



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 46

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Pages 2622 – 2664

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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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Hon. Monica Ell
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Hon. Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)
Minister of Community and Government Services

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)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Government House Leader; Minister of Health; Minister of Justice; 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

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, 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 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, people of Nunavut. Welcome to the members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) all of our staff and interpreters, and all of the guests here today. Welcome, everyone.

I would like to announce to all of you that one of the MLAs, Steve Mapsalak, is celebrating his birthday. Happy birthday.

>>*Applause*

Thank you. Orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 139 – 4(2):
Sivumut Abluqta Update

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update to my colleagues on the progress of the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate across our government.

Mr. Speaker, we are all working towards our shared vision: to have more well-educated and self-reliant Nunavummiut; to have healthy families in strong communities; to foster strong economic growth and development in all sectors; and to ensure good government and wise use of our resources. We continue to focus our work toward our people, our land, our economy, and our territorial government. We aim to achieve this through education, employment, economic development, and an effective and efficient public service.

Mr. Speaker, as Premier, I want to provide an overarching update on our efforts to implement our important work under *Sivumut Abluqta*. Work at the departmental level is ongoing and staff are diligently working to realize our goals for an improved Nunavut.

There is important work at all levels of education reform in our territory, from early childhood education, enhanced literacy programming in our elementary schools, and employment preparation for our future workers. The *Education Act* is currently under review and the recommendations and amendments will be considered in the future.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of social well-being, we are working to provide resources for community-based solutions, and we continue to work with all our partners to renew and strengthen our efforts towards suicide prevention.

Mr. Speaker, to help with Nunavummiut's most basic needs, departments across the government continue to implement the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and work on initiatives to enhance access to nutritious food. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is researching economical and affordable housing and working to develop a collaborative action plan to ensure more affordable housing options are available to meet the needs of our people.

Finally, we are working towards important priorities related to Inuit employment within the public service. A government-wide human resource strategy was approved in the fall, and the Sivmuaqatigiit Division is working with all government departments to assist on the development and implementation of our Inuit employment plan submissions.

Mr. Speaker, work is underway to establish a leadership development program. We aim to target those professional categories that currently show low Inuit employment numbers and implement improved programs to ensure numbers increase to representative levels.

I want to assure all members that attaining the goals under *Sivumut Abluqta* remains the government's objective. We are one year into a four-year mandate and I am confident we are on track to realizing a better Nunavut for our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 140 – 4(2):
Recognition of Nunavut
Commissioner Edna Elias**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the contributions of Nunavut's fourth Commissioner, Ms. Edna Elias, whose term comes to an end on May 11, 2015.

Ms. Elias was appointed to the role of Commissioner of Nunavut nearly five years ago, on May 31, 2010. During her tenure, she has sworn in cabinet ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly, overseen the ascension of bills, and presented the Order of Nunavut as well as the Commissioner's awards.

Her role is important within and outside the territory, one that exemplifies the values of Nunavummiut, and connects us to other jurisdictions while promoting our unique principles.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend sincere gratitude to Ms. Elias for her commitment to the position. Her promotion of Inuinnaqtun and her dedication to cancer research are admirable.

Please join me in wishing Ms. Elias the very best in her future endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. We will move on. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 273 – 4(2): NIRB Hearing on Kiggavik Project

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say “good day” to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the many residents of Baker Lake who participated in the Nunavut Impact Review Board's recent hearings on the final environmental impact statement for the proposed Kiggavik project.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I have tabled a number of submissions during our current sitting that were provided to the Nunavut Impact Review Board during this process.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Nunavut Impact Review Board's hearings wrapped up this weekend. Over the past couple of weeks, representatives from the Municipality of Baker Lake and the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization provided formal submissions to the Nunavut Impact Review Board. It is my hope that the Nunavut Impact Review Board will consider these submissions with great care, along with the many items provided by the Government of Nunavut, NTI, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and other entities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to quote briefly from the submission provided by the municipality.

“The Hamlet Council itself welcomes the economic opportunities that the Kiggavik uranium mine may bring to the community, including the promised training, employment, business and infrastructure opportunities. The Council also recognizes that this development brings environmental and socio-economic risks and will strain the human resources and infrastructure capacity of the community.”

Mr. Speaker, I think that this statement perfectly captures the complexity of the issues facing us.

As the Nunavut Impact Review Board begins its consideration of the testimony that it has received during these hearings, I want to take this opportunity to clearly state that I respect the wide range of positions and perspectives that have been expressed by my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 274 – 4(2): Fuel Delivery Procedures

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to say a big “thank you” to my constituents in Gjoa Haven. When I'm away from home, I feel I have to represent my people.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on an issue that I raised yesterday in the Legislative Assembly. As the Minister of Community and Government Services will recall, I asked him a number of questions concerning fuel delivery procedures.

I want to take this opportunity today to urge the department's Petroleum Products Division to work closely with the local fuel delivery contractor and other parties when this year's resupply arrives in Gjoa Haven.

I have received concerns that when fuel is being transferred from the tanker to the shore, there is a risk that the hoses are not being completely drained before switching fuel types. I am concerned that this may result in different types of fuel, such as P50 and gasoline, being mixed together. If this occurs, there can be damage to the motors of skidoos and other equipment in the community.

I appreciate the minister looking into this issue, and I will have questions for him when we return to Iqaluit in May for our spring sitting to ensure that action has been taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 275 – 4(2): Non-Decentralized Communities

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, since this is our last day of sitting in this winter session, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my colleagues and Iqalummiut, who are always warm

and hospitable. I want to express my happiness for their kindness as they are always welcoming to us.

Mr. Speaker, the issue I want to speak to is one I have brought up on multiple occasions with regard to the smaller, non-decentralized communities with no government positions or departments to depend on.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of the ardent advocates due in large part to the lack of employment opportunities in the smaller communities throughout Nunavut. Furthermore, it has become apparent in all aspects of local governance in facing poverty. With that being the case, I strongly urge this government to carefully take into consideration by strongly weighting capital projects run by this government towards our smaller, non-decentralized communities in light of the lack of jobs available locally.

Mr. Speaker, these are the types of things that communities are desperate for, and it seems obvious that if any hamlets were to be asked if they wanted the projects, they would be most welcoming. Communities that aren't decentralized are open to any development that offers employment opportunities for their residents. The home care facilities for people with disabilities and addiction centres for alcoholic or drug abusers are just the sorts of examples we can provide as meaningful projects.

I therefore strongly encourage this government to place a priority rating on the smaller communities for capital projects some time during our tenure as MLAs, as we have three more years left in our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 276 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Mittimatalik
Athletes**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sentiments of pleasure. This weekend was momentous, something my colleague, Mr. Keyootak, so eloquently remarked on about the volleyball tournament that occurred over the weekend. I, too, want to make mention of the players who attended that tournament and to express my pride in the Pond Inlet volleyball players who partook in this tournament.

