



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 8

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Pages 393 – 424

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Hon. Peter Taptuna
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	393
Ministers' Statements	393
Members' Statements	397
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	400
Oral Questions.....	401
Tabling of Documents	416
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	416
First Reading of Bills	416
Second Reading of Bills.....	417
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	418
Report of the Committee of the Whole	422
Third Reading of Bills.....	422
Orders of the Day	423

A.

Daily References

Thursday, October 29, 2015 393

B.

Ministers' Statements

024 – 4(3): Mental Health Act Review (Okalik)..... 393
025 – 4(3): Southampton Island Caribou (Mike) 394
026 – 4(3): Training in Differentiated Instruction (Quassa)..... 394
027 – 4(3): Update on Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) Meeting (Mike)..... 395
028 – 4(3): Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Development Program (Taptuna) 396

C.

Members' Statements

068 – 4(3): Festival by the Lake (Mikkungwak)..... 397
069 – 4(3): Congratulations to Kivalliq Inuit Association Scholarship Recipients (Savikataaq) 398
070 – 4(3): Waste Drop and Swap (Hickes)..... 398
071 – 4(3): Thankful for Caribou Meat from Greenland (Keyootak) 399
072 – 4(3): The Need for Dialysis Services in Nunavut (Sammurtok, T)..... 399
073 – 4(3): Happy Birthday to Granddaughter (Enook)..... 400

D.

Oral Questions

086 – 4(3): Inclusive Education Review (Angnakak) 401
087 – 4(3): Inuit Training and Employment Initiatives (Shooyook)..... 402
088 – 4(3): EU Seal Ban Exemption (Hickes) 404
089 – 4(3): Cancellation of CARS Agreement with NAV CANADA (Sammurtok)..... 405

090 – 4(3): Feasibility of a University in Nunavut (Savikataaq).....	405
091 – 4(3): Tourism Initiatives (Mikkungwak).....	408
092 – 4(3): Longstanding Vacancies (Enook).....	409
093 – 4(3): Problems with Medical Boarding Home (Keyootak)	411
094 – 4(3): Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Development Program (Joanasie).....	413
095 – 4(3): Income Assistance Review (Hickes)	414

E.

Tabling of Documents

023 – 4(3): Department of Justice’s Response to the Standing Committee: Reviewing the 2015 Auditor General Report on Corrections (Okalik)	416
024 – 4(3): Nunavut Correctional Facilities Strategy, 2012 (Okalik)	416

F.

Bills

Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Notice	416
Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – First Reading	417
Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Second Reading	417
Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – Consideration in Committee	418
Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – Consideration in Committee.....	420
Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – Third Reading	422
Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – Third Reading	423

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Thursday, October 29, 2015****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickers, Mr. David Joanasié, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. 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. Enook, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) welcome to the House.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 024 – 4(3):
Mental Health Act Review**

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to update the Assembly on the steps the Department of Health is taking in the coming weeks to engage Nunavummiut on the *Mental Health Act*.

Mr. Speaker, our Act was inherited from the NWT and dates back to 1988. As part of the *Mental Health Act* review, Department of Health staff will travel across the territory to hear from Nunavummiut on ways to modernize the Act, reflecting Inuit societal values and the unique challenges of addressing mental illness in Nunavut communities.

Public meetings will be held in the communities of Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Iqaluit. Nunavummiut in all communities can offer their guidance through paper questionnaires available at hamlet offices.

Mr. Speaker, we encourage clients and families with mental health experience from all communities to participate, whether it be during the public consultations or paper questionnaires. Responses may also be made by telehealth videoconferencing.

Mr. Speaker, it is of great importance that Nunavummiut contribute to the update of the Act so that it will reflect Inuit societal values and the unique challenges of delivering services across the territory. Our updated *Mental Health Act* will be an important tool for ensuring treatment and healing to our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 025 – 4(3):
Southampton Island Caribou**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be making a statement on Southampton Island caribou.

Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to draw your attention to a recent success of our co-management model for wildlife management. In response to concerns from the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization about low caribou numbers on Southampton Island, in 2012, the GN established a total allowable harvest for the caribou on the island. This total allowable harvest was established with the support of our co-management partners.

In May of this year, we conducted a caribou population survey on Southampton Island. This new survey indicated that the number of caribou on the island had increased by around 40 percent. Thanks to this very positive increase, we have worked with the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization to provide a recommendation to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to increase the total allowable harvest to 1,600 animals.

