited to other communities to provide assistance.

In particular, last year, they were invited to Pangnirtung to assist the community in searching for an individual suspected of having drowned. Their recovery efforts weren't successful. Nonetheless, that had more to do with the visibility of the water.

I want to mention the individuals' names that went to Pangnirtung to assist in the recovery efforts for the missing person. They are Sammy Qappik and Philipoosie



Sangoya, who underwent tremendous stress in attempting the recovery of the missing person who was presumed to be drowned. They dove in those waters, but they weren't successful.

Even in the winter, the divers continue to work and they provide many benefits locally, especially in the summer season when divers are needed to repair the breakwater on the seabed. Further, whenever someone loses a boat to sinking, the divers are commissioned to find the sunken vessels.

In particular, this winter, the individuals have been especially busy. Sammy Qaapik and Charlie Aliqatuqtuq are always diving. They also harvest clams during the winter. It is very heartening to see the success of their work when orders arrive from outlying communities.

I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals. We don't see very many divers up here who dive both in the winter and summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 231 – 4(2):  
Tribute to Amie Panimera of  
Igloolik Radio**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues who are here and the residents of Aggu.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to issues related to Aggu and Amittuq. They are actually in one location, on the island of Igloolik.

Every Saturday, there is a radio show aired for Igloolik residents. The usual recordings heard on this show include stories from elders who have passed on as their stories started being recorded in the 1980s and they are aired during the time spot to our community. There are stories passing along advice about life and life skills, dangerous ice locations, and so on. They provide many lessons in our community. The show commences at six o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock in the morning every Saturday.

I want to acknowledge Amie Panimera, who unerringly goes to the station every Saturday morning for the radio show. I think it gets the people to get up at six o'clock in the morning to listen to the radio show. That is another way of helping Inuit. Even though the elders aren't here with us anymore, they can still teach the young people through the old recordings.

I think it was in the 1980s that those recordings were made and are still aired today. I urge all communities to do the same thing. It is a learning experience and it's a very interesting learning tool. I appreciate the people of Igloolik for airing those old recordings. I just wanted to make that comment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 232 – 4(2):  
Appreciation for Incorporating  
Inuit Qaujimatugangit in  
Education**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Nunavut as well as the audience watching the proceedings and my colleagues.

I rise today to express my joy and pride, as my heart is filled with joy. The Nunavut government's mandate is one I take pride in today, and to the ministers and to my colleagues, although we pass through difficult times, it is due to your dedication and commitment that the plans we make today are vital and important to our future. I take pleasure in seeing this develop and to the listening audience, please be patient.

Mr. Speaker, part of my joyousness today revolves around the correspondence that the Minister of Education sent to me about the role of education, the role of parents, spousal relations, as well as child rearing roles. It also speaks to underage youth who go into relationships, split up, and that these events start occurring around grade 7 to grade 9. Apparently the teachers want to involve elders to speak to these types of life issues. I am ecstatic about this development today as this is very important to me, as the youth will learn about the realities of life.

Furthermore, I continue to work towards this goal of raising the profile of *Inuit Qaujimanitugangat* as some portions have lit up following my comments on the matter, yet social services and the justice system remain in the dark. Due to that reason, all of the members here have

to light up the portions so that everything is equal.

I take great pride in these developments today, so I am sharing my joyousness over this occasion, Mr. Speaker. Our lifestyle has to change and I take great pleasure in that, and I urge my colleagues to support me in incorporating *Inuit Qaujimanitugangat* and lighting up that aspect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 233 – 4(2):  
Issues Facing Women across  
Nunavut**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Minister of Family Services for inviting me to travel with her to attend last week's National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics regarding missing and murdered women across Canada are shocking and heart-wrenching. However, it is quite clear to me that these tragic numbers do not stand alone. Women can face a number of issues and circumstances that put them at risk in the first place.

In Nunavut, socio-economic factors, such as poverty and food insecurity, as well as overcrowding due to the lack of adequate housing, all put significant pressures and stress on our residents. This stress can easily lead to aggravation and violence in the home.

As we are all aware, our communities are remote and isolated. Only five Nunavut communities currently operate family violence shelters while six other communities have safe houses. The majority of Nunavut's communities have no place where vulnerable women and children can escape from violence.

Mr. Speaker, issues such as poor mental health and substance abuse also contribute to the cycle of abuse that leads to women and girls becoming victims. And on occasion, lifestyle issues such as substance abuse and addiction can limit an individual's access to social supports such as homeless shelters or treatment options.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that women who face such overwhelming issues as addiction, poor mental health, poverty, and homelessness are some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society. They are at high risk for becoming victims of violence and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our government to make the effort to address violence against women from a more holistic perspective and to take into account the many issues and factors that can lead to a woman becoming a victim of violence or worse, a more tragic statistic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 234 – 4(2):  
Congratulations to Jane Nakasuk**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung.

I rise today to share some news that is a cause for celebration regarding a person who has been playing sports for many years and who partook in the Canada Winter Games.

Further, this person has taken part in past Arctic Winter Games in both 2012 and 2014 at the (interpretation ends) junior age division, but she's a veteran now in the organized sports. (interpretation) I wanted to express my pride in her accomplishments and to congratulate her parents, William and Geela, and their entire family and share in their joy. This person was part of Team Nunavut and that is Jane Nakasuk.

Sports provides many benefits, especially to our youth who are involved in these sports, and this is all part of working towards a better future as well as involvement in community events and sporting tournaments. I would like my colleagues to share in congratulating this person, although she has now reached the age of 18, but who is a veteran of team sports. Jane Nakasuk stems from my constituency community of Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 235 – 4(2): Black History Month in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge some of my constituents who celebrated a special month and it was just in the paper about celebrating Black History Month. People of African descent celebrated the month of February and I wanted to extend my gratitude for their splendid facilitation of events here in Iqaluit.

There were nights where people gathered to celebrate, which included a showing of a film about the history of discrimination and of the abuses suffered by their forefathers. The name of the film was *Selma*. In watching the film, it was quite emotional to see the similarities between their experiences and Inuit, as sometimes it felt as if we were watching a film about Inuit as colonized people, as we too have felt the impacts of discrimination.

Furthermore, part of their celebrations included feasts where their traditional foods were offered to residents of Iqaluit as part of their cultural displays to teach people about their historical diets and how they are used today. This was quite interesting for all.

I further urge my constituents to celebrate their culture in the future, as it teaches others about different cultures not just in town but for all Nunavut residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names. Item 4. Returns to Oral

Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

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

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize my nephews. Firstly, I would like to recognize Russell Akeegok, who works for the RCMP, P.J. Akeegok, who was newly elected QIA president, Mark Akeegok from Grise Fiord, and Joanna Awa. Everyone knows her from her CBC days and is now P.J. Akeegok's assistant and she comes from my riding. Welcome to the gallery.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 375 – 4(2): Support to Alcohol Education Committees**

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance, whose department is responsible for liquor management.

The Baker Lake Liquor Restriction Regulations provide that one of the responsibilities of the Baker Lake Alcohol Education Committee is to provide education and counselling of persons in the use of alcohol for the purpose of preventing alcohol abuse.

The alcohol education committee in Baker Lake has requested that it be allocated a share of the revenues that the Nunavut Liquor Commission raises from the handling fees that are applied to liquor orders into the community so that it can fulfill this element of its mandate. Can the minister indicate if his department will respond favourably to this request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Of course, I appreciate the hard work that the Baker Lake Alcohol Education Committee does. Unfortunately, I can't state today that we will respond favourably or unfavourably. It is under review. I can say that I am considering providing funds to alcohol education committees in the new fiscal year, subject to approval by the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The final report of the Minister's Task Force to Review the *Liquor Act*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 2, 2012, recommended that the alcohol education committees be given adequate resources and support. What specific actions has the minister's department taken to fulfill this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows, we have initiated the social responsibility program using funds from our revolving fund. We are developing materials and we will be providing materials to alcohol education committees. Our Nunavut Liquor Commission is always available to assist the alcohol education committees with questions about the regulations, establishing rules, and providing the necessary administrative support to assist them to fulfill their functions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 19, 2013, the previous government's official response to the final report on the Minister's Task Force to Review the *Liquor Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This document actually stated that the position of the Government of Nunavut was that alcohol education committees should be disbanded altogether in favour of other control systems and that responsible GN departments should carry out alcohol education initiatives.

Does the current government support the disbanding of alcohol education committees, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like I'm back at university where there are true/false or yes/no answers. At university, they're easy questions and answers, but this is not an easy question to answer, Mr. Speaker.

We believe that the alcohol education committees in the communities are providing a good service to the communities. We have held elections in the past. We just had some elections again in December. I don't think the plan is, anytime soon, to do away with alcohol education committees. As I indicated in an earlier answer, I will consider an honorarium or support funds for the alcohol education committees, plus materials for the social responsibility program. To me, that doesn't indicate that we're planning to disband them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 376 – 4(2): Hydroelectric Power Transmission in the Kivalliq**

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

As the minister is well aware, one of the issues that I have been pushing in this House concerns the idea of having hydroelectric power transmitted from Manitoba to the Kivalliq via power line.

As the minister is also aware, the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba have been working on this issue through

such forms as the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table.

When I raised this issue last September on the occasion of our public hearings on QEC's business plan and annual report, we were informed that this issue was on QEC's radar screen.

Can the minister update us today on what progress has been made in the last six months since he took over QEC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for the question. I'm not certain I understand his question, if his question is about what progress has been made on the transmission line or the corridor. I can say that it's still on our radar. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask it a little more clearly then. Has the minister or his officials had any talks with his counterparts in Manitoba? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I personally haven't had any

talks with our counterparts. I believe there's a committee, there's an acronym there, but there's a committee that gets together and talks about these issues. I think they're looking for funding to support the activities of that committee. I can't say with any certainty if my officials have met with anyone from Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister considered letting Manitoba Hydro sell power directly to Nunavut customers if they were to build a power line up themselves and paid for the power line themselves if those so chose? Would they be allowed to sell the power directly to Nunavut customers? 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. That's a \$64,000 question. Without seeing their business case or business model with all the financial projections, I can't say with any certainty if it would be beneficial to Nunavummiut. As I believe QEC has said over the years, any power offered to our communities has to be at the same or less rate than what we are currently providing.

As everybody knows in Nunavut and Ottawa and everywhere else, we have a lot of challenges to provide affordable power in Nunavut. We have aging infrastructure. As I said last week, I was

in Ottawa in December seeking support to upgrade our power generators in 17 of our communities, so we have a lot of challenges. If Manitoba has a proposal, I'm sure our officials in QEC and our technical people, who know more about power and energy than me, would be more than willing to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 377 – 4(2): Administration of the Public Service**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Finance as well.

On November 3, 2014, the minister tabled the government's June 2014 quarterly employment report. I look forward to his tabling the more recent quarterly reports for September and December during our current winter sitting.

The June report indicated that there were 835 casual employees working for the government and 1,921 relief workers employed by the government.

On May 28 of last year, the minister informed the House that, and I'm quoting here, "it's a high priority for our government to get a handle on casuals and the relief worker situation."

Can the minister describe some of the specific actions that his department has taken over the past year to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It must be my day for the hot seat; the hot corner.

Mr. Speaker, I have a tonne of paperwork here, but I can assure Ms. Angnakak that the government is making progress. The departments are all well aware of the casual staffing policy. They are all aware of the relief staffing policy. Our Human Resources Division tracks the casuals. We get reports every month.

Any casual longer than a year, we ask the departments to justify why a casual position is for more than a year. We have urged them and you have heard me in the House over the last year that we consider them for term positions. Once they get to six months, they are term and they get the same benefits as regular employees. Anything beyond four months or one year, I think we also talk to NEU to get their approval that it is okay to extend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2014-15 main estimates included funding for approximately 4,250 full-time positions across the government. This year's budget and main estimates for the upcoming 2015-16 fiscal year includes funding to add approximately 200 new full-time positions. Can the minister explain why the government continues to add full-time positions to its organizational structure, even though it needs to hire

hundreds of casuals to fill jobs that apparently cannot be filled on a full-time basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Angnakak is well aware, at the cabinet retreat last year in Kugluktuk, as a government, we met with you. We all agreed on a mandate for this government to provide certain programs and services. We are planning to do that. You've had an opportunity to talk to some of my colleagues already in the Committee of the Whole to explain our new programs and new initiatives.

With respect to positions that have been funded and are vacant, there are reasons why we can't hire indeterminate positions. A lot of it has to do with housing. I believe there are close to 900 staff houses required across Nunavut to staff Government of Nunavut employees. We can't staff some of the positions because there just isn't enough staff housing. That is a big issue.

Some of the positions, due to decentralization decisions years ago, are in communities where people are just not available or qualified for those positions. We are working around those kinds of issues. It's not going to be solved overnight, but we are working on it. I currently have a project underway and my Department of Finance works with all the departments to look at positions that have gone unfilled for longer than two years and to identify those issues and what the departments are doing to



rectify the vacancy. Maybe we can use the money to reprofile to other positions and other initiatives in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2012-13 *Public Service Annual Report* was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until May 29, 2014 and the 2013-14 report is now seriously overdue. Can the minister explain why he has not yet tabled this important annual report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we have it ready to be tabled; we just haven't picked a date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 378 – 4(2): Nursing Positions in Nunavut**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, what is the minister's decision as it relates to his departmental staff, to cite this example, the nurses who travel to Nunavut to work as health professionals? As the minister, what is your understanding of the term of employment for nurses here in Nunavut?