Mr. Speaker, our communities throughout Nunavut, especially the farther communities from the major regional centres, such as Iqaluit here in the Baffin region, have to put as much emphasis on fundraising in order to attend these infrequent tournaments or other competitions.

Air travel is our only and very expensive mode of transportation, thereby these players from Pond Inlet spent a lot of time fundraising. Both the male and female athletes were able to arrive to Iqaluit only by being extremely dedicated to raising the necessary funds. Once they raised the amount, they could fly down and participate.

As my colleague, Mr. Keyootak, noted, there wasn't much funding assistance

provided to the teams, but they managed to attain their goals. For their laudable efforts, I want to expressly praise my resident volleyball players and to let the residents of Pond Inlet share in this sense of accomplishment. The players able to attend this tournament aren't just committed to improving their team play, but also need to be dedicated to fundraising.

Mr. Speaker, I want to formally announce their names, as I take great pride in my Pond Inlet volleyball players who made it down. The male athletes are:

Norman Inootik;
Peter Inootik;
Quviq Inootik, a father and two sons;
Jassie Simonee;
Ipeelie Ootoova;
Randy Quaraq;
John Henderson; and
Steven Innuaraq.

Mr. Speaker, the female athletes are:

Jeannie Kigutak;
Jennifer Kautainuk;
Emma Atagootak;
Gina Komangapik;
Abby Ootoova; and
Emily Onaalik.

The people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut are proud of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 277 – 4(2):
Reflections on the End of Winter
Sitting**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, as today is the final sitting day of our current winter sitting, I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the people of Sanikiluaq for their support.

As usual, our budget session has been extremely busy, and I want to thank all of the people behind the scenes who help keep the Assembly running during the long sitting days.

Mr. Speaker, when we as MLAs are here in Iqaluit for extended periods of time for sittings of the House, we rely on many people back home to keep us up to date on the status of local issues of concern so that we can raise them here on the floor of the House.

I want to pay special tribute to the mayor, council, municipal staff, teachers, health care staff, as well as the board of directors and staff of our local housing association. As we all know, these positions are at the frontline of service delivery to the public and I salute their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, in light of it being St. Patrick's Day today, I'm going to take it as a green light to say a few words about family. I am sure that all members will agree with me that it is not easy being away from family for extended periods of time.

I want to take this opportunity to note that it is my grandson's second birthday tomorrow. Unfortunately, I will not be

there. Happy birthday, Jayden, on your special day. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 278 – 4(2):
Happy St. Patrick's Day**

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day to the people of Nunavut, my fellow residents of Arviat, and the people of Whale Cove. Even though it's windy over there in the Kivalliq, (interpretation ends) it's supposed to die down later on this evening, I think.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I rise today to wish happy birthday to my colleague (interpretation ends) across the floor. It's obvious that he's having a good day. (interpretation ends) I think he's just turning 35.

>>*Laughter*

Anyway, (interpretation) today being St. Patrick's Day, (interpretation) I would like to say a special St. Patrick's Day to everyone and my relatives in Newfoundland, in particular, my uncle who is 80 years old and his wife, Jeanette. (interpretation) They are celebrating over there and it is a civic holiday there. (interpretation ends) Happy St. Patrick's Day to Uncle David and Jeanette.

Lastly, safe travels, everybody. (interpretation) As it is the last day of our session, travel home safely.

(interpretation ends) Safe travels home to everybody in the House and throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 279 – 4(2):
Igloolik Production of Maliglutit**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues, everyone who is here, as well as the people of Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to showcase Igloolik a little bit. Today, they are doing another film and I'm sure that everyone knows that Igloolik is famous for its actors and filmmaking.

Kingulliit Productions is currently filming a movie called *Maliglutit*. It is currently being filmed in Igloolik this month. I think the Director, Zacharias Kunuk, is very well known worldwide. He is shooting the film and working with Natar Ungalaaq, again a well-known actor.

The people of Igloolik make all the props, all the costumes, and you will probably have seen it in the news media that they make huge celebratory type of igloos and employ quite a number of people from Igloolik. They currently have 20 people employed.

I think everybody knows that Zacharias Kunuk filmed *Atanarjuat* as well as his most recent movie, (interpretation ends) *The Journals of Knud Rasmussen*.

(interpretation) Those are some of the films that he has directed.

I would like to congratulate everybody involved in the film. Once the filming is done, please go see the movie. It's called *Maliglutit*. That is for my colleagues' information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 280 – 4(2):
Radio and Television Broadcast in
Clyde River**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about my other constituency community of Clyde River. As we all know, many communities want to share their news and developments in their communities, either through radio or televised shows that air our news and updates.

Mr. Speaker, the community I represent has not had a local radio station for the longest time and they haven't been able to listen to local radio and local television for over a year. Mr. Speaker, this issue requires immediate resolution and that is the reason why I rise today, to ensure that Clyde River is able to either listen to or watch the proceedings of this House.

The communication system breakdown has been left for far too long and the community has been unable to get their radio fixed, so they have been left without any local radio as well as not being able to watch television. This is a matter that requires immediate outcome.

I would like to see the communication systems be repaired prior to our next session. Perhaps I will raise further questions on this issue at our next session if the systems aren't repaired, as I would like to have my constituents from Clyde River the same access as is enjoyed elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 281 – 4(2):
Upcoming Trip to Kugaaruk**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Taloyoak. I hear there are blizzards all over, including Kugaaruk. It has been blowing for two days and there is a plane stuck in Kugaaruk. The hotel is full, but they are getting a lot of help from the community.

For the information of residents of Kugaaruk, I will be going there on March 22 with Edna Elias, the Commissioner of Nunavut. We are going to be visiting the schools and also going to see Jose Angutingnungniq, who is the eldest person in the community. I wish him a good day, even though there is a blizzard going on.

I would like my relatives to know that today is the last day of the winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 282 – 4(2):
Looking Forward to Spring**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to everyone who is here in the gallery. Good afternoon to my colleagues.

This is, again, the last day of the winter sitting. I'm very glad that we are able to conclude our sitting today.

I rise today and I'm sure you all realize that this winter was very cold. It was extremely cold, but it is also coming to an end. Spring is just around the corner and the sun is staying out longer every day. We celebrate the coming of spring in most of the communities in all three regions.