Mr. Speaker, this demonstrates yet again the effectiveness of our co-management model, which allows us to respond to concerns on the ground and adapt our management regime in response to changing circumstances. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our co-management partners for helping us to

achieve this welcome result for the people and the caribou of Southampton Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 026 – 4(3):
Training in Differentiated
Instruction**

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are committed to providing each and every student with a high-quality education program. Providing support and training to school level staff will help ensure a standardized system that promotes achievement and builds capacity and improves retention among staff.

Mr. Speaker, in response to the 2013 report of the Auditor General, we are working with student support teachers, who are school level instructional leaders, to improve teachers' knowledge and skills in differentiated instruction.

Differentiated instruction means tailoring instruction to meet individual needs. Teachers are able to differentiate content, process, products, or the learning environment. The use of ongoing assessment and flexible grouping makes this a successful approach to instruction.

Mr. Speaker, student support staff from Education headquarters and the regions developed a 24-hour training module that will be delivered over three and a half days this fall to student support teachers at regional conferences in

Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit.

My department is committed to four key priorities to improve education in Nunavut. These priorities are literacy, support for school staff, equity, and standardization across the territory and [accountability] for student achievement.

Mr. Speaker, working with our instructional leaders to improve teacher knowledge and skill in differentiated instruction is a project that helps us move forward with these priorities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 027 – 4(3):
Update on Nunavut Association of
Municipalities (NAM) Meeting**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be providing an update on the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meeting.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities held their annual general meeting in Cambridge Bay October 8 to 10, 2015. Representatives from 20 communities were in attendance.

Several stakeholder groups presented and met with NAM delegates to provide updates on work taking place across the territory and discuss issues important to communities. These stakeholders included:

- (interpretation ends) Polar Knowledge Canada from the Canadian High Arctic Research Centre
- (interpretation) Nunavut Planning Commission
- Canadian North
- NorthwesTel
- Languages Commissioner of Nunavut
- Nunavut Court of Justice
- Department of Economic Development and Transportation, and
- Department of Community and Government Services (CGS)

As Minister for CGS, I would like to thank the NAM members for the opportunity to meet with municipalities again this year. This AGM provides a forum to learn about issues and developments in our municipalities, and also share information about the work we are doing as a department and territorial government.

I would like to congratulate Jeannie Ehaloak, Mayor of Cambridge Bay, on her re-election as President of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and welcome Brian Fleming as NAM's new executive director.

On behalf of CGS and the GN, I look forward to continuing the collaborative partnership we have with NAM to build strong, self-reliant, and sustainable communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister responsible for Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 028 – 4(3):
Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership
Development Program**

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to provide the latest information to my colleagues on the Hivuliqtikhanut leadership development program. This program aims to strengthen Nunavut's public service and provide the necessary tools and skills to become effective future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, our delivery partners, PGF Consultants and Institute on Governance, have extensive experience delivering public sector leadership training nationally and internationally. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has been working closely with our partners on the program design of the supervisor series to ensure it is customized for our government and that Inuit societal values are intertwined throughout the program.

The first module was delivered late last month and covered the history of Nunavut, with guest speaker Mr. John Amagoalik. Seven modules taking place over three days will be delivered every six weeks between September 2015 and June 2016. One of the seven modules will be delivered in a community outside of Iqaluit.

The 24 students from five communities in the supervisors' series are current supervisors or experienced program managers preparing to become supervisors in the immediate future. Seventy-one percent of the participants who form this cohort are beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers, and elders will be involved throughout the program as guest speakers, offering their insights, knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Additionally, I'm excited to say that Dalhousie University will review the entire program to determine if the Hivuliqtikhanut leadership development program meets their requirements towards accreditation.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut recognizes the need for building capacity within our organization. We are committed to supporting and providing training for leadership development for our public servants so that they have the skills to develop policies and programs that respond to the government mandate and meet the needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 068 – 4(3):
Festival by the Lake**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my gratitude and I wrote a letter to all the Members of the Legislative Assembly inviting them to Baker Lake. During the summertime in August 2015, there was a festival by the lake in Baker Lake. Private businesses, the mining companies, the government, and the community's residents all took part in this festival by the lake in Baker Lake.

There were performances and there were a lot of people coming in from the other communities and they showed what there is in the communities. The performances were from Iqaluit, from the *Qanurli* show. The children and families were very happy to see the special visit by *Qanurli*.