Is there a limitation to nurses staying at one community? Can you provide me with information as to the residency requirements that pertain to nurses? Does this mean they could conceivably work in one community for 30 years or can they be resident in a community for longer than that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding our nursing professionals who work in Nunavut, we appreciate their dedication and commitment to work in Nunavut to provide health care to our residents. They provide many benefits to residents of Nunavut.

Some nurses are very protective of their patients under their care while some aren't as committed based on the details I have been provided with. Most people in that position are stressed out. This department doesn't limit nurses with a finite period they can work in a community, plus once they are resident in our territory of Nunavut, they form part of our society.

Likewise, I appreciate the Inuit who have dedicated their lives to the nursing profession and of the provision of care. The numbers are slowly increasing in our health centres with Inuit now in the role of nurses. We welcome each and every Inuk who works in this profession, as they are fulfilling their civic duty and their fellow residents requiring health care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I appreciate the response, I don't quite understand it.

What I was trying to raise in my question was, for example, similar to RCMP officers who have limitations in the length of service in one community. Similar to the reasons why RCMP officers aren't allowed to stay longer than a set period, when nurses are resident in one community for several years, we observe the subtle change in their attitudes. Some residents are treated with respect while other residents are treated with disdain. No employee should colour their actions in that manner.

Part of our role as MLAs is to welcome every person in front of us and to be attentive to government employees. In that same vein, frontline service providers, such as nurses, with that kind of attitude, I have seen four cases in several communities where the nurses treated people unequally, especially when they have lived in the community for several years. Is this type of employee relations going to be considered? For example, although I understand the stressful nature of their positions, frontline service providers have to treat all their patients equally when they come into the local health centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With some of the long-term residential nurses, many are extremely pleasant to work with and they tend to be more knowledgeable of illnesses or afflictions some patients have and what treatment they will require. This is extremely helpful in those cases due to their clinical knowledge of the cases in the community.

With regard to the member's comments, I have heard them and further, we will look at ways to resolve the issue based on his question. I can look into this matter further to see if we can resolve the matter to our mutual satisfaction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me ask once more, although I grasp the reasoning behind your response of stress.

However, I feel this requires resolution, especially in planning for our future needs and we have to have proper plans in place. I understood the need for improving this situation, as people have almost succumbed to their illnesses, with some unfortunate cases of people losing their lives in Nunavut as well as it almost occurring in my constituency. That is why treating everyone equitably is so important.

Further, any staff member in these stressful frontline positions and nurses in particular use every capacity to deal with their patients. However, the objective should be seen in light of employees

with a set timeframe who would then be sent to another community where they aren't so intimate with local patients. This would alleviate some of the issues down the road, as I believe we can improve the system.

Furthermore, I didn't receive a response and as this is my last question, I can't express thanks at this time. Therefore, I am not expressing my thanks.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, these issues form part of the external review. We will research the root cause and this will be investigated carefully. Obviously this may lead to further opportunities to make improvements in providing health care in every community. Our department will remain open and will assist the member if this matter requires further investigation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 379 – 4(2): Administration of Medical Travel Leave**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to asking my question, I would like to ask that we return to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. No? I'm sorry. Let me just proceed with my question.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of

Finance, who is responsible for the *Public Service Act*.

Section 29.1 of the Public Service Regulations provides for a medical travel leave for a Government of Nunavut employee. The purpose of this provision is to address the circumstances of employees who do not live in Iqaluit or other major centres and who do not have the luxury of simply driving to the hospital for their appointment.

Under this provision, employees who are required to travel outside of their community to receive medical services may apply for medical travel leave for the actual time taken to travel so that they do not need to use their sick leave entitlement.

However, concerns have been expressed to me that the government's current interpretation and administration of this provision is overly restrictive in that it only covers actual flight times...

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Joanasie:** ...and does not take into account the realities of travel in the north, which often involves delays due to weather, mechanical problems, or other factors beyond the control of the employee.

Consequently, I have been told that employees have been forced to choose between using sick leave or taking leave without pay. Will the minister commit to reviewing this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Joanasie is probably aware, there's a collective agreement that has been negotiated between NEU and the Government of Nunavut that covers sick leave and travel. I think that covers it. It's a negotiated agreement signed by all the parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That leads me into my second question. As I noted in my preamble to my question, the government's rules concerning medical travel leave are provided under section 29.1 of the Public Service Regulations, which can be amended by cabinet at any time.

Medical travel leave is also addressed in the collective agreement between NEU and the government. As the minister is aware, the most recent collective agreement expired in September of last year.

Is the government open to considering proposals to improve this section of the agreement for the benefit of GN employees who live in smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Joanasie is probably aware and he indicated, it is a union collective agreement issue. We're in collective bargaining right now with NEU. As such, there's a statutory freeze.

As a government, we can't make any changes to the collective agreement that I'm aware of. For all I know, this might even be a bargaining item. I can't comment one way or the other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the government's annual reports on public service contain important information regarding the management of the government's workforce, they do not include any substantive information regarding the administration of sick leave. Will the minister commit to ensuring that this issue is addressed in detail in future annual reports to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what the member is asking. I don't know why we need commitments for that. My staff at the Department of Finance and human resources compiles a lot of information for the benefit of this House and the Legislative Assembly. If more information is required, I don't know to what benefit. My officials are watching and we will take that under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 380 – 4(2): Dental Services in Rankin Inlet**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have raised the need for a full-time dentist in Rankin Inlet a number of times in this House. I last asked the Minister of Health about this issue on October 27, 2014, at which time I was assured that there should be a full-time dentist in Rankin Inlet. Over four months has gone by and we still have no full-time dentist.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of a full-time dentist for Rankin Inlet and clearly explain why we still do not have one in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that and once the information is available, I will be able to provide that response to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 381 – 4(2): Eye Team Visits to Baker Lake**

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

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents have expressed concerns about the limited number of days that the eye team visits Baker Lake. When the eye team visits, some people are unable to get an appointment because the team is always booked up solid.

Can the minister clearly explain how the total number of eye team visit days is determined and what steps must be taken to increase the number of days that the eye team visits a community in a given year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard more than one question, but I will try to respond to some of them. With respect to that issue, it was brought up during our appearance before the committee about the possibility of extending visitations of the specialist teams and that we have to look at better ways to provide that.

At this current time, some of the visits don't coincide with the people in need, so we will need to conduct further studies into how these visits by specialists, such as the optometrist teams and other specialist doctors, can be better utilized during their availability to provide their services. This is something we are looking into, to review ways to improve these visits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues who wear eyeglasses are aware, it is important to have your eyes checked on a regular basis to make sure that your eyeglass prescription is up to date. Can the minister indicate what other options can be made available to individuals who need new eyeglasses but are unable to get an appointment with the eye team when it visits the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During Committee of the Whole, I spoke to this issue and stated we will review this matter. We will look at how we can improve the system or the administration of it. We know it's an issue and we are trying to resolve it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the federal government has some responsibility for providing eye care services under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. However, it is the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health which coordinates service delivery through the health centres. The Department of Health must have records of the number of people who need to see the eye team.

Will the minister commit to bringing forward a case to the federal government to request more support under Non-Insured Health Benefits for an adequate number of eye team visits for the

community of Baker Lake and other communities across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, these are part of the matters we are looking to review as to how to improve the system and this includes plans to that effect. We aren't the only party involved as the government of this territory, as our sister northern territories and governments are the ones we have to collaborate with on this issue. We will be discussing that issue next month as we have planned to meet about providing more support and to encourage the federal government to provide more support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 382 – 4(2): Status of Government of Nunavut Standing Offer Agreement for Medical and Duty Travel**

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and they will be based on the responses to questions yesterday about medical and duty travel.

Yesterday, the Minister of Community and Government Services informed the House that the Department of Health is responsible for signing and administering the government's medical

travel/duty travel contract. He also indicated that the current contract expires in August this year.

Can the Minister of Health indicate whether the contract will be renewed for an additional one-year term or will the government be issuing a new request for proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The term of the contract is approaching fast and time is of the essence. With regard to the exact set-up, we haven't incorporated anything as of yet, although we are looking into the issue to see how we can initiate that prior to the end of the term. This is not a simple process and it requires a comprehensive detailed plan, if we are going to look for a new contract. We are looking into how we can improve our current system. Much has changed; routes cancelled and issues with cargo having priority over patient travel, etcetera. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's RFP that was issued back in 2011 indicated that the GN "requires equivalent bulk discounts on duty travel business." It also indicated that "annual duty travel business is estimated at \$26 million across Nunavut in 2009-2010."

Can the minister indicate how much money the government has saved over the past four years as a result of its

standing offer agreements for duty travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I believe they were bundled together, although our department administers the travel for all medical patients. That is the only aspect I can respond to, but the employees responsible for that aren't under our operations, so I can't really provide a response on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The main reasoning for my questioning is related to yesterday's *Blues*. I believe we got them yesterday. When the minister responded to my question, it states, and I quote, "The Department of Health is responsible for signing and administering the medical/duty travel contract."

Although I can appreciate why the Department of Health is responsible for administering the government's medical travel contract, it is not at all clear why the Department of Health is also responsible for administering the duty travel portion of the contract.

Given the concerns that I have been raising with the Minister of Finance regarding departmental compliance with duty travel rules, can the Minister of Health indicate if the government is considering transferring administrative responsibility for the duty travel contract from the Department of Health to the

Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reports provided to me only speak to medical travel contracts and they are the only ones I have. I can't really respond to that question as I am not responsible for human resources. That is why I am at a loss to provide an answer to the question, as our staff is under another department, and I can't answer the question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 383 – 4(2): Condition of Fire Trucks in Rankin Inlet**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question today is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

On October 22, 2014, the minister tabled the Office of the Fire Marshal's 2013 annual report. This report indicates that in 2013, there were a total of 161 reported fires in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the territory's emergency responders have the necessary resources and equipment to ensure the protection of residents and property, and it is particularly important that each community has fire trucks that are in good condition.

Can the minister indicate how often his department inspects the conditions of fire trucks within communities? 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 also thank the residents of Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Nunavut. I hope everyone is safe today.

Thank you for the question. We try to have the firefighting trucks and emergency services vehicles inspected yearly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to an increasing population, developers have been constructing larger commercial and residential buildings in Rankin Inlet. With the arrival of new and larger buildings, there is also an increased risk in building management and safety.

In response, the community's fire department is working to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. However, the community currently has only two fire trucks, one of which is over 20 years old.

Will the minister allocate funds to assist the Municipality of Rankin Inlet in purchasing a new fire truck? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently in discussion with the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet regarding their request for a backup fire truck. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what specific guidelines his department uses to determine when a fire truck needs to be replaced? 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. (interpretation ends) We do have specific guidelines that are already outlined in our policy manuals and those are the guidelines we would follow when we do these frequent inspections. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

#### **Question 384 – 4(2): Government Liaison Office**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of EIA is responsible for the Government Liaison Office. As the Premier is aware, I have been a supporter of the GLO program.

It is my understanding that the GLO position in Sanikiluaq, which has been filled on a casual basis in recent months, became vacant as of last week. Can the minister confirm when his department will be advertising to fill this position on a permanent basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We're halfway through our session here and this is my first question, so I really appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, to respond to the member's question, the screening has already taken place and the interview process is being set up at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to see that the process is moving along.

For the benefit of the House and other members, can the minister indicate which communities currently do not have a full-time GLO in position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sanikiluaq, Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, and Cambridge Bay, and we will be checking into the reasons behind why Kugluktuk is not getting a GLO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

**Question 385 – 4(2): Victims Assistance Services**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

On November 4, 2014, the minister tabled the 2013-14 *Annual Report on the Victims Assistance Fund*. This report indicated that approximately \$256,000 in funding was distributed to a number of community-based programs that provide services and assistance to victims of crime across the territory. Programs that received funding during the 2013-14 fiscal year include community wellness training in Cambridge Bay and peer support training in Iqaluit.

Can the minister provide a list of additional and specific training that his department offers to its staff and to the community justice committees to improve the victim support that they provide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** That was fast.

>> *Laughter*

Let's go on. The 2013-14 annual report also indicates that the Victims Assistance Fund is used to provide funding to support community-based projects and activities that provide services and assistance to victims of crime through research into and the distribution of information about services to victims and the needs and concerns of victims.

Can the minister indicate if the department is currently pursuing any Nunavut-specific research to determine the specific needs and concerns of victims in our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I remain open to any proposals that may be submitted to the Victims Assistance Committee, who reviews all submissions and recommends their approval to me. To date, I have not denied the committee any of their recommendations, so I look forward to more proposals coming from our territory to reduce and to support victims of crime in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to know that he's open to be receiving reports. I hope our audience is listening.