I would also like to announce that it is going to be the 50th anniversary of Toonik Tyme, which is the spring festival here in Iqaluit. They have all kinds of activities, games, and shows. A lot of people come here to participate, to perform, and also to see the activities. There is a race from Iqaluit to Kimmirut that has been revived again this year. I wish them safe travels.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who organize the activities, the games, and so on. We hope to see many more Toonik Tyme festivals, and have a good spring. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 283 – 4(2):
Invitation to Arctic Bay**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue is creating my cheerfulness on this fine day since this is the last day of our winter session. During our sitting here, some days were not so rosy while other days were full of excitement and other days, hilarity ruled. These are all occasions that one remembers fondly.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is something I am rising today to announce, the traditional Inuit dog team quest will be heading towards Arctic Bay, where it all started over a decade ago. I am extending my welcome to all my colleagues if they wish to watch the Nunavut Quest arriving into our community. When you see a multitude of dog teams in the distance, it becomes a joyous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, another matter cementing my joy today is my fine colleague who has returned and who is celebrating his birthday today, so have a happy birthday.

As well, to all of my colleagues, after not seeing your faces for some time, I will recall your faces and persons. I will keep you in my thoughts.

These are my reasons for my joyousness today, as we are all in good health as we conclude our winter sitting, so for that I am happy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4.

Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Mr. Sammurtok.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today to recognize the leaders of Nunavut communities that are here to attend the Baffin mayors' meeting. They are all behind me and I would like you to recognize them.

(interpretation ends) Ms. Jeanie Ehaloak, Mayor of Cambridge Bay and President of NAM;

>>Applause

Ms. Mary Killiktee, Mayor of Qikiqtarjuaq (interpretation) and a board member of NAM;

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Ms. Mary Wilman, Mayor of Iqaluit;

>>Applause

Mr. Frank Audla, Mayor of Sanikiluaq;

>>Applause

Mr. Palaya Qiatsuq, Mayor of Cape Dorset;

>>Applause

Mr. Jerry Natanine, Mayor of Clyde River, (interpretation) who is not here;

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Mr. Maliktoo Lyta,
Mayor of Kimmirut;

>>Applause

Mr. Mosese Qappik, Mayor of
Pangnirtung;

>>Applause

Mr. Charlie Innuaraq, Mayor of Pond
Inlet;

>>Applause

Ms. Mavis Manik, Mayor of Resolute
Bay;

>>Applause

Mr. Peter Ivalu, Mayor of Igloolik,
(interpretation) who is not here;

(interpretation ends) Councillor Mary
Kattaluk-Primeau from Pond Inlet;

>>Applause

(interpretation) Councillor Allan
Kooneeliusie from Qikiqtarjuaq, who is
not here;

>>Applause

Councillor Itee Temela (interpretation
ends) from Kimmirut;

>>Applause

(interpretation) SAOs Johnny Manning;

>>Applause

Ed Devereaux; and

>>Applause

Geela Kooneeliusie.

>>Applause

With them as well is Madeleine
d'Argencourt, who is the Executive
Director of the (interpretation ends)
Nunavut Association of Municipalities,
(interpretation) and Lazarus Arreak,
Translator.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To
all mayors and councillors who were just
acknowledged, welcome to the gallery.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. Although this
individual was acknowledged, I do want
to acknowledge our mayor, Mary
Killiktee, and her SAO, Geela
Kooneeliusie from the Qikiqtarjuaq
hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of
Visitors in the Gallery. Member for
Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
It's not too often that I get to stand and
recognize people from Sanikiluaq, so I'll
take advantage of the opportunity.

I would like to welcome Mr. Johnny
Manning, who is the assistant SAO for
Sanikiluaq, and Mr. Frank Audla, who is
the mayor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, like many of my colleagues, rarely get an opportunity to rise and acknowledge fellow residents of my community.

The following people I want to recognize today are the Mayor of Pond Inlet, Charlie Innuaraq, and Councillor Mary Kataluk-Primeau. Welcome to the gallery. Also, my maternal cousin, Lazarus Arreak, welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you. I say “hello” to the residents of Iqaluit-Manirajak.

My constituent was recognized already, but I would like to welcome Madeline d’Argencourt, as well as our mayor, (interpretation ends) Her Worship Mary Wilman. (interpretation) I also welcome her to the gallery. I just wanted to acknowledge those people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s not very often that I get to recognize people from Cambridge Bay, especially on St. Patrick’s Day. We are all wearing our green.

>>Applause

I see that my mayor and president of NAM are wearing her green. I would like to welcome Ms. Jeannie Ehaloak to the gallery, Mayor of Cambridge Bay and President of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. Welcome, Jeannie.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 471 – 4(2): NIRB Hearing on Kiggavik Project

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) As I noted in my Member’s Statement today, the Nunavut Impact Review Board has just finished its hearings in Baker Lake on the final environmental impact statement for the proposed Kiggavik project.

The Government of Nunavut’s formal submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board was signed by an official

of the minister's department. This submission stated that, and I quote, "The GN, through its comments and recommendations, is trying to ensure that Nunavummiut are in a position to fully realize the potential benefits of resource development while mitigating the inescapable impacts of that development."

For the benefit of Baker Lake residents who are following our proceedings today, can the minister indicate whether the Government of Nunavut supports or opposes the Kiggavik project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I can let the member know that the GN has made a submission to the NIRB hearings and that we're an active role as an intervener for the Nunavut Impact Review Board's final phase of the proposed project by submitting a final written submission and presenting it at the final hearings. These hearings just ended and I don't have the review of the submissions in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut's formal submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board included over 40 recommendations and proposed terms and conditions for the project. Can the

minister confirm how many representatives from the GN participated in NIRB's recent hearings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I only know of the one person from our staff that attended the NIRB hearings and that is Bernie MacIsaac, my Assistant Deputy Minister, who went to Baker Lake for the NIRB hearing that had just taken place, but I'm sure there were other GN officials there as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 6, 2012, the *Government of Nunavut Uranium Policy Statement* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation of the day. The policy stated that, and I quote, "Uranium exploration and mining must have the support of Nunavummiut, with particular emphasis on communities close to uranium development."

As I indicated in my Member's Statement, there is a wide range of public opinion in Baker Lake concerning the issue of uranium mining.

Can the minister indicate how the government determines whether or not a given community supports or opposes uranium development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for those questions. The Uranium Policy was publicly announced at that time on June 6, 2012. It contained an outline of principles of the Government of Nunavut on uranium policy. At the NIRB hearings recently in Baker Lake, it was questioned by interveners and the community members had emphasis on the fifth principle, which pertains to the need for the community support.

The Government of Nunavut continues to rely on the review process required for the project to proceed, to confirm if the principles contained in the uranium policy have been met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 472 – 4(2): Community Transportation Initiatives

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

Mr. Speaker, I asked this question on March 11, but I'm sure that we had different understandings, so I would like to pose my question again.