Also, for the children, we had Olaf, Anna, Elsa, Super Shamou from Baker Lake, Captain Hook, and Jack Sparrow. Also, there was a performance by Robin Chestnut, who did the juggling performance using torches with fire.

Also, we welcomed elders, Mr. Mark, (interpretation ends) Jerry "The Big Bear" Barrett, (interpretation) and we had a special visitor, Elvis, and from Nunavut, Pangnirtung, Tim Evic did a performance.

There were some family and fun activities also. There was the bouncing castle and face painting.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

As I stated earlier, there were some family fun activities. Government agencies and the community took part. They had a showcase and held the Kivalliq Calm Air Junior Cup. They also had fireworks each evening.

Lastly, I want to speak about our elders. In Baker Lake, we were very pleased. Elders, youth, and children were very pleased to take hot air balloon rides. It arrived in Baker Lake and the elders were very happy to see it because they had never seen one before in their lives. They were even able to take hot air balloon rides. It made them very happy. I even went for a ride and it was very enjoyable. This was a very good experience because we have never experienced that before. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 069 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Kivalliq Inuit
Association Scholarship Recipients**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize three individuals from my community who have recently been awarded Kivalliq Inuit Association scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I had the pleasure to stand before the House and congratulate Melinda Kaviok for receiving a Nunasi Scholarship just last week.

This week, I would like to congratulate:

- Pauline Copland, who has been awarded the President's Scholarship;
- Maria Illungiyok, who has been awarded the Ukkusiksalik Scholarship; and
- April Ollie, who has been awarded the Meadowbank Scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, these scholarships are awarded each year by the Kivalliq Inuit Association to beneficiaries in post-secondary programs who demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to their studies.

Ms. Copland, Ms. Illungiyok, and Ms. Ollie are all enrolled in the third year of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that these women will succeed in their current academic endeavours and move on to professional careers that will serve and benefit the community of Arviat. These individuals are important role models in my community, and I hope that their energy and efforts continue to

inspire their fellow students and residents of Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these women for their success. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 070 – 4(3):
Waste Drop and Swap**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You may recall last week, I put out a notice about a paint drop and swap event scheduled here in Iqaluit.

I would just like to inform the listening audience and members here that the event has been rescheduled to occur this upcoming Saturday, October 31. As this event is being scheduled on Halloween Day, to celebrate, there will be a free BBQ and candy for those arriving in Halloween costumes.

Mr. Speaker, this event is being hosted by the City of Iqaluit to collect residences' household hazardous waste, including paint, batteries, home electronics, and household chemical and cleaning supplies in an effort to divert these materials from their garbage.

Mr. Speaker, the paint drop and swap event offers the opportunity for residents to reuse paint through a free exchange. Residents who have paint can drop it off, and people who want paint can take it home. Any remaining paint at the end of

the event will be taken to the landfill for safe disposal.

I just wanted to inform everyone on the change of date and add a little bit of fun to the event to it with Halloween being the date of it being scheduled on. I'm looking forward to seeing some of the costumes that show up in that event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 071 – 4(3):
Thankful for Caribou Meat from
Greenland**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my gratitude and congratulations. As we are aware, in the Baffin region, there was a caribou moratorium last spring. Around Qikiqtarjuaq, there is no caribou population.

We have a fisheries ship, the Kiviug, in Qikiqtaaluk and Qikiqtarjuaq are part of the co-owners of this vessel. It's also the High Arctic vessel. My colleague yesterday made a Member's Statement that these vessel owners brought caribou meat coming from Greenland because there is no caribou population near Qikiqtarjuaq and there was a moratorium at the time.

Last summer, they brought in caribou meat and each individual household in Qikiqtarjuaq was given caribou meat and they held a feast with the delicious-looking caribou meat coming all the way from Greenland. On behalf of the people

of Qikiqtarjuaq, I would like to thank the vessel owners for bringing the caribou meat to the community.

This was very successful and the community of Qikiqtarjuaq was very happy to get caribou meat coming from across the ocean. I am very pleased and on behalf of the people of Qikiqtarjuaq, I say "thank you" to all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. The Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurток.

**Member's Statement 072 – 4(3): The
Need for Dialysis Services in
Nunavut**

Mr. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the need for dialysis services to be delivered in Nunavut so that Nunavut residents do not have to leave the territory to receive this life-saving medical care.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) there are many individuals in Nunavummiut who have to go for treatment. (interpretation ends) Dialysis is a medical process which purifies the blood when a person's kidneys cannot do so naturally. Currently, it appears that there are no machines in Nunavut which can provide this treatment and those medical clients who need dialysis simply in order to

survive are required to travel away from their homes and stay away for extended periods of time.