The 2013-14 report also indicates that the Victims Assistance Fund is used to provide funding to direct services that assist victims through crisis response, personal support, follow-up assistance, victim information, and systems referral.

Can the minister indicate what specific positions in his department are also responsible for providing these direct services, and if those positions provide assistance to victims of crime throughout the entire process, from crisis response to follow-up support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Each proposal is different. We have supported all kinds of different projects over the years and I look forward to any submissions that may assist us in addressing the many challenges faced by victims. I will remain open and do what I can to assist the committee in moving forward with any projects that may assist our victims in moving forward with their lives. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 386 – 4(2): Review of Subsidies for Homeowners**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance today.

Mr. Speaker, with the household allowance that's provided to employees of the Government of Nunavut that was initiated in 2008, the amount has been \$400 per month. With the upcoming review of different programs across the government, is the Minister of Finance looking at re-evaluating that number to assist homeowners and full market rental employees of this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I'm not considering it. The review has to take place and we need to get the report. I think I indicated last week that there are two phases, phase 1 and phase 2. We will see what the report recommends and then go from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This household allowance has been in place for approximately seven years now. Has the department ever done any analysis on the valuation of this subsidy to government employees prior to this announcement of the program review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Mr. Hickes' concern for that program. It is a very valuable program for the homeowners across Nunavut.

Something in my memory base is that we have done reviews. In our Department of Finance, we are constantly reviewing our programs, but I just can't say with certainty if we have considered increasing or decreasing it.

The \$400 was brought into the program in 2008, as he indicated. There was a larger-than-anticipated uptake on the program, so it tells me that it is a program that is well received by homeowners in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the criteria for this household subsidy program, it talks that it is available to all eligible indeterminate and term employees of the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, a number of times, I have stood up in this House and spoken to the treatment and the borderline abuse of the use of casual employees and the length of term that some people are held to in a casual status. I'm wondering if the minister will take a look at considering adding casual staff, even if it's on some minimum term basis, to be included in the eligibility for this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if Mr. Hickes is referring to borderline abuse.

There are many reasons why people don't want to become indeterminate employees. There are some casuals who want to be casuals because of the flexibility it offers. There are many reasons why there are casuals. At this time, I'm not considering adding the casuals to the Household Allowance program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 387 – 4(2): Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was caught by surprise since that was so quick.

I want to ask more questions to get further understanding from the Minister of Family Services.

Let me use this as a foundation for my question, the *Blues* for Monday, March 2, 2015. Mr. Speaker, I know that the *Blues* aren't an edited version of the minutes, but I wanted to refer to a response provided by the minister. I'll read the response.

I had a question yesterday about the position of the Government of Nunavut as it relates to the request to hold a national inquiry to determine the fate of murdered and missing aboriginal

women. What is the position of this government on this issue?

Let me read the actual *Blues* and quote her response. Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk's response was, "With respect to the national inquiry, it will cost an exorbitant amount to hold that inquiry and we are looking at ways to resolve our social issues through other avenues." Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was the end of the quote.

As a regular member, I sometimes wonder and have questions about how our government is working. I believe that there needs to be assistance to this process that is happening and I don't think the cost should be an issue. Therefore, I would like ask a question. If there is a review taking place, would the Nunavut government be able to take part in funding this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Tununiq quoted that response I provided yesterday and I wish to provide further clarity on why I made my statement.

Within Nunavut, particularly within our communities, we aren't searching for missing women. That was the reasoning for making my comments. There are currently no searches for missing women within Nunavut.

When we went to the roundtable organized by the federal government,

they had an actual position paper stating that they haven't agreed to this inquiry. For some of the representatives, we were aware that this type of inquiry would be quite expensive. This is just what we have heard. Our government will not contribute. However, if we were to put an equal amount spent on this inquiry, it would provide more assistance to our residents, at least that is the position of some members and which is why I spoke about that.

Aboriginal people are not all the same. The First Nations and Inuit are not the same. Nunavut has no highways connecting our various communities and air travel is usually the only method to travel to our communities. We are not conducting any searches for missing women in our communities and this is the point I want understood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of that fact and I am grateful that no searches are underway for missing women in Nunavut, but our fellow Canadian citizens comprise of a multitude of missing or murdered aboriginal women. I am stating that this is an extremely important cause because, even though they may not be in Nunavut, they are our fellow aboriginal people resident in Canada and we ought not to abandon our fellow residents, at least from my personal perspective.

Additionally, another question I want to raise relates to the funding levels and of your position that funds of that size would better be utilized in other

programs. At least that is how I understood the minister's response.

Also, another part of the announcement she made is written on the other page of yesterday's *Blues* within the Minister's Statement. Here is what she said, which is what I was trying to ask about yesterday and again I will quote the exact wording, "On behalf of all Nunavummiut, I commit to working towards a framework to end this violence once and for all." Yesterday, I raised a question about this statement and the implications, so I will ask it again today. What is your department planning in order to realize this statement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Tununiq has asked how we will provide assistance to our fellow Nunavummiut to quell violence, especially where their lives have been impacted and how the Government of Nunavut will work to implement this work. I believe I understood his question.

Yes, we are in discussions with the federal government on this issue and we have requested their assistance on how to lower the abuse that occurs in our territory in light of the atrocious numbers highlighted by statistics in terms of Canada's overall national crime statistics. These figures are all specific to impacts on our women in Nunavut or girls, perhaps, who experience abuse. The figures are brutal when it comes to

spousal assault or sexual abuse statistics. When representatives of our department meet with the federal counterparts, we continually request more assistance as the family services department on ways to lower these statistics.

Our hon. colleague, Ms. Pat Angnakak, made a statement about the status of our territorial shelters for women in [Nunavut] to enable women to receive assistance. There is one shelter for the entire Baffin region, which is overstretched with half the population of Nunavut being serviced by one facility. The situation is similar in Kivalliq with the facility unable to meet demand for assistance. There are three shelters in the Kitikmeot region.

We are trying to consult women on how to provide further assistance through the Department of Family Services as well as through the (interpretation ends) federal government (interpretation) discussions taking place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe if I rephrase my question and refocus my language, you might understand my reasoning for the question. (interpretation ends) Obviously, (interpretation) it is becoming clear that you can't even understand my questioning. You continue to state that this will be dealt with, yet you rarely espouse the type of work that will go into this mitigation effort. I think I barely grasped that from your response, provided I even understood what you said, as it was very vague.

If that is the case, how exactly will this basis or (interpretation ends) framework (interpretation) be accomplished? You keep maintaining that your department will undertake this and every statement is that your department has commenced this work, yet this framework you reference continually, when will Nunavummiut see this become reality? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Tununig for being passionate about this issue. We have to all get involved with the residents who are faced with this difficulty. Many of the issues relate to women and girls in particular.

Also under the (interpretation ends) Qullit Status of Women, (interpretation) there is a (interpretation ends) framework strategy (interpretation) I have asked them to complete through a (interpretation ends) contract. (interpretation) Once we gave them this task, the (interpretation ends) contractors (interpretation) will initiate that towards the end of March. We should have an idea of the outlook of the strategy and our expectations are that this will serve as a launching pad towards our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm requesting to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member would like to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Savikataaq, please proceed.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent and friend of mine, Mr. Paul Pemik from Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though he has been recognized, I would like to recognize Paul Pemik, whom I have known for a very long time. I think we used to go to school together. I just wanted to recognize and welcome Mr. Paul Pemik to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. 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. Item 14. (interpretation) Tabling of

Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

##### **Tabled Document 107 – 4(2): Agreement used for the Management of Local Housing Programs**

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the agreement used for the management of the local housing association programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. (interpretation) Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 15, 16, and 17 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 19 – 4(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:08 and  
Committee resumed at 15:36*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. Good day to the people of Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut.

We will be going into Committee of the Whole. (interpretation ends) 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. We wish to continue with the review of the 2015-16 Main Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Do my colleagues agree that we continue with our review of the Department of Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Is the committee agreed that the minister's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.



(interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok, (interpretation) for the record, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Roy Green (interpretation) and to my left is (interpretation ends) Director of Finance Gershom Moyo.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We were on page J-5. Community Services. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Services. The next name on my list, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. The first item I wish to get clarification on was regarding a question brought up yesterday by Mr. Mikkungwak about the (interpretation ends) Building Canada Fund (interpretation) and other funds provided by the federal government for capital projects with proposals.

I know that these are still the *Blues*, but the deputy minister responded by saying that the latest (interpretation ends) Building Canada Fund (interpretation) report states that various departments in our government have submitted a list of projects for consideration.

It also highlights which of the projects are the priority and (interpretation ends) Infrastructure Canada, (interpretation) which is part of the federal government, as well as the (interpretation ends) Building Canada Fund (interpretation) states that it would take approximately

three months to find out whether the request has been approved or not.

Could we see the list of priorities that you have within your department? It could be a summary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we respond, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to provide a response to a question that was asked yesterday. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go ahead, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Before we start with the proceedings today, I would like to give an answer to a question that was asked yesterday. I think the person that asked the question is not here. However, the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak, asked if I could give a breakdown of seniors versus those with disabilities who are accessing the program for tax relief.

I would like to inform the members that 93 percent of the funds are distributed to seniors while only 3 percent goes to people with disabilities. This information is based on applications that were received. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was a response to a

question that was brought up yesterday. If you would proceed with Mr. Joanasie's question. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): If I understood the question that was posed by the member correctly, I believe you are asking about what monies were requested from which pot of money. We can't show you those at this time because they are being dealt with by the federal government at this time. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. Would it be possible to see the list once it has been approved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Once they have been approved, we will know and the information will be made available to the public. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you for that information. Your department has different policies for community government with regard to water and sewage, but this policy and others have expired. What is your department doing regarding the renewal of these expired policies? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you. The services can still be provided, but if it's okay with you, my deputy minister can elaborate.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though the sunset clause has expired, those policies still remain in effect. The rationale for the delay in bringing those back for approval by cabinet is because we are doing several reviews. We are doing a program review of the water and sewage program. We felt it would be best to delay any amendments or adjustments to the policies until that work has been done so that they can be reflected in the revisions to the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When can we expect to see the amended policies? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will probably be able to table them within six months. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to another subject regarding the business plan for 2015-18, two of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year state, (interpretation ends) "Implement a strategic plan for addressing

maintenance of community and government assets,” (interpretation) and to “Finalize the development of a strategic plan...” Can the minister indicate if the strategic plan has been completed to date? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, the strategic plan is still in the works and we will probably be able to complete it in the summer of 2015. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will look forward to the completion in the summer.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, on May 9, 2014, the department issued a request for proposals titled “Asset Management Program Review.” The information provided by the department’s website indicates that this contract was awarded to the Ameresco Asset Sustainability Group on July 10, 2014. What is your department’s timeline for the completion of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That just happens to be the same one that the member asked in his previous question, so the timeline for that is again the summer of 2015. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to another one then, the granular management program. The department’s draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that “The granular management program has been implemented in 3 communities (Kugluktuk, Arviat and Sanikiluaq).” Can you provide an update on the status of the granular program in these three communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are working on the program themselves. The program is running very well and they have become independently and financially sustainable. They will be open to any other communities if they requested for them. That is how it is right now. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. Any community can request from your department for a granular program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, any community can request the equipment. However, in the majority of cases, it would be included in the capital plan with a business case for its usage. That would become clear. Just recently, we

received a community request for this equipment from Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, moving on to a different topic too, I wanted to touch upon the Sport and Recreation Administration. In the business plan on 161, there's about a \$900,000 increase. If I understood correctly, that was for... Can you clarify what that increase is for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtoq.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtoq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question was raised yesterday and I believe we responded to it. However, it was related to the increase which is a result of the (interpretation ends) Western Canada Summer Games (interpretation) as well as the Arctic Winter Games to be held in Greenland. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. On the same matter, the Arctic Winter Games occur every two years. I expect that this fund would be increased in the future, but I don't think the figure has changed if we look at the plans for 2016-18. Has any consideration been given to this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtoq.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtoq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, depending on the tournaments and their location, it can be more expensive in some years and less expensive for other places. At this time, the upcoming Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland will host several events and we anticipate that portion to be more expensive. Nonetheless, when events are held within Canada, they are generally less expensive, but that amount varies depending on the location. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Are you out of questions? Thank you. We are on (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Services. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan, mobile equipment block funding, is that for heavy equipment and light trucks or only one? Is there a difference? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtoq.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtoq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is mainly for heavy equipment. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the funding allocated evenly, like a small community to a larger community? Can you just explain to the committee members: would a community like Arviat get more than a small community, let's say, like Whale Cove, just as an example? One is quite a bit bigger than the other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Yes, the member's assumption is correct, as some communities are larger while other communities are quite small. Additionally, the heavy equipment required in each community is also different. Yes, it generally follows the size of the community in how these funds are allocated. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't ask about the amounts because I don't think you would have that kind of information, but maybe I should. How much would a community like Arviat get to replace their heavy equipment which is quite expensive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, it is set at \$116,000 per year. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. Going on to a different subject under search and rescue, I think most communities have cellphone service now. I know Arviat has cellphone service. Under your mandate here, it says that you're willing to buy equipment and communication systems. I know that you're not in the telecom business of buying towers, but is there any way or any thoughts of CG&S buying and installing cellphone repeater towers in communities that have cellphone service to help out in search and rescues?