The department's 2015-16 capital estimates indicate that the small craft harbours budget is \$500,000 for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the department's 2015-16 main estimates indicate that the department's community transportation initiatives budget is \$1.5 million for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Can the minister indicate if the community transportation initiatives budget can be used for marine infrastructure specific projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. The budget is for \$500,000 as of March. While I was in front of the committee, you had a question and I understood that it referred to access roads in 2014-15. In 2015-16, \$1 million will be added.

Once we finish the winter session, after the assent, then these funds won't only be used for access roads, but can also be used for small craft harbours or for excavation of land by the shore. If applicants want to use these funds for these reasons or if your hamlet makes a proposal, then the funds will be available for these purposes, not just for access roads, as used to be the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had enquired about this matter previously about the funding limitations that one community has with respect to the amount they can apply towards. I believe she stated that

\$100,000 was the limit per community. Now, if the project in question is too large and if the community feels it is a priority project that requires completion due to the benefits, can the community request a larger amount? I would like to know if they can apply for more than \$100,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. This morning when the mayors were meeting, I made a presentation saying that we will be sending some letters to see what the communities want to make proposals for so that they can start identifying what they want.

This is a very popular program. It's up to \$500,000 divided by communities. We have added to the funding. They may go over the amount limit, but I'm not sure what will happen as this program is well used. You can make a proposal and we will deal with it at that time. We would like to see it divided equally to communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I realize it was reviewed in this winter sitting, but if the appropriation is already approved and the budget is, indeed, increased to \$1 million, will the absolute limit that a community can apply towards be increased? Do I understand that once the budget has been approved for next

winter, if the funds have a surplus budget, a community can reapply for more funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that can happen. We have seen that the \$500,000 limit was not enough in a lot of cases in the past. I'm sure that all the communities will be seeking some more funds because they will need to use it for both small craft marine infrastructure and access roads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 473 – 4(2): Motor Vehicles Act

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I have been keeping up with my tabled documents. Mr. Speaker, the government's 2013-14 annual report on procurement activities, which was tabled yesterday in the Legislative Assembly, indicates that the Department of ED&T spent \$50,000 on a "Motor Vehicles Safety Act Review." Can the minister describe what this project accomplished? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. I think I'm going to be the only one being asked questions today.

Mr. Speaker, the *Motor Vehicles Act* is a very old Act and it needed to be renewed and updated to be relevant to the people of Nunavut. The proposed new regulations have been done and it will be given to the Department of Justice for its review. Ever since the creation of Nunavut, the *Motor Vehicles Act* hasn't changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure this review was long, comprehensive, and detailed, but can the minister describe to us any major changes that will be or might be happening to the Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. There are a number of amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* that are required in order to modernize this legislation. They include distracted drivers legislation, graduated licensing for new drivers, tougher measures to address impaired driving, and a legal basis for an end-of-life vehicle program and fees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response and I wholeheartedly agree with her that those updates should be brought on to get caught up with the rest of Canada.

I would just like to ask the minister when the new *Motor Vehicles Act* might be ready to be introduced to the House. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A draft of the amendments has been done. They are being looked at right now and I am hoping that it will be some time this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 474 – 4(2): Status of Hospital Board Review

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

Mr. Speaker, in November of 2014, the Minister of Health at the time indicated that cabinet had approved the suggestion to conduct a review looking at the merits, benefits, and logistics, administrative and financial aspects of a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of this review? Will it be done internally or have consultants been hired to undertake it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) To date, we have not determined what type of review it will be so far, but I can assure the member that we will follow through with recommendations by this Assembly to make sure the review is done by this fall. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister gave a reply that the review might be done by the fall, but do you have an actual timeline when this review will actually be completed and committed to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said in my earlier answer, we will carry out the review as required by this Assembly and complete it by the fall. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 475 – 4(2): Statutory Holidays

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister is aware, the *Labour Standards Act* and the *Interpretation Act*, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice, prescribe Nunavut's statutory holidays.

One of the statutory holidays is the first Monday in August, which is simply referred to as a "civic holiday."

As the minister will appreciate, Nunavummiut look forward all year to the brief period of time when we can be outside with family.

I believe that we should consider legally renaming this statutory holiday to something that is more reflective of our culture and traditions.

Would the minister be open to introducing a bill during our upcoming spring sitting to rename the holiday that occurs on the first Monday in August as something like "Land Day"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) If my colleague wants to do a private member's bill, I think that is a rather honourable thing that my colleague can do. We're not creating an added holiday, but my colleague's suggestion is for changing the name of a

current holiday. It is quite open to any Member of this Assembly to suggest legislation to rename a specific holiday. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is very much aware, July 9 is recognized as Nunavut Day. Although this day is a paid holiday for employees of the Government of Nunavut and a number of Inuit organizations, it is not a general statutory holiday for the territory. I believe that all residents of the territory should be able to celebrate Nunavut Day together and I believe that it would be fairer for everyone if the day were treated consistently by all employers. Is the government willing to formally designate Nunavut Day as a statutory holiday and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think I heard two questions, but I will answer one of them.

Back in the First Assembly, we were proposing to create July 9 as an official holiday for all of Nunavut. At the time, the private sector, after being heard by regular members on a standing committee, suggested that it would create an added cost to their businesses. My colleagues at the time suggested that we just put it down as a government holiday. That's where we left it at. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will also be aware, February is the only month of the year that does not have a statutory holiday. A number of jurisdictions in Canada celebrate "Family Day" in February. I recognize that there are costs associated with creating new statutory holidays and I recognize that the idea of removing existing statutory holidays is generally not well received by the public. Would the government be willing to examine the idea of establishing a new statutory holiday in February to recognize and celebrate families? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Any time you create a holiday, it adds cost to other sectors as well as government. It's something that we would have to consider very carefully and hear from all parties to give it serious consideration in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 476 – 4(2): Baker Lake's Runway Strip

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) On October 24, 2015, during the Committee of the Whole considerations of the department's 2015-16 capital estimates, I asked the minister a number of questions related to the slope of Baker Lake's runway.

At that time, the minister of the day indicated that he would get back to me with answers at a later date. However, I have not received any information on this issue since that time.

Can the minister provide the current computed slope of Baker Lake's runway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I have also been reading a lot of material since I became the Minister of Economic Development, and I believe that you're asking about the slope of the runway in Baker Lake. I have been told that it is a code 2 runway, which means that it does not exceed the 2.5 percent. When it does not exceed that, it means that there is no recommendation to increase the longitudinal slope currently and that it meets regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Baker Lake's runway appears to be on a downward slope. I believe that it is important that the government is certain that all runways in the territory

are monitored on a regular basis and that their specifications are consistent with Transport Canada standards.

Will the minister commit to having her department look into this issue and determine the current slope of Baker Lake's runway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Our department works very closely with Transport Canada and their safety requirements for runways across Nunavut. Currently, the runway for Baker Lake meets those standards, but they are studied on a regular basis and certified by Transport Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, the length of Baker Lake's runway is just over 1,200 metres in length. I have received a number of concerns that the length of the runway is too short for non-instrument approaches. Will the minister commit to allocating funds under her capital budget for a project to expand Baker Lake's runway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The slope in Baker Lake is not a concern for the department at this time as it meets regulatory requirements, but I am able to share all the information that we have on the slope of the runway with the member and I will provide all that information to him later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 477 – 4(2): Initiatives for Non-Decentralized Communities

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier.

When we were on Members' Statements, I made a statement about non-decentralized communities. They really yearn for government jobs, but none have been created up to now.

I would like to ask the Premier if, in the near future, he will make any considerations about creating jobs in the smaller, non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It's a very good question. Mr. Speaker, we do have the Nunavut Development Corporation that's under leadership run by a board. Their main focus is to ensure that jobs are created in the non-decentralized communities. It

has been around for a while, going back into the NWT days.

It's one of the things that we try and ensure that these smaller communities participate in any kind of economic development, whether it's arts, fisheries, and other sorts of local economic development that they can venture out with. As a government, we aim to continue doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that. Can the Premier indicate...? As MLAs, we still have about three years to go yet. Have you made any plans to initiate something with the government that can be a way to help the communities by creating places where people can get help to find jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, in other departments such as Family Services, we do have career development officers and they work closely with all the communities, including our non-decentralized communities, where there are conferences that do happen.

Mr. Speaker, with potential development in the Kivalliq where there are opportunities for employment within resource extraction and exploration, we consider all the factors with our Socio-

Economic Monitoring Committee. We use those committees to give us information on how we can take advantage of the situations and economic activity that's happening out there. We try and create training programs to fit some of these communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm quite aware that in this government, we have difficulty in filling some of these positions that we need filled, even here in Iqaluit and the two regional centres. Mr. Speaker, it's a struggle, but we will certainly take a look at any kind of proposal that may come from these smaller, non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because the situation is what it is, smaller communities have worked extremely hard to just subsist. They really want and need something to come out of the government. I was talking about any kind of big infrastructure that can be run by the government. Can the government or the Premier urge the departments and their ministers that whenever something needs to be developed, they be created in the smaller communities and the smaller communities be looked at as priorities for developing new initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that

question. Mr. Speaker, during our reviews of some of our programs and as you are well aware, there are a number of different programs that we're looking at, in fact, over 360.

Mr. Speaker, if there are opportunities to partner in with other organizations, we will certainly take a look at how we can put more economic activities into these smaller communities. Of course, we will have to partner with some of our corporations, such as the Nunavut Development Corporation and possibly even the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, that loan money for medium to large size businesses.

Mr. Speaker, in partnership with other organizations, it's always a possibility, but we will certainly look at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 478 – 4(2): Role of Health Inspectors

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

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health employs a number of health inspectors for the territory. Given the many different types of health concerns that are raised by our constituents and in the media, it would be reassuring to know that there are trained professionals who can ensure that Nunavut residents are not facing unnecessary health risks.

Can the minister clearly describe the role and specific responsibilities of health inspectors across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, health inspectors do a lot of work. In particular, they inspect restaurants to make sure that they are in good order and ensure that they are serving healthy and safe food in their establishments. That's what I have learned so far. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At various times, community-specific health concerns are raised, usually as a result of an environmental crisis such as a burning dump or a damaged water supply or frozen and overflowing sewage tanks.

Can the minister clarify whether health inspectors travel to all Nunavut communities on a regular basis to conduct inspections in a proactive manner or do they visit communities when there are health concerns due to an environmental crisis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

ends) My colleague is referring to health inspectors. The work that my colleague mentions relates to environmental health. To date, from April 1, 2014 to January 15, 2015, 435 facilities have been inspected by environmental health officers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise us if there are any reports that were generated from the work and the findings of the health inspectors as they carry out their duties and, if so, can they be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm sure I could table some but not all. Some establishments are privately run and it may impact on their affairs, so I will have to review that further with my officials. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 479 – 4(2): Status of Project for Water Reservoir

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

Mr. Speaker, during the recent fall sitting, the minister stated that the Government of Nunavut signed the Canada-Nunavut Gas Tax Agreement in February of 2014.

The government's 2015-16 capital estimates indicate that in previous years, a total of \$4.3 million in gas tax funding was allocated to the water reservoir expansion project in Arviat. Can the minister provide an update on the status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question from the member. The design has been done for that particular project and we anticipate completing that work very shortly. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that reply. He just replied that they expect to finish the project shortly. Can he just give us a better timeline on when the water reservoir expansion in Arviat might go to tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The feasibility study has been done. We anticipate the design to be

completed very shortly. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questioned the minister a few times on our problem of having only one water outlet in the current reservoir and this project with the new reservoir.

Can the minister indicate whether the repairs or the additions for the second water outlet pump in Arviat will be done this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of this project, that is one of the items that are included. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Question 480 – 4(2): Medical Travel Policy for Unilingual Elders

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try for the third time today, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health some questions.

I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I tried to get some clarification from the minister about the new revisions to the Medical Travel Policy which will now permit a

unilingual elder to request an escort for medical travel.

It is still not clear to me that the Department of Health has a specific definition for “unilingual elder.” This concerns me because, as we all know, many elders these days can manage a few words of English which could lead someone to say that they are not technically “unilingual” and therefore not entitled to an escort.

Can the minister clearly explain how medical staff make the determination that an elder is “unilingual” and therefore entitled to an escort? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Before any travel occurs, there is a requirement for a physician to examine the patient. At that time, the discussion takes place whether the person is unilingual or not.

They also review where the person is travelling to. If the person is travelling to a location where there is no interpretation, regardless of the age of the patient, the patient will be permitted an escort to assist in the interpreting for the patient.

Those decisions are made when they are seeing the physician and preparing to travel. If there is a dispute between the physician and the patient, the matter is referred to the regional director for a determination. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me be clear: the issue at stake here is not the language abilities of an elder but the level of support that they may require during their travel. Would the minister consider a further revision to the Medical Travel Policy which would permit any elder, regardless of their linguistic ability, to request an escort if they so choose? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The other provision that is in the policy is if a person is requiring assistance because of physical disability or other disabilities, then a patient is required to have an escort. Those conditions are there already.

The only change we made was for anyone over the age of 65 who has language barriers in terms of travelling anywhere in the territory or outside is permitted to have an escort. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that we show respect and support for our elders and to ensure that they are safe and secure, especially when they have health concerns and medical issues to deal with.