I'll take Arviat for example. It's very flat. A cellphone repeater tower would be able to cover lots. I think it would save a lot of money in search and rescues because it seems like almost everybody has a cellphone now where there is cellphone service. If someone could call and say, "I need help" or "I'm okay," then that would cut down on the cost. When they are doing searches right now, the search and rescue teams take satellite phones, but you can't get a hold of them because they usually don't have it on. When you have a cellphone, it's always on.

Can I just get the minister's thoughts on if there are any plans to set up cellphone towers? If he has any plans, Arviat would be a good community to do a pilot project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is probably the same thought of everybody else here and they

are for their own communities. We are in discussions with service providers on this topic. However, it's still in the discussion stage. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the communities might want it, but Arviat is so flat that the coverage would be so good that it is the perfect place to do a pilot project. The minister said that he is in discussions. Is there a timeframe of when he might be able to... ? This committee will be long over by the time he gets a response, but is there a timeframe when he can maybe get back to me anyway to see how the discussions are going for towers in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are currently in discussions, as I mentioned. We are doing cost analysis and depending on how much it would cost to implement these things, I'm not able to give you a definite timeframe at this point. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that. I'm looking forward to hearing when he is going to possibly be installing those towers in Arviat. That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Services. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

(interpretation) We are on page J-5 of the English version and this item can result in a whole slew of questions on various matters, so bear with me as I ask several questions related to this issue.

In particular, this relates to the crisis we endured in Pond Inlet and I believe everyone in Nunavut has heard about the challenges we faced. The question I want to ask relates to the crisis we went through, as every other community may have to endure that same situation. It's just to ensure all Nunavummiut hear the same response, particularly for the benefit of the local hamlet councils, to ensure they are all aware of this issue. It was kind of confusing trying to ascertain which department would assist our community and whether any official would be able to assist us.

Firstly, let me raise this matter in my question, Mr. Chairman. Your department is, I believe, the main provider of assistance to the local hamlets and the experts communities depend on to provide help. How can you best describe the process both for my information and the benefit of Nunavummiut?

Perhaps I will start off with this question. You are responsible for the operations of the hamlets. When does your department determine that

assistance is required locally? Does a community have to initiate the request, even though your department is aware that a crisis is brewing? Is it that the municipality is committing operational mistakes or something else is causing the problem, so the only time your department can assist the community is upon their request? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question. As a department, we are not in Pond Inlet all the time. Only when we are told of a problem can we start to do something about it. So that you can get a clear and concise response, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, the situation that happened in Pond Inlet, the department, through its program review, was aware from the complaints that were coming back from the municipality that they felt there was not enough consultation between the Department of Community and Government Services and the local hamlet. Basically, as part of the review, we took a look at that operation and what we felt was that we needed to put more support on the ground.

Moving forward, as part our approved organizational structure, we now have created a community development support and there will be three regional

program managers that will be visiting communities on a regular basis so that they can become aware of issues on the ground.

If a department needs support from Community and Government Services in the event there are issues or disruptions in services that may have an impact on health and safety, they can go to those program managers and CGS will certainly step up to the plate and provide the same sort of support that we provided the Hamlet of Pond Inlet when we became aware of the situation with the sewage situation within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Quite some time ago now, that was when your department first started hearing about service delivery problems in Pond Inlet. Perhaps here I can state that I was provided with two different dates of the response, one stating that December 16 is when you first heard of the problem and the other date mentioned was December 20. That is a four-day difference, which isn't the concern in my opinion. Nonetheless, when your department was notified....

Let me digress here. The reason why I am asking about this communication issue is that all Nunavummiut have to be informed. All hamlets have to know the same information when it comes to facing emergencies and be aware that if something happens, then the department would respond.

I am not just referring to Pond Inlet with my remarks. However, since the

community is what I am familiar with, I will use it as an example. At that time when you received notification of the problem, what did your department start with? When the administration in Pond Inlet notified your department about this situation, what kind of steps did the department initiate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my deputy minister stated, in order for the communities not to experience this situation again, no matter which community, at this time, our department has set up a monitoring system at the ground level in the communities.

When we were informed, the steps we initiated stemmed from the report I received, which was in December. They reported to me that the sewage truck broke down. Our department started the initiation of providing support, but then the vehicle broke down again. After it broke down again unexpectedly, all of these vehicles broke down at the same time. Once we realized that, we sent mechanics over there and we sent parts for the service trucks. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't in Pond Inlet for a brief period, as I wasn't there from December 20 to 27, but prior to those dates and afterwards, I was staying in Pond Inlet. I also know for a fact that it was only when the hamlet council

declared a local state of emergency that their concerns were finally listened to. That was when the department finally sent a mechanic to the community and all the while, the community was experiencing these problems since December.

Why didn't your department believe that this was an urgent situation? This was especially when the service vehicles kept breaking down and we were down to one truck providing services. Is there a policy within the department that states that only when a community declares a state of emergency that your department can finally provide assistance? Is there a policy that governed the events that occurred in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't have that kind of a policy. Every time a community reports an incident or issue, we fact-find it and we try to provide support right away. As soon as the hamlet council reports a problem to our department and ask for support, we immediately try to find out what the problem is and how we can provide support to the community. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The situation became critical during the Christmas holidays in Pond Inlet and I know that as a fact. I know because I am resident in the community.



Furthermore, your department is aware that the municipality hasn't been able to hire a qualified mechanic. Even with that knowledge and the rising crisis, why didn't your department send a mechanic to Pond Inlet? Even with the escalating problems, why didn't your department send a mechanic at the first sign?

Did you have to wait for a formal notification from the hamlet about the need for assistance by waiting for the declaration of emergency to send your mechanic? That was your department's reason for delaying the arrival of the mechanic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, the process is that once a hamlet notifies the department about the inability of the municipality to deal with it, we immediately try to mitigate it. Nonetheless, in terms of a (interpretation ends) timeline, (interpretation) if the member wishes to get more details, Mr. Chairman, with your discretion, if you can allow my deputy minister to respond, he can provide more details on this issue. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I think it's got to be quite clear where some of the responsibility lies other than with the Department of Community and Government Services. The municipalities are responsible for the management and delivery of their waste management problems. Municipalities collect user fees and they

also receive a subsidy from the GN to manage that program to ensure that it is sustainable. The preventative maintenance of those vehicles certainly rests with the responsibility with the municipality.

In a situation where they have major issues with the programs and services, they do contact Community and Government Services. They contacted us in December seeking assistance to get a transmission from one of the trucks that were down. Our department did work with the municipality to order that transmission and we did get it in the community within a two- to three-week period. Subsequent to that, there were further breakdowns of the equipment that led to the situation.

What I'm saying is that moving forward, based on our organization, we were aware that we were not providing the proper support back to the municipalities, so now we have three program managers that will be visiting communities on a regular basis. They will be looking at the vehicles in the communities and other assets to make sure that they are being maintained by the municipalities.

I also wanted to inform the member that we are currently taking a comprehensive review of the water and waste management subsidy program to determine whether the existing program is sustainable and that if we need to be able to look at other means to increase revenues to make sure that those programs can be sustained. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just a friendly reminder to members, we are on Main Estimates 2015-16. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you feel I am out of line with my questioning, you can stop me at your discretion.

Let me start with this preamble prior to raising my question. I am completely aware of the fact that as communities, we too have a responsibility to provide services. I actually know of this fact and the hamlet is knowledgeable of this responsibility. Even if a condescending reminder from bureaucrats is felt to be appropriate, I seriously doubt that. Many of us have complete understanding of our municipal roles.

Nevertheless, when a community reaches the end of their capacity, we tend to request further assistance to meet our responsibilities to territorial departments that may have that capacity. That's the only thing I am trying to question here and I am not trying to insinuate that a hamlet should be whittled down to the barest essentials. I have never made the statement that the hamlet is not culpable. That is something I have never stated. What I am trying to understand is: at what point does your department act upon when a community is being challenged by forces beyond their control?

I am not looking for a scapegoat, so don't get your dander up. I'm just trying to understand where this fell through the gaps when a community is being faced with an emergency, which level is responsible for a particular aspect, especially when it reaches emergency levels. I wasn't pointing a finger of

blame with that pointed question, only in getting a clear response. If your officials seriously think that the blame lies with them, (interpretation ends) so be it. (interpretation) If that is the extent of your departmental officials' skin thickness, then I can't change how you will take these comments. I wasn't even intending to yet place blame on your department.

With that being the case, communities do reach the end of their capacity to keep their vehicles running, in our case, not one single service vehicle was running on some days. Yesterday or the day before, when questions were raised by our colleague, perhaps by the member from Sanikiluaq, where they face an emergency with all of their fuel trucks disabled. Your department seems so intent on bypassing the problems we ran into in Pond Inlet. I, too, wish to pass over that hurdle, but this is the point. I believe you and I can both learn from this challenge. I know your officials may be tired of this poignant reminder, yet I think they need the lesson most of all.

Your department also announced the creation of three positions after that particular episode or perhaps they were already on the chart, but what exactly will be the duties of the positions that will now go to the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for his comments and questions. I am not insinuating that we are being blamed, as our work in this

House is to resolve the issues we are faced. I appreciate your comments about that,

With respect to the member's last question, the three positions will be as monitors. At least that is how I say it in our Inuktitut dialect. When the staff members in these positions travel to the communities or if they are asked to provide assistance by the hamlet council or administrators, their role is to assist them in any way. For example, if they are asked to look at a specific aspect, perhaps to look at this, that, or the other and whether they can inspect all of the elements upon their arrival to the community, that is how we see these inspectors as having the capability to provide assistance wherever needed. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me briefly touch on this question within the same category. What I want to completely understand is that in the case when our community underwent an emergency crisis situation with the majority of the service vehicles in disrepair or broken down, who is the final authority in community emergencies? Is it the hamlet councillors?

When your department has been notified that an emergency situation is arising, will you not even urge the hamlet to declare a state of emergency? Will you never nudge a community even with all of your expert bureaucrats that a local emergency requires a declaration of emergency? Is the hamlet the only authority that can make that declaration?

That is what I want to clearly understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, the hamlet employees, such as the SAO, the (interpretation ends) foreman (interpretation) under the administration, or the council and mayor can make that notification to the department during an emergency. As soon as we're notified, we respond at the earliest opportunity or send assistance. Community members know and understand how things are in their communities. The local municipal authority can declare a state of emergency. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This matter is fairly clear, so let me move to another subject.

I mentioned in my statements that even when our community passed the hurdle of an emergency, another problem will arise related to the cleanup within our community of Pond Inlet. Cleanup work will be required near the edges of our homes, wherever the spillage occurred. I briefly recall your statement, but I would like an actual example of how this will occur.

I believe the minister or Mr. Green mentioned that this is what your department will do in collaboration with another department. I want more information since a major cleanup is required in Pond Inlet. What exactly is involved in this situation? I just want more information on that process, and

that will be my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, when this was first raised, my response was that we are preparing the plans for this cleanup in Pond Inlet. I concur that is definitely a requirement. We have to work with the health and environmental officials to ensure we meet all requirements, especially the best way to conduct this exercise. Obviously, health concerns arise and we don't want any impacts when the cleanup occurs. That is what we have planned to deal with this, but the hamlet will also be consulted prior to this work. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I have recognized a number of my colleagues on more than one occasion. We are on Branch Summery. Community and Government Services. Community Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$81,945,000. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While on this subject, I want to ask a question on a prior report that I will use as a basis for my question. In the 2014-17 business plan, there is a statement that in fiscal year 2014-15, a review will be completed for the (interpretation ends) Office Space Strategy. (interpretation) This is slated for completion in this year and consultations occurred in March for office space requirements.

What is the situation at this time and which communities have been consulted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not completed visiting all the communities. Respecting the review for the office space requirement, it was completed and submitted to the Deputy Ministers' Committee for review. Once that is done, we can deal with the recommendations stemming from that process. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will probably be my last question on this topic. Perhaps the report was completed based on the report, but I doubt it looked at every one of the details. Has your department learned anything from this review about office space requirements in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman**: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once that report was completed, it was clear that government offices have to change. If it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) my deputy minister (interpretation) can give you more details. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I concur with what the minister said, that the report did, indeed, indicate that there is significant office space shortage across the territory.

Based on the outcome of the study now, the next stage is for us to develop a strategy to determine the funding requirements and how we are going to approach the office space shortage in the communities. We will tackle some of the smaller communities that really don't have any office space, but those are the sorts of things that we will develop in the strategy and try to come up with some sort of priority method to address the shortages going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Services. As I indicated, I have recognized a number of my colleagues on more than one occasion. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$81,945,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are now on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Informatics Planning Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$31,100,000. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where do I begin? A little bit of some of my questions on this category may be a little bit long-winded, Mr. Chairman.

Last year, I had asked the minister a question during the same proceedings that at that time, there was an

approximate increase in this budget line for the Informatics Planning Services Division of about \$4 million. At that time, the response was to provide the new funding increase as related to new funding of IT bandwidth and the internal relocation of funds for IT.