Will the minister commit to once again reviewing his department's Medical Travel Policy and consider amending it to permit any Nunavut elder to request an escort for medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We permit the physician to make the decision at the time that the travel is being prepared. At the same time, there is also another added check where the regional director will decide upon requests from a patient. Those opportunities are there for any elder to have an escort. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 481 – 4(2): NHC
Homeownership Program**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as members will recall, last week, we were reminded that the Nunavut Housing Corporation spent \$2.52 million on homeownership programs in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

At that time, the minister indicated that there are regional offices and LHOs available to answer questions about housing and homeownership programs that Nunavummiut may have.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's business plan indicates that a priority for the 2014-15 fiscal year has been to "Promote homeownership in Nunavut through publicity and promotion as well as through education and counseling." It also indicates that all programs have been "updated on its website."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all members are aware that not all Nunavummiut have access to the Internet. Can the minister describe what other methods the Nunavut Housing Corporation is using to promote its homeownership programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the local housing organizations or the regional offices in the Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot are where they have homeownership programs and information on how to access those types of programs. The individuals who are interested can go see our district offices or their local housing organizations to get more information on homeownership programs or other types of programs under the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has regional offices to assist Nunavummiut seeking information or assistance in applying for homeownership programs. I also recognize that, where applicable, LHOs serve this function.

However, a significant number of homeownership programs require “NHC-approved inspectors” for inspections prior to the approval of applications, the purchasing of homes, or the start of renovations.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: how many “NHC-approved inspectors” are currently resident to Baker Lake? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier about the homeownership programs within the Nunavut Housing Corporation, if there are any questions or anybody who would like to get further information about the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s homeownership programs, they can go to the regional offices.

If I understood the member’s question correctly, the Kivalliq regional office is in Arviat. They can either contact the program officer or bilingual people. Our (interpretation ends) District Manager, Jimmy Main, (interpretation) can be approached if they have any questions regarding the homeownership programs. If they don’t know where to go, they can approach the regional offices or the district office in Arviat where Jimmy Main is our (interpretation ends) District

Manager (interpretation) and people can approach him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague from Gjoa Haven indicated recently in the House, not every community has the luxury of simply making an appointment with a local carpenter, plumber, or contractor for home construction or repair needs. Can the minister explain what recent changes have been made to homeownership programs to address this issue? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as I stated a few days ago, if homeowners need repair, they lack local contractors or carpenters in some communities, especially in the smaller communities. When there aren’t any contractors, a matter which we discussed amongst our colleagues, we try to resolve the situation.

For those communities that lack contractors, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be able to provide assistance. If the community does not have a contractor, they can try and get the contractor from outside of the community. The company can go to that community and the Nunavut Housing

Corporation would pay for the maintenance worker to go to that community. On top of that, the Nunavut Housing Corporation would provide funding if there aren't any contractors in the small communities. We will provide that assistance. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item...I'm sorry. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? I didn't hear any nays. Mr. Savikataaq.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for letting me go back to Item 5.

I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Leo Ikakhik. He's from Arviat and he just happened to be in town. I just happened to see him behind me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Workers' Safety and Compensation, Mr. Peterson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 139 – 4(2): Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2015 Corporate Plan

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2015 Corporate Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 140 – 4(2): Public Service Annual Report 2013-2014

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Public Service Annual Report for 2013-14. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 141 – 4(2): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Thank you, Members. I wish to table today a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. This list is current as of today's tabling. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

(interpretation) Item 16. Motions.

(interpretation ends) Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1 and 13 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:11 and Committee resumed at 15:38

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. We can now proceed with our committee meeting.

First of all, Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Committee of the Whole.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Today, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1 and 13. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to do a clause-by-clause review of Bill 13, followed by Bill 1. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree that we first deal with Bill 13?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik, I think you are ready. I would first like to ask if you have officials that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do, if it's possible. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Do members agree to bring in the minister's officials?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Okalik, for the record, please introduce your officials. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me this afternoon on my right is Colleen Stockley, Deputy Minister, and on my left is Thomas Ahlfors, who is our Legislative Counsel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Stockley and Mr. Ahlfors, welcome to the Chambers. We can now proceed. Minister Okalik, if you have any

opening comments, I now give you the opportunity to make them.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Standing Committee on Legislation to discuss Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*.

The *Vital Statistics Act* enables the collection of key statistics and records of birth, death, and marriage, which are essential for individuals to obtain pieces of identification.

Bill 13 is meant to ensure that Nunavummiut have access to a modern vital statistics system. Among other things, Bill 13 will allow the registrar of vital statistics to digitize records and to maintain an electronic data base instead of depending on paper versions.

The bill codifies numerous court decisions by setting out the process for a person to change their sex designated on his or her birth certificate.

Bill 13 also lays out the duties of the coroner for the issuance of a death registration when a body is not recovered or when it is destroyed or removed from Nunavut.

Additionally, the bill before the committee will ensure that Nunavummiut can add the parental information after the initial registration and that a last name can be changed or corrected following the initial registration.

Those are my opening comments on the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. If the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation has any comments, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will modernize our vital statistics legislation in order that records and statistics collected in Nunavut will meet national standards. Members recognize that many of these amendments are necessary to comply with federal court rulings as well as to allow for the more modern electronic storage of records.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that for every Nunavummiuq born before 1999, even if they were born in the territory that is now Nunavut, their birth records are still held by the Northwest Territories' Vital Statistics Bureau in Inuvik. Other Nunavummiut who were born in other jurisdictions must still apply to those other jurisdictions for their birth certificates.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 13 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. You will have a chance to make comments or ask questions during the clause-by-clause review.

The bills are in your legislation binder. Please refer to Bill 13. We will begin the clause-by-clause review of the bill. I think you all have a copy of Bill 13. We will now deal with the bill. Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 13 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do members agree that Bill 13 can be placed on orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Minister Okalik, we are now done with the bill. If you have any closing remarks, I now give you the floor. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the former minister, Minister Ell, who started this. I thank my colleagues. I appreciate the officials who were here with me. Thank you and have a good day.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. We are now ready to go right into the next item. We will be dealing with Bill 1. Minister Sammurток will be making his opening comments. I would first like to ask Minister Sammurток if he has any witnesses that he would like to bring to the table. Minister Sammurток.

Bill 01 – Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree to bring in the minister's officials?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Sammurток, for the record, please

introduce your witnesses. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Roy Green, and Assistant Deputy Minister Darren Flynn. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Green and Mr. Flynn, welcome to the Chambers. We can now proceed. Minister Sammurток, if you have any opening comments on Bill 1, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to address you today. I appreciate the efforts made by the Standing Committee on Legislation to work with the government to improve the legislation. This legislation will assist municipalities in becoming more self-sufficient, self-reliant, and as a direct result, future municipality sustainability will evolve, therefore fostering the values of *Pijitsirniq* and *Qanuqtuurniq*. I'm sorry, there's a misspelling here.