In the minister's opening comments on page 5, the last paragraph going into page 6, it speaks to the commitment "to strive to improve telecommunications" as a whole and that "This commitment has allowed the government to build telecommunication infrastructure capable of managing over three times the amount of bandwidth since 2010 to improve program and service delivery." It continues to say, "With forward-thinking and new technologies, CGS will continue enhancing our telecommunications network to provide even better government services to Nunavummiut."

Before I get really started on my questions and some of the detail that I'm going to be asking, within that line, it states that the infrastructure is "capable of managing over three times the amount of bandwidth..." Is that currently at its maximum capacity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We're on page J-6. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, the bandwidth used by the government is at the maximum capacity and the limit has been reached at this time. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, I was a little unclear in that response. Is the current infrastructure that was used to increase the bandwidth need at its full capacity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) No. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that same budget line for this upcoming fiscal year, although it's miniscule, the amount is basically the same; it's a slight decrease. With that in mind, I'm not anticipating to see a much more active increase in available bandwidth across the territory. Would that be a correct assumption, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that short and sweet response.

Mr. Chairman, I have a number of documents in front of me starting from the NCIS report, the Nunavut Connectivity Implementation Strategy, and also a report called "Improving the Northern Connectivity Deficit." Maybe if the Chairman will indulge me, I've got

a couple of quotes in there, one being from the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Stephen Harper, speaking to a Digital Canada 150 document that was set out from the federal government.

A couple of brief quotes from the Prime Minister, it says, "Recent years have offered us a glimpse into the incredible power of digital technologies to improve the quality of our lives, the productivity of our business and the strength of our economy. That's why we are presenting Digital Canada 150, a bold plan to guide Canada's digital future. It sets out a vision of what Canada can achieve by the time we celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2017."

In that document, I see one line that really jumped out at me and it talks that "The policy approaches to northern connectivity have not assisted in creating vibrant economies nor safe, healthy and prosperous communities in Canada's North."

Mr. Chairman, as I'm sure all of us have experienced in our own communities with the speed and the availability of bandwidth, it goes to say that arctic residents must have reliable, affordable communications infrastructure to engage in 21st century opportunities. Many communities' long-term survival will depend upon it.

Mr. Chairman, I touched on this a little bit with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation from an economic development standpoint for medium to small businesses, but in the Nunavut Connectivity Implementation Strategy, it suggests minimum standards as a start point of accessibility of telecommunications of 9 megabytes per

second download and 1.5 megabytes per second upload.

I'm not going to bore everyone with the details. Not that I'm picking on NorthweTel, but it was the easiest information to amalgamate for myself. At the current maximum package available in Nunavut, which is almost two times less than the minimum standard on download and almost three times less than the minimum standard of upload, and when we're talking about gigabytes of usage per month, just as a comparable to our neighbours to the west in the Northwest Territories, their package, of which is less than 80 percent of our cost, has 20 times megabytes per second download, 10 times the upload speed and 10 times the gigabyte per usage.

I'm not sure about the rest of the members or everyone in Nunavut, but I can tell you that my monthly bill, having two children in the school and looking up information and videos and gaming, we all have to have a little bit of fun in life too, exceeds the capacity every month.

With some of the issues that I have brought up with the Minister of Education on the Community Access Program to computers and the need that is expressed throughout our communities, I would like to get some information from the minister on how and what the plan is to move forward so that we can actually join the 21st century. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. We have been involved in discussions with the service providers to see how our services could be improved. We have also attended the CRTC hearings where we have expressed our concerns with the way some of the services are being provided by our service providers.

However, if I may, if it's okay with you, I would like to ask my deputy minister to elaborate on my comments.  
(interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a department, we are extremely concerned with the cost of bandwidth for the territory. It's costing the GN almost \$7 million a year for the existing bandwidth and right now with the satellite systems, it's pretty much full, so there's no opportunity to take a look at... Well, we are taking a look at ways that we can move forward and see what is on the planning horizon.

We know that there will be some new satellites deployed in the coming years. We have been in discussions with Telesat on that as well. Also, we met with Newfoundland and Northern Quebec in Ottawa in February to take a look at fibre optic options or any ways that we can look at partnership. One of the things that Northern Quebec and Newfoundland is looking at is trying to get a fibre-optic line from Greenland to Northern Quebec and Newfoundland. We have been invited to see if we would be interested in a partnership in that.

We're basically working with those groups to see if there's some way that

we can work together and work with Industry Canada. They were at the table as well. The solution to the bandwidth and the cost of telecommunications in the north is through fibre-optic cable. We're looking at those options as well.

We have also hired a company called Gartner that is very astute in information technology to help us develop short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies to see how we can address and be ready for any emergent technologies as they come on the planning horizon.

The existing contract for bandwidth expires in 2016, so we're looking at getting ready for an RFP. We would like to see or find ways of bringing down the cost of bandwidth so that we can reinvest that funding back into telecommunications, so that at some point in time in the future, we can be on par with other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a whole bunch of information regarding the socio-economic impact dealing with education, business, health care, and public safety that I won't elaborate, as I'm sure the minister and his officials are very much aware of the actual, not monetary, but the socio-economic costs that are lagging behind our neighbours to the west and the south, the situation that's putting it in.

As a politician who listens and pays attention to some of these issues, you might want to use the industry minister's words to our benefit, and I'll give a quote of him from this Digital Canada

150. "Canada has the opportunity to become a leader in this new age, but government has an essential role to play in establishing, through effective public policies, the right conditions to encourage and help Canadians take full advantage of the transformational possibilities that the digital future holds." The industry minister, I think, quoted in the statement, should be very open to discussing with the minister and his officials in this, but it goes even further.

When I'm talking about digital communications, again using the NCIS report, even away from the socio-economic benefits, it talks "As connectivity is enhanced in the northern Territories, it will become easier for the Federal government to transfer 'province-like' duties over to the Territories. As the Territories have greater control over their economic and political destinies, being able to take greater responsibility and control over education, healthcare and social services is very important and will become even more important as the economic potential of the North is realized."

As the cabinet and the Premier are aware, ongoing negotiations with the federal government with regard to devolution, this is going to be a critical component of Nunavut's self-sustainability. I see my clock is running down; I could probably go on for hours talking about this topic. I have seen some documentation coming from the minister's department and some of the collaboration that they're doing with these other counterparts. I understand that I'm not going to get an answer today, but I would like to get the minister's commitment that this topic



will not fall by the wayside, especially with regard to education and health care. This is going to be a key component to our growth and being able to develop our own services to assist all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his comments there. They are very helpful. We will certainly keep that in mind in our negotiations with our counterparts in our dealings with the federal government regarding IT services for Nunavut. (interpretation): Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Informatics Planning Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$31,100,000. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I promise I won't go as long-winded as I did in that last sequence.

Some of the information that I have been provided when the minister's official was talking about limited bandwidth available on the current satellite system, from what I understand, there are bandwidth opportunities, yet it would take some infrastructure investments on the part of Nunavut. Maybe the minister or his official could give me a little bit of a lesson on what is available and at what cost it would take Nunavut to tap into that bandwidth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I personally don't have that level of detailed information. However, if I may have your permission, I can defer that question to my deputy minister.

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

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, there is some limited amount of bandwidth that is left on the satellites. In order for us to access it, it would cost in excess of \$1 million to put some of the necessary infrastructures in place. The other costs associated would be the cost of the bandwidth per meg, which right now, I think we are paying over \$660,000 per meg per month. The bandwidth itself is another big cost component that we've got to factor into it as well.

Given the fact that the existing contract expires in 2016, we are taking a look to restructure our RFP so that we can find ways to bring down the cost of bandwidth moving forward. At the same time, we still are into discussions with Industry Canada and other jurisdictions to see what other opportunities are out there for us to find ways to expand our bandwidth and bring down the cost.

Right now, it's certainly challenging because, with the limited bandwidth and the cost to acquire bandwidth, it's certainly a significant cost to the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Green and the minister for that response. I understand that it is a challenge. I do appreciate the work that has gone into it to date. I'm sure the minister and his officials are working very hard to access increased bandwidth opportunities. I understand that there will be an RFP coming out within the next year.

On this subject, at the same time, I don't want discussions to stall out because we are waiting for the next phase of opportunity in our contract services. My question to the minister: in his discussions with Industry Canada, is there an opportunity for assisted funding outside of our formula funding model to help bring Nunavummiut further into the advancement of technology on a short-term basis until we have a long-term solution? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since my deputy minister has been involved in direct discussions on this matter, with your permission, I would like him to respond to that question. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly want to confirm to the member that we are not going to let opportunities for improved technology fall through the cracks. That's one of the reasons why we're developing a strategy, so that we can have the expertise in the industry to make us aware of what technologies are out there so that we can take advantage

of them when they arrive in the planning horizon.

At the same time, we will continue to work with Industry Canada. I think this is what I mentioned earlier about the discussions that we had in February with Quebec, Newfoundland, and Nunavut. The support that we've gotten from Industry Canada is they would kind of like to see those partnership arrangements. They feel that it's easier to invest in those types of arrangements because with those partnerships, it kind of shares the cost and allows all the different jurisdictions to find ways to improve their technology, such as exploring the fibre-optic cable from Greenland to Nunavut and Northern Quebec and Newfoundland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green touched on my next question. He spoke about the strategy. On page 165 of the business plan, in the priorities under 2014-15, the current fiscal year, it talks about the review of the GN informatics program, that the first phase of the review will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year. Is that still the schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I promised I wouldn't be as long-winded in this section, so I'll keep to that.

It also speaks in the priorities of 2014-15 that "A consultant has been hired to conduct a comprehensive review of emerging technologies" with the development of the plan to be occurring in this fiscal year. How is that project progressing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may again, with your permission, I'll ask my deputy minister to elaborate.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hired a consultant, we finalized the contract in November, and we started our first meeting with the consultant in December. This is going to take at least three years to develop the long-term strategy. Our first approach with the consultant is to develop a structure there for the new bandwidth that is going to be required for the service providers. By the time we get all the details and the strategy developed, we're looking at least a three-year timeframe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just planning the words out in my head and they still may not come out correctly.

When we're talking a lifespan of developing a strategy over that extensive period of time, one of the concerns that I

specifically have with bandwidth access is for education. Education is continually adapting and there is more and more online availability. I'm not speaking just for our young students, but for our mature students as well as even staff training opportunities. I have participated in some online programs in the past and they are more and more going to video or teleconferencing, which really puts a strain on the system and just being able to really utilize those services properly. You're always buffering and phasing in and out, kicking in and out.

I have a concern that the length of time it is going to take us to, not even catch up with the rest of Canada, but just to get to a stage where we can utilize all available services, especially within education. Obviously, I have other concerns with health care and other components of bandwidth, but education, to me, is what this government is focusing on through *Sivumut Abluqta*. Just specifically from an education standpoint, is there anything the Department of Community and Government Services can do to increase the bandwidth availability for education purposes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we indicated earlier, (interpretation ends) we mentioned that we are in discussions with our service providers and we are also in discussion with Industry Canada on how we can make these improvements. However, so that we are able to provide the answer that the member is looking for, again if I may, I will defer to my deputy minister.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have some bandwidth that we put aside for each case in terms of bandwidth so as to allow them to get on the Internet and do their research at some of the schools. We do have some programs in place for that.

What we are trying to do now in the short term is to take away how we can best schedule our use of the existing bandwidth because we think we have the opportunity that we can increase teleconferencing. Basically, we are working within our staff to see... Right now, we only have one casual position that handles teleconferencing. We've had discussions and we will be looking at recruiting more PYs to allow us to be able to... There is quite a bit of work when you are trying to reschedule the bandwidth for teleconferencing, so we are basically looking to recruit staff so that we can expand teleconferencing on the existing bandwidth that we have now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his official for that response. I know that it's challenging. I truly do understand. I don't want to say it's insurmountable because you guys do have to keep this file moving forward. I also understand that when you are dealing with communication providers, such as the example I used with NorthwesTel, but they are not alone in this, Nunavut pays the highest rates for usage than anywhere else in Canada and probably most places around the world for that matter.

I would like to see, maybe in your discussions with some of these providers, a little bit more, again we have used the word, "thinking outside the box," a little bit, of sharing resources to maximize the infrastructure that is in place on as much of a cost-effective basis as possible.

I guess that's more of a statement. I don't really have a question along that line, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to really encourage the minister and let him know that he has my full support in whatever he and his department can do to better our infrastructure base here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for that statement. I'll just take it as that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Informatics Planning Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clearly understand the issue we are reviewing. I believe we are on page J-6. If that is the right page, in the English version, it speaks about other expenses. The amount I believe that is listed amounts to \$4 million. Last year in 2014-15, that was the same figure and it lists the same amount again. This is a large fund, if it is indeed \$4 million and not just \$4,000. If, indeed, it is set at that amount, what are

the funds to be used for? It only states, "Other Expenses." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I concur with the member's statement that it is a large amount of money. The fund is used to purchase computer programming because they require a (interpretation ends) licence (interpretation) to extend the software. It is also for purchasing actual computers as well as the various Internet services, including other various computer-related expenses. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was done. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Informatics Planning Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$31,100,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Go to the next page. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. (interpretation) It's on page J-7. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is the place to ask it, but if I'm wrong, then you can rule me out. This is about the employees under Building Maintenance. In the June 30, 2014 HR stats sheets, I guess it's called, or summary, it states that there are three employees in Arviat and as far back as I can remember, there have always only been two. Can I just get an explanation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** We're not sure. Can the member indicate which page he is on? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please indicate which page you are on, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 166 under Building Maintenance, but what I'm reading out is the employment stats. This is from June 30, 2014, saying that there are three employees for CG&S in Arviat. The maintenance department in Arviat has only always had two. I just want clarification of whether there are supposed to be three people working in the maintenance department in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I believe it's clear now. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue raised by the member in his question isn't detailed out in the comments. However, we will have to look into this

situation and provide the information to the member when we find out. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. J-7. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$105,938,000. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within this category for construction of buildings, I want to ask about the (interpretation ends) building code (interpretation) legislation. In following the requirements of the building code, a committee had to be struck which is an (interpretation ends) advisory (interpretation) body, and I'm not sure of an equivalent Inuktitut term.

I believe they would be the source of expertise, or is the committee the one we have to request information from? The committee will be comprised of representatives from various organizations. What I want to ask about relates to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities or others mentioned here. Have they provided a name of their prospective representatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are representatives sitting on the committee,

but as to the actual names, we can't recall the names of the members of the advisory committee. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): The other question relating to the issue is: are all the appointments made? As there was a process to appoint representatives, have all the appointments been completed for this committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have two vacant seats. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. Even though there are two vacant seats, have they had meetings and how many times have they met to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They met in March 2014 and they are slated to have another meeting this coming spring. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. I want to move to another matter within the same category. Your business plan for 2015-18 indicates that "Fire Safety Planning Guidelines for School Facilities have been developed and will be

implemented in the new fiscal year.” In English, it’s the (interpretation ends) Fire Safety Planning Guidelines for School Facilities. (interpretation) The language indicates that you have developed the guidelines that are to be implemented in the future. Can you inform the members how the Department of Education will work to implement this throughout Nunavut’s schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is being worked on. The schools have been given reading material about it. The fire department has been visiting the schools, working with the teachers, staff, and students. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the Fire Planning Guidelines for School Facilities, will you commit to tabling your department’s guidelines in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can table them. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Branch Summary. Community and

Government Services. Infrastructure.  
Mr. Hickers.

**Mr. Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I just have a couple of quick questions here.

On page 167 of the business plan under the 2014-15 priorities, it talks about the continuation to gather facility condition assessment information under the long-term infrastructure plan, yet it still carries over into 2015-16 on page 169. The second bullet under 2015-16 is, “Continue the development of a long-term infrastructure plan...” When is this plan expected to be completed and when will it be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It is a work in progress. With your permission, I would like the deputy minister to respond to that.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The condition assessments of all municipal and GN assets have been completed. We are currently populating all of this information into our asset management software program. It’s quite a bit of work, so we expect that it will take at least another six months to finalize the population and then we can use this information to develop the long-term infrastructure plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, on May 30, I asked the minister if he would commit to tabling an annual report on the activities of the Nunavut Building Advisory Committee. I understand that Mr. Enook had a couple of questions regarding that committee. How often does that committee meet and when can we anticipate seeing an annual report developed by that committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) They have met only once up to now. With regard to the other part of your question, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that, please. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first meeting was more of an introductory meeting for all of the new members to become familiar with the general review of the new building code. They will be meeting again in, I think, April of 2015.

Actually, we are going to provide training to all the advisory committee members based on their responsibility under the Building Code Regulations of the *Building Code Act*. We are currently in the status of developing the regulations and we are hoping to have the regulations completed by the end of the next fiscal year.

Once we get the regulations in, the advisory committee should probably be looking at meeting at least quarterly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I have just one final question.

When it talks about representation of the advisory committee, I had asked a question last year on some of the components and I appreciate the detail that was provided last year, that it is to include an architect, an engineer, a representative of the chief building official's office, the fire marshal's office, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, NTI, Nunavummi Disabilities Society, a person with experience as a private developer of residential, commercial, or institutional building, NNWT Construction Association, and NAM.

I understand my colleague asked a question that the NAM representative hasn't been nominated yet and up to three additional members. What capacity is that committee at right now, and when can we anticipate it being up to its either capacity or to a number that the minister is comfortable with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** (interpretation) Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would be happy to provide that information to the member once we put it together. (interpretation) Thank you.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Sammurток.

**Mr. Sammurток:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to question on building maintenance. My colleagues had touched up on it, but (interpretation) I want to ask this question. (interpretation ends) One PY person in a community works 24/7, 365 days a [year]. Do you have any plans of increasing the one PY communities to one and a half or two? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, (interpretation ends) we are doing a program review now on this matter and we expect to have something out in the new year. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurток.

**Mr. Sammurток:** The reason I'm asking this is that more buildings are being built in the smaller communities and this has been going on for years. It has been more than 26 years. I believe that it's about time that this department looks at adding more PYs to smaller communities.

Going on to another topic, Inspection Services, for all the regions, Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot, do you have all

the inspectors in place now?  
(interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Good question. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, these positions aren't filled. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток

**Mr. Sammurток:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When do you plan to fill these vacant inspector positions?  
(interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you. Right now, we have started this process and when the rollout happens, we will let you know. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$105,938,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Go to the next page. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Page J-8 is an information item only and covers the Petroleum Products Division. Do members have any questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like a lot of people got questions.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to base my questions on a copy of an RFP that I have here with me. It's the RFP for the upcoming contract. I would hope that the same provisions are in the previous contracts or RFPs. If my questions are out of line, I'm sure the minister will correct me.

In the RFP, there's a section about drivers having valid driver's licences and proper airside vehicle operations permits. It goes on to say that PPD is not responsible for providing this training to contract employees. How is PPD monitoring or will they monitor to ensure that the proper training is provided to contract employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With your permission, I would like my petroleum expert to respond to that.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When PPD recruits the fuel delivery drivers, they are supposed to get a copy of the appropriate documentation for the driver's licence that they have acquired through the motor registration before they are allowed to be hired as fuel

delivery truck drivers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does PPD monitor this with a change of staffing throughout Nunavut? With the contractors, there's always a staff turnover. I'm just wondering if there's any mechanism that PPD has in place to ensure that the requirements are kept up to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) As the minister has already indicated, Mr. Green will respond.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a good point. What I would like to do is get back to the member because it's my understanding that it is the responsibility of the fuel distribution contractors to make sure that they get the appropriate documentation when they recruit drivers. I want to follow up with PPD and see exactly what they do in terms of making sure that they work with the contractors that we have certified drivers on the roads. I will get back to the member with a response to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, I'm not insinuating or accusing any community or even my own community of drivers not having the proper credentials. I'm just wondering what the reporting requirements are to make sure that people are certified.

To move on, also another requirement in your RFP is that fuel delivery service contractors shall provide all maintenance to the full satisfaction of PPD, proper operation, storage, and maintenance records for all fuel delivery vehicles, including the backup vehicles.

I know I have asked this question in the House and maybe there are more details that his officials can provide us, but how is this provision of the contract monitored by PPD to ensure that proper maintenance records and whatnot is carried out by the contractors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) As the minister has again already indicated, Mr. Green will respond.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The responsibility of the contract management rests with the PPD regional office staff. Basically, in Rankin Inlet, Pond Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, there are between three and four staff in each region and their responsibilities are to work and manage the contract with the local fuel distributors.

With respect to the issue of vehicles in Sanikiluaq, there was an assessment done on all the vehicles, I think it was in 2013. I'm trying to get a copy of this report. What I have instructed the PPD division to do, based on what came to my attention in Sanikiluaq, is that I want all the staff visiting those communities at least on a quarterly basis and I want at least inspections done on the vehicles so that we don't find ourselves in a situation that occurred over this weekend. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. It's good to see that you will be instructing your department to ensure that all communities are up to date with their equipment because that is an essential service to all of our communities.

You just mentioned about the issue that we had in Sanikiluaq. Also in the contract or RFPs, considering what happened in Sanikiluaq, it probably cost quite a few dollars because, I think, you had to charter mechanics in and the cost of repairs. I'm just wondering: who will be held responsible for the costs associated with this issue? Will it be PPD or will it be directed back to the contractor? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As with all fuel delivery contracts, it's the responsibility of the contractor, so the costs associated with the situation at this time will be charged back to the contractor. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A few months ago, I wrote a letter to the minister concerning the upcoming RFP. One of my questions was why they were moving from five-year to ten-year contracts for PPD services in communities.

I know, in the response letter that the minister did, he explained to me the reasoning. I'm just wondering, for the

use of the listening public, if they could explain why they are moving from five-year to ten-year contracts with contractors for PPD services in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One of the reasons that the department decided to go from a five-year contract to a ten-year contract is because whoever is trying to become a contractor will have the opportunity or will have that length of time to build up their own assets. Every contract stipulates that the contractor will provide storage space like parking space for their vehicles. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his description. Another reason for going from five to ten years that you stated to me was that there would be a desire for local business to have equal opportunity, if not better ability than larger southern companies, to participate in fuel delivery contracts.

Now that the RFP has closed, I think it closed in the middle of last month, did PPD find that more local companies have come forward in wanting to provide fuel delivery services throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I can respond to the question, for clarification, through you Mr. Chairman, I will have the deputy minister respond. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, the RFPs are staggered over the three regions. They are currently in the process of doing some evaluations of the... I'm not sure which region it is, if it's the Baffin region, but what they are actually doing is the evaluation of the contracts. I don't know at this point in time how many bids were placed for each one. Certainly, once we have all of this information compiled and the contracts have been evaluated, I would certainly have no issue providing the member with a list of the businesses that applied in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Information Item. Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the minister on something that doesn't seem to be in here at all under PPD and that is the inspection of bulk storage tanks.

As we all know, most storage tanks in the communities are getting older. I imagine quite a few of them were built in the '60s and they must be getting close to the end of their life because some are pretty old now. For an example, when we buy a fuel tank for a

house, we are told that that fuel tank has a 10-year lifespan. I believe some of these bulk storage fuel tanks are quite old now. Do they have any schedule on when they inspect bulk storage tanks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will defer that question to my deputy minister, if I may.

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

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The typical useful life of tank farms is 30 years. There are annual inspections done every year before resupply to check for any maintenance issues with the tank farms. Tank cleanings are supposed to be done every five years. As the tanks get older, there are integrity tests done on the walls of the tank to test the thickness of the walls to make sure that there are no issues. In most cases, we try to upgrade and expand tank farms with 20 years or less. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you inspect these tanks, do they go inside? I would think that rust is what weakens these tanks and water would sit at the bottom. Do they physically go inside and check, for lack of a better word, the floor of the tank? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. The minister has identified to defer to Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are following the five-year cleaning schedule for the tanks themselves. They would have to physically go into the tanks to clean the tanks. They usually weld open a section of the tank and go in and do their cleaning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On to a different matter, my counterpart talked about fuel truck maintenance and inspections. I think most of the contractors probably don't have a licensed mechanic on staff. A lot of the smaller communities don't have any private garages with licensed mechanics on staff. How does the department know that the inspection was done by a certified mechanic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

My apologies. The minister deferred it to Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the contract that we sign with the fuel distribution contractor, part of the requirements under the contract is to ensure that there is a licensed mechanic available that meets the requirements to service fuel delivery vehicles. In order to ensure this, it is the responsibility of the regional project officers, when they go into town, to check the records and make sure that the repairs are done by a certified mechanic.

I'm not sure how often this was done in the past, but as I mentioned earlier,

certainly one of the things that I will be working towards is improving the contract management of PPD fuel contracts just going forward. I certainly want good recordkeeping and I certainly want my staff to be in those communities on a quarterly basis to actually make sure that the proper maintenance and any other responsibility for fuel distribution is being done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to that, then, when a company is bidding on the fuel delivery contract, when it comes up, they must state a licensed mechanic as part of the bidding process. I assume that that is checked out, that this person is actually a licensed mechanic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) The minister has deferred it to his official. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, it's the responsibility of PPD, as part of their contract management, to ensure that the licence is done by a certified mechanic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to a different topic, in prior years, the department's business plans have indicated that there has been concern regarding compliance with federal regulations with respect to fuel resupply lines. What is the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Let the record show that the minister has deferred it to the deputy minister. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, we have funding available to fix communities where the resupply pipelines are not meeting the regular requirements. We are working with Environment Canada and they're developing a plan to bring forward for consideration in the GN's capital plan to get funding to address the remaining upgrades that are required for the resupply pipelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank them for the response. That's all I have. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I take that as a comment. Following the list of names, Community and Government Services. Information Item. Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief question on this item. As we are all aware, global fuel prices have continued to drop and the current price is quite low. Perhaps this was already enquired about in a question, but I have two related questions that I want to ask, with your forbearance, Mr. Chairman.