In consultation with the [Northern] Employee Benefits Services and the Government of the Northwest Territories, we have 10 motions to the legislation. I trust the Committee of the Whole will be pleased with our willingness to concur with the final proposed amendments to the NEBS legislation.

I would also like to take this moment to extend a thank you to our counterparts in the GNWT that have worked with us on

this mirrored legislation as well as the NEBS and GN staff who worked diligently and collaboratively on this bill. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. If the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation has any comments, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please, all the members, just be patient. Ministers are usually long, but this one's going to be longer than his opening comments.

>>Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 1, the proposed *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*.

As members will recall, Bill 1 received second reading on March 20, 2014 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration.

Bill 1 establishes a proposed new legislative framework for the continuation of the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan, which was originally established in 1979 by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

As members will also recall, our counterparts in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories have been

considering Bill 12, which mirrors the provisions of Bill 1.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the situation where two different legislatures in two different jurisdictions are considering essentially the same piece of proposed legislation is quite unique in Canada. The last time that this situation occurred here was in 2007, when both the Nunavut and Northwest Territories legislatures considered a new *Workers' Compensation Act*.

This "mirror legislation" initiative was necessary because of the fact that the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has continued to be shared by the two territories, a decision which has been beneficial for both jurisdictions.

Mr. Chairman, the situation with the NEBS Pension Plan is essentially the same. Employers and workers in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories participate in the plan. This type of plan is referred to as a "multi-employer public sector pension plan." Approximately 115 employers representing approximately 1,700 employees in both territories are currently members of NEBS.

In 1999, NEBS was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation. At that time, the plan was regulated under the federal *Pension Benefits Standards Act*. In 2004, the federal Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions determined that the NEBS Pension Plan no longer qualified for regulation under federal legislation.

Consequently, work has been underway for a number of years between NEBS

and the governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to develop new legislation for both jurisdictions which would establish a clear framework in which the NEBS Pension Plan will operate into the future. The product of this work is the two bills which have been under consideration by both legislatures.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, motions were passed in both legislatures last fall to extend the period of time for the standing committees in both legislatures to consider Bill 1 and Bill 12. As I noted at that time, all stakeholders have agreed throughout this process on the necessity of establishing a clear legislative framework for the NEBS Pension Plan. However, as I also noted at that time, concerns had been raised by a number of northern organizations concerning specific elements contained in the two bills.

The passage of the motions in both legislatures allowed our standing committees to work very closely together in developing a joint package of amendments to Bills 1 and 12 for the consideration of the sponsoring ministers in both governments.

Given the shared nature of the pension plan between two jurisdictions, it is essential that the two bills which emerge from the two legislatures be as harmonized as possible. Mr. Chairman, the cooperation between our legislatures has achieved that goal.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 1, a total of 10 motions were moved to amend the

bill. I am pleased to note that the sponsoring minister formally concurred with each motion.

For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the major amendments to Bill 1, which have also been made to Bill 12 in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Clause 2 of Bill 1 has been amended to explicitly clarify and confirm that the NEBS Pension Plan is to be operated and interpreted as a "defined benefit" plan. This will provide clarity and comfort to plan members.

Clause 7 of Bill 1 has been amended to explicitly preclude the use of governmental agreements to waive statutory requirements. This amendment [enshrines] the principle that administrative mechanisms, such as governmental agreements, should not be used to circumvent requirements or obligations established by legislation.

Clause 12 of Bill 1 has been amended to provide for balanced representation between representatives of employers and representatives of plan members and retired members on the pension committee that is established by the legislation. Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, achieving balance in this legislation has been a paramount goal during our two committees' consideration of Bill 1 and Bill 12.

Clause 15 of Bill 1 has been amended to enshrine the "pension promise" in law by removing the ability to retroactively reduce any earned benefit as a way of dealing with insufficient assets in the

plan. Amendments have also been made to ensure that authority over addressing insufficient assets in the plan is to be vested with the pension committee. I again note that the amendments to clause 12 of Bill 1 have resulted in a balanced membership of the pension committee.

Mr. Chairman, a new provision has been added to Bill 1 to provide for mandatory participation in the NEBS plan on the part of hamlets, housing associations, and housing authorities. As members will recall, the goal of ensuring that our territory's municipal employees enjoy income security in their retirement years has been under discussion since 2009, when the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act* was considered and passed by the previous Assembly.

Clauses 25 and 27 of Bill 1 have been amended to require that the NEBS pension's actuarial valuation reports and pension committee's financial reports are to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the responsible minister. These statutory tabling requirements will ensure that all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public have access to the reports.

Finally, clause 28 of Bill 1 has been amended to ensure that affected members of the NEBS plan receive notification in the event of planned reductions to ancillary and core benefits.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 1 is a stronger, more balanced piece of legislation today than it was when it was first introduced.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay public tribute to the leadership of Chairperson Michael Nadli and Deputy

Chairperson Wendy Bisaro, along with the hard work of their committee colleagues and staff in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. I also wish to thank Minister Tom Sammurtok and Michael Miltenberger for their hard work in sponsoring Bills 1 and 12 and for working cooperatively with both committees to develop amendments to both bills.

I also wish to express the committee's appreciation to the individuals and organizations that made the effort and took the time to make formal submissions to the committees in both legislatures. These include the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the Nunavut Employees Union, and the Northern Territories Federation of Labour.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the members of the NEBS Board of Directors and their staff in this process. The passage of Bills 1 and 12 in both legislatures is an important milestone for this important pension plan that benefits a significant number of residents in both territories.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 1, as amended and reprinted, to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation) We will be dealing with Bill 1. It is in your legislation binder. Please refer to it. Once you all have a copy, we will begin our clause-by-clause review of the bill.

I believe everybody has a copy in front of them. Let us do the clause-by-clause

review. Bill 1, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 16. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 17. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 18. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 19.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 20.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 21.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 22.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 22.1.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 23.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 24.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 25.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 26.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 27.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 28.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 29.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 30.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 31.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 32.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 33.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 34.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 35.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 36.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 37.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 38.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 39.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 40.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 41.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 42.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 43.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 44.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 45.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 46.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 47.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 48.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 49.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 50.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 51.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 52.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 53.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 54.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 55.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 56.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 57.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 58.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 59.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 60.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 61.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 62.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 63.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree to Bill 1 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 1 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are done with Bill 1. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) if you have any closing remarks, I will give you the opportunity now. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my colleagues for fully supporting this.

I also thank the NEBS workers and the CGS staff for working on this. Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I thank the staff for all the hard work they have done on this. This is a good legislation. I think it will provide benefits to our upcoming retirees who are in the municipal fields and housing associations.

I thank the committee for ensuring that this bill has been passed. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurток. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Considering that we have finished our wish list for today and for this sitting, I would like to report progress, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. The motion was unanimously carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) No. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 1 and 13 and would like to report that Bills 1 and 13 are immediately ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

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

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act – Third Reading

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 1, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour.

(interpretation) Thank you.
 (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 13 is ready for assent.

Before we proceed further, Madam Deputy Clerk, can you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Edna Elias

(interpretation): Please be seated. First of all, to all my relatives in Kugluktuk that are expecting me, I say “hello” to them. (interpretation ends) Hello to my family in Kugluktuk and Tuktoyaktok.

I want to say “hi” to a bunch of little boys, some of whom said they were going to watch today. Hi Latten, Hunter, Reid, Nolan, and Payton.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am honoured to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 1, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*;
- Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Corrections Act*;
- Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*;
- Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*;
- Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*;

- Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2014-2015*;
- Bill 16, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016*;
- Bill 17, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2012-2013*;
- Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016*;
- Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*; and
- Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

Excuse me.

As you are all aware, my term of office as Commissioner of this great territory is drawing to an end. May 31, 2010 seems like only a few days ago. Since the day I was sworn in as Nunavut's fourth Commissioner, the support, hospitality, and respect of Nunavummiut has been incredible.

The position of the commissioner is deeply respected by Nunavut's elders, who continue to see the position as that of the representative of the Queen.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Premier Taptuna for the very kind words that he offered earlier today, and I wish to express my appreciation to all Members of this House.

Commissioners play a symbolic role with dual responsibilities: statutory and customary responsibilities, symbolic by acting as a symbol of the territory, supporting the values of its citizens as have been agreed to be governed by.

The Governor General personifies the national and federal interests of all people of Canada while the Commissioner personifies the interest of the people of Nunavut. Overall, the Queen is the figurehead symbolizing the unity of these separate interests.

The Commissioner is a head of state, but not head of government. The Premier holds that title.

Nunavummiut have seen my primary responsibilities televised in the Legislative Assembly through various proceedings: swearing-in of Members of the Legislative Assembly and cabinet members, my readings of the opening addresses, and the ascension of bills, and presenting the Order of Nunavut.

I have also been involved in signing orders, appointments, warrants, and other legal documents in addition to customary responsibilities, such as attending official events.

As Chancellor of the Order of Nunavut, it has been my honour and privilege to preside over the investitures of a number of distinguished Nunavummiut.

There have been several highlights of my tenure as Commissioner. I was privileged to host the Earl and Duchess of Essex, Prince Edward and Princess Sophie, on their working visit to Nunavut's capital. I was also honoured to host Their Excellencies, the Hon.

David Johnston and Ms. Sharon Johnston.

Thank you to my executive assistant at the time, Marie Fortier, for organizing an all-day outing in beautiful weather. The fish didn't bite for Their Excellencies, but they enjoyed a guided nature walk through Sylvia Grinnell Park, sampled country food, and enjoyed good old campfire tea and coffee.

I am also incredibly proud of the work I have done with Women in Action and Steps of Hope for breast cancer research. All proceeds raised have gone to the Alberta Cancer Foundation in support of breast cancer research at the Cross Cancer Institute.

This May, a third group of women will once again brave the elements and test their determination by walking from Hall Beach to Igloolik.

The 2012 Steps of Hope walk from Umingmaktok to Cambridge Bay raised \$92,000. The 2014 walk from Whale Cove to Rankin Inlet raised close to \$90,000. The goal for 2015 is \$100,000.

One of my tasks over the last five years has been to educate Nunavummiut, particularly students in high schools and colleges, about the role and responsibilities of the Nunavut Commissioner.

Throughout my five years of watching proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, I have witnessed a lot of emotion, passion, frustration, and some humour, but above all else, there is respect, dignity, and integrity from all of you. The Members of the Legislative Assembly are doing their duty,

scrutinizing the government's plans, policies, and budgets while bringing the concerns of their constituents forward with passion and drive.

My time as Commissioner would not have been possible without the help and support of many people and organizations. I would like to express gratitude to many Nunavummiut, agencies, and organizations throughout our great territory.

I would like to thank the hamlets for welcoming me into their communities and for sharing the awards ceremonies recognizing and honouring their residents.

I would like to thank the Rangers throughout Nunavut for their willingness to participate in and adding much colour and respect to the ceremonies as well.

I would like to thank the 3019 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps of Rankin Inlet and the 3045 Royal Regiment of Canada Cadet Corps of Arctic Bay for participating as Honour Guards in these award ceremonies and for creating lasting learning opportunities.

I would also like to thank Nunavut's RCMP officers in detachments across this territory for their willingness to perform the role of Aide de Camps for ceremonies and events. Nunavummiut love to see the officers in their ceremonial red serge. Thank you to those officers who helped in presentations like the recent 50th anniversary of the national flag presentations to schools from grade 4 through 6.

I would like to thank the many individuals who have been Aide de Camps for me since 2012:

Adam Chubbs
John Graham
Captain Yanick Ferguson
Captain Raymond Rioux
Constable David Aglukark
Sergeant Yvonne Niego

I want to show particular gratitude to Adam Chubbs, who has since left the territory, for his leadership in developing the orientation program for Aide de Camps for the Office of the Commissioner. These individuals took their honorary role seriously and with the utmost respect for the Office of the Commissioner.

I would like to thank the staff of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for the tremendous assistance provided to my executive assistants and my office.

I would like to thank the interpreters and translators for their commitment, dedication, and respect for the work that they do for the Legislative Assembly. Thank you for bearing with me as I mix dialects and flip back and forth between English and Inuinnaqtun. (interpretation) Thank you very much to you all.

(interpretation ends) I would like to thank Iqalummiut who have been my neighbours for the last five years and shared the land, their language and culture with me.

Lastly, I would like to thank some of the Members of the Assembly who took part and supported Women in Action 2014 by joining the head shave fundraiser,

helping to raise \$31,000 in that event. We look forward to more of you joining the 2015 head shave fundraiser supporting breast cancer research.

These memories as well as memories of visiting the majority of the communities in Nunavut to recognize deserving individuals have been the highlight of my term.

I am very confident that my successor, whoever he or she may be, will be in very good hands as they assume their role in the months to come.

What's next in my life? I'm certainly not retiring. I'm returning home to Kugluktuk to promote Inuinnaqtun language and our culture within the community. I'm committed to keeping Inuinnaqtun alive, thriving, and growing.

>> *Applause*

With that, I would like to conclude by offering reflections on the arrival of spring. A real example today is a nice welcome change in weather, which brings renewed life to life on the land. As one chapter of my journey ends, another begins.

I wish all of you the very best as you work for the betterment of our people and our territory. Thank you so very much for all of your support and good luck as you move forward to help Nunavut prosper and succeed. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day.* (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 26:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 21 – 4(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) I would ask the members to stick around after we adjourn. Thank you.

This House stands adjourned until
Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:35*