First, in the approaching fiscal year 2015-16, has your department already purchased the petroleum products for next summer? Further, based on the actual prices, how much does your department expect to save due to this

drop in oil prices? If I can be allowed to ask two questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have all the petroleum products ordered while their prices are low. They are just waiting for delivery. I answered the second question during my opening comments in Committee of the Whole where I stated that our department had realized a savings of \$32 million from this early purchase. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now with that sizeable amount being saved through this early purchase by your department, can our communities have the expectation that this fall when the tanker ships offload the petroleum products, fuel prices will be lower based on the huge amount of funds that were saved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the petroleum products we purchased have been offloaded to the community tank farms, it will become clear as to the actual costs of shipping the fuel to the tanks. After the fuel has been delivered to all communities and we know the final costs, we can work on a plan to determine the price. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of quick questions here.

In the business plan and priorities from last year, this year, and next year, it talks about the Point of Sales System software. In the 2014-15 status, it says that “The Terms of Reference for RFP has been completed for the system” and “the RFP will be issued by the end of this fiscal year.” Maybe if we can get an update on that, Mr. Chairman. Has that RFP been issued? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Again, with your permission, I would like to defer that to my expert.

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

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RFP was issued in December 2014 and is currently now closed and we are doing the evaluation. We expect to have that awarded very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the scope of the fuel delivery system agreements, it talks that “It will streamline contractor operations and therefore result in more competitive commission rates.” How much of an

impact are commission rates upon the fuel costs to residents of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The minister has, for the record, deferred to his official. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on my knowledge, I think the annual commission rate for the fuel distribution agreements for 24 communities is around \$8 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we are looking at last year's, the last numbers I have, not including avgas, about \$115 million, we're talking just a little over 5 percent of the overall cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That seems to be correct. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Information Item. Petroleum Products Division. I have no more list of names. (interpretation) If you can raise your hand beforehand, I would appreciate it. Mr. Sammurtok.

**An Hon. Member:** We need a flag.

>>Laughter

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I've got one quick question. In your

three regional offices, are all the positions filled? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We don't have that information right in front of us; however, I would be happy to provide it to the member. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Yes, I sure would like to have that list. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** I'll just repeat what I said, that I would be happy to provide that information.

>>Laughter

**Chairman** (interpretation): My apologies. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. We will go back to J-3. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$230,969,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Are you agreed that the Department of



Community and Government Services is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Closing comments. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you very much. I wasn't expecting to finish today; I even brought my camping gear.

>>*Laughter*

However, thank you very much. I think, over the last couple of days or three days, you have expressed your concerns and thoughts, and we will certainly work as a department to ensure that we will try and meet your expectations. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

(interpretation) Thank you very much. We will now take a 10-minute break before we proceed to the next item. We will be dealing with the Department of Education. We will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:43 and resumed at 18:01*

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Education – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** I would like to call the committee meeting to order.

(interpretation) I say “good afternoon” to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister of Education if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Hon. Minister, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Mr. Chairman, yes, I do. I have two people that I want to sit with. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you very much, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is well known, my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, and to my right is Mark Rose, Comptroller. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. You may now proceed with your opening comments, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Good evening, my colleagues. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to meet with the committee to discuss the 2015-16 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Education.

As stated in our mandate document, *Sivumut Abluqta*, education is the government's top priority. Our goal is the development of self-reliance and education is the key to realizing this goal. As you may be aware, we are working to provide a vibrant learning environment that encourages academic success, guided by Inuit culture and values.

Mr. Chairman, this learning environment begins with early childhood education, continues with high-quality, consistent kindergarten through grade 12 programming, and adult learning opportunities that are targeted to meet workforce demands.

(interpretation ends) Our proposed 2015-16 budget focuses on providing schools with the teaching and learning resources they need to provide effective instruction in schools from kindergarten to grade 12. This instruction will focus on the important topic of literacy as we work to ensure that our graduates have the same level of capability as their counterparts across the country. This budget will also support a key departmental priority: the development of resources and learning materials for early childhood education that reflect Inuit language and culture as well as other critical topics, such as health and safety and career choices and opportunities.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the department has included \$8.7 million in its 2015-16 budget to allow for this important work on literacy to be undertaken. This funding will allow the department to develop the required Inuktitut guided reading resources and hire and train the learning coaches it

needs to provide consistent, effective literacy instruction.

(interpretation ends) Research identifies underdeveloped literacy skills as the number one reason why students fail to graduate from high school. We are beginning to see that low levels of literacy are correlated with poor attendance, lack of motivation, and high dropout rates.

Mr. Chairman, we know that teaching and learning resources alone are not sufficient to ensure student success, which is why our proposed budget also includes substantial new funding for additional positions to support literacy instruction in every school. We call these positions learning coaches and see that these are a key component in our strategy to support school staff and students to improve learning outcomes. Learning coaches will help keep the focus on literacy skills and will provide support to Nunavut educators.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut has identified increasing literacy outcomes of Nunavummiut as a key priority. The Department of Education intends to help schools increase the literacy outcomes of students through the planning, implementation, and monitoring of a strategic, phased-in, territory-wide literacy initiative.

(interpretation ends) Our approach to literacy instruction is based on balanced literacy. This is a comprehensive approach to literacy development that uses guided reading, guided writing, and word study through teaching by showing. Teachers will model good reading and writing skills and word

comprehension. Students will practise what they have been shown and move on to independent learning when they are ready. This approach to instruction is more structured than ever before and it will complement the benchmark assessment system that will enable teachers, students, and parents to track and monitor the progress of students and adapt accordingly.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, in 2014-15, considerable work on the development and training of resources to support the department's literacy initiative has been undertaken. Such work included the production of Inuktitut books for the guided reading series. We have invested over \$1 million with a local Inuit publisher to produce an extensive series of levelled books in the Inuit language.

While the training provided to staff in 2014-15 was an important step towards realizing the goals of the literacy initiative, the department believes that additional ongoing support and training is needed directly at the school level. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the department proposes to provide this support by hiring and training 43 learning coaches, one for each school in Nunavut. The department also proposes to hire six regional literacy coordinators to train and support learning coaches. The learning coaches will work with teachers and principals to improve literacy achievement in a bilingual setting.

A key focus of the initiative will be the development of the resources needed to implement a balanced literacy approach to reading, writing, and word work. English and French guided reading

resources, English and French benchmark assessment, and English levelled literacy intervention resources have already been provided to schools. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, work has also begun on developing Inuktitut guided reading resources and Inuktitut benchmark assessment tools to ensure that the guided reading resources being developed in Inuktitut are equal in quality to those available in English and French.

The development of Inuktitut guided reading resources and benchmark assessment tools involve substantive costs to the department, costs for which there was previously no funding within the department's budget. These resources will be developed in Nunavut with experts in test design and validation, as well as Inuktitut language development. They will be shared with Nunavut Arctic College to train students in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the desire of this government is to ensure students leave school fully bilingual and have literacy proficiency rates comparable to the rest of Canada. We believe that supporting literacy instruction will help ensure that this is the case.

We know that children begin learning long before they start school. We also know that the benefits acquired in the early years through early childhood programs that provide well-structured, consistent, and culturally relevant surroundings help to inspire confidence and build personal strength.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, this positive experience improves the young

child's sense of well-being. The associated benefits stay with them throughout the school years and beyond.

In support of this, our proposed budget includes \$300,000 of new funding each year for the next six years to develop resources and learning materials at the early childhood education level. It is our expectation that such resources will be instrumental in the development of our youngest learners, helping to ensure that they are adequately prepared for the transition to school and lifelong learning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, since 2007-08, the department has covered the costs associated with many program and service enhancements, many of which included additional school staff positions, by funding them from within our existing budget. The cumulative amount of costs related to program and service delivery funded from within the department's existing 2014-15 budget is \$10.3 million.

Mr. Chairman, it is important that the department has the financial means it requires to develop the resources needed and hire the staff required to deliver effective instruction. With this in mind, the 2015-16 budget includes \$5 million in new funding to offset the costs associated with programs and services that have been funded from the department's existing budget over the last several years.

In order to deliver consistent, quality education to Nunavummiut, we have put forward a budget of roughly \$202.9 million for the 2015-16 fiscal year. This represents a \$14.9 million increase over last year's budget. This increase is largely comprised of the three

components I discussed above. The great majority of our proposed budget is allocated towards compensation and benefits, just as it has been in years past. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, we are confident that the 2015-16 budget will give the department the financial resources it needs to ensure that all aspects of the department have the financial capacity to provide its programs and services.

I look forward to working with the committee and my colleagues to improve education outcomes so that we are able to provide Nunavummiut with the best possible opportunities for the future.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to respond to questions from the committee. Those are my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Ma'nalluavik*, Hon. Minister, Mr. Quassa, Minister of Education. (interpretation) Does the Chair (interpretation ends) of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have opening comments? (interpretation) You may proceed, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2015-16 budget of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget is almost \$203 million, which is almost \$15 million more than its 2014-15 budget. The standing committee notes that the

department is proposing to focus considerable effort and resources on literacy-based initiatives as well as increasing resources and staffing in the area of early childhood learning.

The standing committee was very pleased to receive updated copies of the department's action plans which were developed in response to the Auditor General's 2013 reports on education in Nunavut and the safety of schools and child care facilities in Nunavut, as well as correspondence describing and clarifying departmental progress in specific areas of concern noted in these reports.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's ongoing focus on early childhood education is very welcome. Members agree that education begins well before children enter the school system and support initiatives to provide additional training for early childhood education staff. In many communities, the lack of daycare spaces or the high cost of daycare, especially for individuals who are themselves still students in the education system, remains a concern.

The standing committee was pleased to note that the department is reviewing options to increase kindergarten hours across the territory, although members acknowledge that consideration must be given to the availability of classroom space and staffing limitations. Members look forward to reviewing the results of the *Child Day Care Act* review.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to review his draft main estimates for 2015-16, members were pleased to receive details

on the department's initiatives in the area of language of instruction. The committee fully recognizes the need to develop a full complement of Inuit language material for schools and noted the department's recent contract with a Nunavut-based company to develop a series of levelled books in the Inuit language.

Members appreciate the minister's commitment to Inuit language standardization for use in Nunavut's schools and look forward to updates on developments in this area. Members note further that the department faces a number of challenges in the area of bilingual language instruction and anticipate that the ongoing review of the *Education Act* will also address this issue.

Over the years, several Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised concerns with respect to the quality and standard of education that Nunavut high school graduates receive. Concerns have also been raised and discussed in the media and other public forums regarding the commitment to inclusive education within Nunavut's education system. The standing committee appreciates that the department is currently undertaking a review of inclusive education and looks forward to the minister providing the results of that review once it is complete.

Mr. Chairman, the department proposes to add a number of new positions as additional supports and resources for teachers and principals across Nunavut's schools. While the standing committee recognizes that learning coaches and literacy coordinators will supplement the programs and services offered to Nunavut's students, members caution

the minister to ensure that efforts focusing on the recruitment, hiring, and housing of teachers remain a priority.

The standing committee recognizes that district education authorities have a wide range of roles and responsibilities with respect to the delivery of education in their communities. Members have noted that there is a lack of clarity with respect to the role of the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities in supporting district education authorities.

Mr. Chairman, standing committee members were very pleased to learn of efforts made by the minister and his staff, in conjunction with representatives from the federal government, to provide funding for breakfast programs in Nunavut schools. Children who are rested and fed are in a much better position to learn and progress. Members were also pleased to note that funding has been allocated to a number of communities under the Healthy Children's Initiative and would be interested to receive further detail on how these funds are allocated and spent.

The Department of Education offers a number of programs aimed at supporting adults who wish to improve their educational qualifications, such as attaining a High School Diploma under the new PASS initiative. Members encourage the minister and his officials to work closely with their counterparts in Family Services to ensure that all adult Nunavummiut requesting or receiving services related to furthering their education or career opportunities are supported.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members

may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Joanasié. We are on general comments. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments? Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You may correct me if you feel I am in the wrong category. I just wanted to ask a brief question to clarify the issue. Let me ask and if the Chairman feels I am in the wrong, you may stop me.

Hon. Minister, welcome to the House.

In the Inuktitut version, I couldn't find the corresponding item as I am not as fluent in English and can't find the item. I just want some clarification on page 4 of the English version. The wording in the sentence (interpretation ends) "guided reading and guided writing" (interpretation) doesn't have an Inuktitut equivalent or maybe I just can't find it and this is for the benefit of the Inuktitut-speaking audience. I just want some clarification from the minister or perhaps the Chairman can identify where this area is as I can wait until we reach it. I need to understand this part, either now or shortly thereafter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. He would like clarification. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister (interpretation) of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is a

very important aspect of our priority plans and we have commenced work on it. I will try to present an overview in language that is clear and understandable.

This (interpretation ends) guided reading and guided writing (interpretation) are the terms used in English. It is trying to speak to cases where a teacher, for example, has to work with a student (interpretation ends) on a one-on-one (interpretation) basis. The student would work with the teacher. Firstly, the teacher would read the sentence and then the student would read the selfsame sentence. That is what is meant by that, not all at once with the entire class, but it is specific to individual students that require (interpretation ends) guided reading.

(interpretation) Now that is what is meant by guided reading, similar to the traditional Inuit methods of teaching. Inuit believe in this teaching method, which is teaching by observation and not just by reading about the subject, but to actually watch the lesson. That is what is meant here, so I am just presenting that as an example. To have the student watch the teacher read, so that is what (interpretation ends) guided reading and guided writing (interpretation) are pretty much a focussed method of teaching similar to the way Inuit teach through observing the lesson.

I just want to ensure our colleagues are aware of the meaning behind (interpretation ends) balanced literacy, (interpretation) which is a new term starting to be used in the school system. Since these are new concepts in our schools, I hope I have provided further clarification to my colleague. As per my

earlier comment, if the teacher has 20 students, the guided lessons would be specific towards individual students.

I hope my response was clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are on general comments. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) I want to remind all members that we are here to review proposed departmental budgets for the upcoming 2015-16 fiscal year. I encourage members to focus their questions on the proposed budgets.

Education. Branch Summary.  
Directorate. G-4. (interpretation) If you have any questions, please raise your hand. We are on (interpretation ends) Education. Branch Summary.  
Directorate. G-4. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am unsure if it is on the page, so can you direct me if that is the case. I am talking about human resources or recruitment. I believe it is under the (interpretation ends) human resources development (interpretation) of the English copy, as that is all I have. If we are on G-4, I want to ask about the positions which seem quite numerous, as per your opening comments. This pleases me immensely on a personal level. Any educational initiative is a pleasure to hear, as I want our students to receive assistance where necessary.

I want to ask about this matter you mentioned in your opening comments. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, you (interpretation) stated what is on page 5 regarding the department's plans to hire

six more employees as regional literacy coordinators while being classified as teachers. There are six positions identified. My question is: where are these six positions going to be located? Can you provide that information? I think they would be (interpretation ends) regional (interpretation) in English. I just want clarification on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that question. The six positions are literacy coordinators handling the regional responsibilities as the (interpretation ends) regional coordinators (interpretation) responsible for these activities regionally.

They are broken into the three regions, two in each region and with the two coordinators per region. They will be located in the following communities: two positions will be located in Pond Inlet, two positions will be in Kugluktuk, and the final two positions will be in Baker Lake. Those are the three locations we have envisioned.

Just be aware that the positions will be instrumental support positions for the regional offices, such as for the Baffin region. The two positions in Pond Inlet would have to cover the whole region's schools. The title for the positions is (interpretation ends) regional coordinators (interpretation) and the same applies to the other positions located in the other regions. That is how we envision this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on the same page of your opening comments, specifically on page 5 is the reference to the subject I alluded to, which is just above that section. Perhaps I should have started with a question on that section. However, I was doubtful that the positions would go to Pond Inlet, which is why I asked questions on the locations instead.

>> *Laughter*

With respect to the other 43 positions listed in the chart, I just want some idea of the qualifications required for the positions. Will they have to be teachers with certification? What exact qualifications do these positions require if I were to be interested in these positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your question on the qualifications and that is a fine question. The 43 positions we are speaking about, I will refer to them as (interpretation ends) literacy coaches, (interpretation) who will work with students to improve literacy.

The 43 positions will be like teachers, as they require the same type of qualifications, so they need a (interpretation ends) teacher's certificate. (interpretation) Perhaps as well, we may require a (interpretation ends) Bachelor of Education, (interpretation) as we want



the most qualified coaches. That is our outlook on their duties.

Yes, as per my earlier statement, just like our regular teachers, they will need certificates and have a teaching background or experience. People with teaching experience or past teachers with this type of skill set are the ones we are looking for because this is an important position. Additionally, they would require some background in (interpretation ends) literacy (interpretation) and they have to be competent in that area.

We aren't going to just pick people off the street. Only the properly qualified applicants will fill these 43 new positions. We are looking at every school getting one of these positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. (interpretation) The qualifications just stumped me, so I will have to look for another job. I doubt I qualify for these positions.

Now with respect to the potential positions, is your expectation that they will all commence employment in the fall? Furthermore, do you have any doubts that you will be able to fill all of these positions from now until the fall school season? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This coming spring, we are going to start the recruitment process and we will be conducting the hiring process to ensure that literacy coaches are based in the schools by the fall. Usually, we start recruiting teachers and staff in the spring in order to be operational by the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I just want to remind members that the contents of the opening comments are covered by the different branches of the department. Please ask your detailed questions under the appropriate branches.

Following the list of names, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I just have a couple of quick questions under this category.

I would like to talk about some of the *Education Act* regulations. To date, the department has completed 11 sets of that Act's regulations. Can the minister provide an update on when the next regulations will be completed and what topics that they will address? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I should also just use the term (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman (interpretation) in case I cause some confusion.

(interpretation ends) Thank you very much for the question. There are four areas that are now at the planning and reporting status, and these are examples: student records, home schooling, staff certification, and private and ratepayer schools. Those are the areas that are still outstanding, as the member questioned.

For the new regulations to be put forward in the winter of 2015, we are anticipating that planning and reporting consultation will continue with the set of consultations. We will begin the process for the home schooling consultation this year. That is where we are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for that response, Minister Quassa. I would like to touch on the parental and family engagement campaign that is listed on page 83 of the business plan. It talks that the development of the campaign is ongoing. I'm sure most of us have seen some of the commercials on TV and some of the other initiatives that are being taken. I would like to put a little different spin on it.

As recent media has covered, there are still issues with parents who want to be engaged in their children's education, yet run into roadblocks. What is the department doing to help mitigate those issues and help the parents of students be engaged in their children's education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not too sure what he's

referring to as the roadblocks. I have not seen any true roadblocks, but maybe can you clarify that a bit more, Mr. Chairman?

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some of the recent media coverage regarding CSFN, the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut here in Iqaluit, there are parents who have gone so far as to create a legal society to represent their children within the school system. Time after time, at least it has been expressed to me that they don't seem to get any recognition from CSFN of their existence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I can say, based on the information I received, the francophone parents association is upset with CSFN because it feels that CSFN is not being transparent with the public. The parents association also feels as though CSFN is not communicating effectively with the parents of the children who attend Ecole des Trois-Soleils. (interpretation) I'm probably not pronouncing it properly. (interpretation ends) Finally, the parents association does not agree with the CSFN decision to file the statement of claim against the department. There are different factors, as I understand it.

Again I would just like to say that the parents association does not really have decision-making power because it's not recognized in the legislation or policy. I just wanted to make that clear. They can

lobby CSFN on areas of concern and interest, however. Again, as far as I know, this is the information that I have received and we are closely monitoring the situation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think everyone does realize that a parents' society, such as APFN, is not legislated, yet in a positive manner of moving forward with any DEA or CSFN in this circumstance, there are parents associations scattered throughout Nunavut that work collaboratively with the DEA to the betterment of the school system in their community or within their jurisdiction. Just because it's not in the legislation doesn't mean it can't be recognized.

We've had conversations about this. I've had more phone calls and emails about this topic than I have received on any other topic since being elected. As you stated, there seems to be a level of frustration there. At the end of the day, in my opinion and this is just my opinion, they just want to participate in their children's education.

When we're talking about a parental and family engagement campaign brought forward by the Department of Education, what type of oversight or what type of collaboration do you have with DEAs or with the coalition of DEAs or with CSFN to promote this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) First of all, again, I believe the majority of the DEAs, if almost not all, work very well with the parents. A good example would be the Joamie School, who has been working very closely with the parents, parental engagement, and in fact, you probably already know that their principal was recognized to be one of the best principals within Canada, along with the 40 others that have been recognized.

I can say that I have encouraged both parties, which are CFSN and the parents, to meet and attempt to resolve their differences. I'm optimistic that this can be done. Again, the issue is really between CSFN and the parents association. Again I would just like to reiterate that because CSFN, like any other DEA, is an elected body and therefore, I can only say that we are monitoring the situation very closely. Certainly, we want to ensure that CSFN, like any other DEA, is following and complying with the *Education Act* and regulations and/or department or government policy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very much aware of the accomplishment of Principal Lonsdale at the Joamie School here in Iqaluit. She has graciously accepted an invitation by me to attend proceedings here on Friday where the whole House can formally recognize her accomplishment.

With regard to the topic that we are discussing, I will leave it alone at that. I do believe you and I will be discussing this further in the upcoming weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted clarification on a matter here and you can decide whether I should talk about it later in a different category. It's about what my colleague talked about, the 43 learning coaches. I believe it is here because it is human resource related.

These 43 positions, I now know that they have to be certified teachers. Are these positions within the teachers that are calculated by the number of students or are these calculated above once you have figured out how many teachers each school needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that good question. (interpretation ends) I can respond that no, they are not part of that category. I can say that they would not be counted as the student-education ratio. They are outside of that process. Again you will note that literacy coach person-wise will not affect the teacher allocation based on the student-educator ratio. I believe that is the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister stated that there is one per school, if I heard him right. Can you just clarify that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there will be one learning coach per school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this is the first time it is happening, so I guess there will be learning curves and ways that it might be done better in the future, but I can see a problem right now, right off the bat. For example, in a school in Arviat, you might have 300 students in that one school and then in Grise Fiord, you might have 30 or 40 students in that one school. That ratio is not quite fair.

If the department is serious on making this work, I would think that there would have to be some kind of a ratio where one teacher would have to teach X number of students. One teacher's time is just not enough if you have 300 students in one school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that good question. So that people will understand, (interpretation ends) let me just make it very clear that the literacy coaches would be there to assist the teachers and not the students. They are there to teach the teachers. Is that the right way of saying it? (interpretation) They are supposed to train the teachers,

not the students. This is for the teachers' benefit, if this is understandable.

(interpretation ends) I can also say that, but on the other hand, the schools will have the prerogative of using an SER to hire additional coaches for their schools. They're coaches for teachers and not for student-by-student. (interpretation) Let's not view it in that light. I hope that makes more sense in that way.

(interpretation ends) Of course, I want to also assure the House and members that we certainly will be monitoring as soon as the literacy coaches get on board. We will start monitoring as to how well they are doing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the clarification because I did think that these were to teach the students. Now that I know they're for teaching the teachers, I'll take this to the next step. Are we not hiring teachers that are qualified to teach literacy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, the literacy coach's main role is to support teachers, wherever they are in their understanding of literacy. Again I would just like to reiterate and specifically say that this is a very specialized profession. Again, it will be there to support the continual improvement of teachers in all our schools so that students will have the greatest opportunity to be successful.

Again, I mentioned in my opening statements that the focus of the literacy initiative is the balanced literacy program and that's their specialty. (interpretation) They're not just ordinary teachers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any initiative that the department does to make our students more educated and more qualified when they graduate is a positive step. This is more just of a comment. How can I say this? I would assume that the program will be evaluated after one year just to see what the cause and effects are, just to see if the literacy rate went up. I assume it will be evaluated. It was going to be just a comment, but I guess it's a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Absolutely, that is the case and we will have to monitor it very carefully, especially in light of the member's statement about (interpretation ends) monitoring. (interpretation) That means we will keep monitoring it. Furthermore, the literacy program is another program which we will carefully review (interpretation ends) if the balanced literacy program is running well. (interpretation) That's what we will monitor. (interpretation ends) That's how we're going to monitor if the literacy coaches are doing what they are specialized in.

As I said, program evaluation, of course, is a very important component to any of our initiatives. My officials are very

keenly aware of the need to be accountable to the public. Again, the emphasis being that program evaluation is going to be there. This is especially important as education is a priority for everyone and certainly impacts our lives in so many ways. The balanced literacy initiative will be measured in numerous ways that will ensure that it remains focused and to ensure that it's working for Nunavut students. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This one will just be a comment now. I thank the minister for explaining to me and the committee because I think that we are all under the impression that these were going to teach the students. Any initiatives to help our students have a better chance or a better education are a good thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I take that as a comment. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have very many questions in this section. I would like to know what kind of feedback you or the department has received in regard to the parental and family engagement campaign in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for raising that issue.

Currently, for the smaller communities, I personally haven't heard from the representatives, as the departmental officials receive the feedback and our officials have just started looking into this issue.

However, I can state that we are reviewing our options and whether we can use, for example, a (interpretation ends) multi-faceted family engagement strategy, (interpretation) which is currently under development and I believe it was described by one of our colleagues earlier about televised information announcements. We are using all methods of disseminating this information, including the televised ads which members may have seen.

Furthermore, we (interpretation ends) are working closely with Outcrop, not crap...

>> *Laughter*

...to develop a departmental-wide communication plan. This plan will focus on the important topics of balanced literacy and family engagement. We are also working closely with ITK and NTI on the development of a dedicated family engagement website. That's where we are right at this time.

As I said earlier, just to reiterate on the question, our department is developing as to how we would get smaller communities involved. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Mr. Chairman, I move to report progress.

**Chairman:** We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): 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): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Pauloosie. I apologize, Mr. Keyootak.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

**Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting tomorrow morning at nine

o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom with the Standing Committee on Legislation.

*Orders of the Day* for March 4:

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
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:** Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:18*