When one factors in the cost of travel and accommodation as well as cost of medical care, accessing dialysis treatment at medical facilities outside of Nunavut results in considerable expense to our government. The personal cost to patients is also considerable given the time they are required to spend away from their family, friends, and communities.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I know that it's very expensive to get dialysis and we need trained staff to work in Nunavut if there was to be a dialysis machine. (interpretation ends) However, the Government of Nunavut has made significant investments in recent years to build three regional medical centres. In addition, the Department of Health's business plan clearly states that we need to recruit and train Nunavummiut for health careers within the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is important to invest in our own health care and work towards providing dialysis services in Nunavut, not just for those individuals who are receiving medical care closer to home but for the future health and well-being of our territory overall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions in this regard. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement 073 – 4(3):
Happy Birthday to
Granddaughter**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say "happy birthday" to my grandchild, Kara Grace Taannagulu Ootoova. Have a wonderful birthday today. You're now six years old. Tell your mother and father that your grandfather and grandmother said that you are allowed to have anything you want today. Have a good birthday today, Taannagulu. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I'm sure some people are wondering who all the people are in the gallery. For your information, I would like to welcome, for the very first time, everyone in the gallery.

We have 25 students from the south and 25 from the north, and they're called Global Vision. They are going to be having a meeting called the Arctic Youth Ambassador Caucus. I would like to welcome everyone. There are quite a lot of them here and I do have the names, but I would like to welcome everybody to the House.

At the meeting, they are going to be covering various topics, such as education, healthy foods, and climate change. Those are some of the items that are going to be covered.

(interpretation ends) Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to welcome all our youth from across Canada to our House here.

Global Vision is a national not-for-profit founded by Terry Clifford, who was an educator and a former Member of Parliament. Twenty-five youth leaders from the south and 25 youth leaders from the north are coming together for the first time ever. The Arctic Youth Ambassador Caucus is where they will be discussing issues, such as education, food security, and climate change.

These young leaders are committed to creating positive change while working collaboratively to make a difference in their communities. Let us welcome this whole great group and the instructors. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Thank you very much for coming to our proceedings. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 086 – 4(3): Inclusive Education Review

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, in March, he indicated that a review of inclusive education was underway, although he could not, at the time, tell us when the review would be completed.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on the status of his department's inclusive education review and tell us when we can expect to see the results tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that very important question. Let us remember that it's well underway and it will be completed very soon. I can't give you the date, but I'm looking forward to seeing the final report. I'm just waiting for the report for my review and then afterwards, I'll be tabling it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to seeing that tabled in the House. Mr. Speaker, education is a priority of this government. With our territory historically facing low attendance rates and abysmal graduation rates, many students drop out because they face challenges due to learning disabilities.

Can the minister inform this House whether his department's review of inclusive education has tracked the number of assessments conducted by professionals to determine learning disabilities of Nunavut's students and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. We have looked at the numbers and we have seen what was going to be reviewed. Inclusive education is very important to our department and to date, we will have it proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I'm sure we will be given an update pretty soon.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the number of Nunavut students who are in individual student support plans probably make up a significant percentage of our student population. Given the obvious need for specialized service providers, such as educational psychologists, to diagnose learning disabilities and to provide recommendations for adjustments and supports which can help students succeed, has the department considered hiring such specialists full time and, if so, how many such specialists are currently on staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to be putting together a business case and if there's a need to get additional specialists or support staff, then we will be submitting our request for additional resources. We want to implement the recommendations and I can say that in March 2015, we were almost completing the inclusive education review.

We consulted the parents of the students and the staff in each of the regions. Again, the recommendations will be implemented and it will be up to the Department of Education on whether there will be a need to amend the Acts or legislation and policy. We're going to be working towards that. We're going to proceed with this and we will try and implement the recommendations. As I indicated earlier, because of its importance, we are going to be developing a business case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 087 – 4(3): Inuit Training and Employment Initiatives

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier.

I continue to receive concerns from constituents in the High Arctic regarding Inuit employment in the government.

Last week, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

jointly announced the establishment of the Nunavut Inuit Training Corporation.

Can the Premier indicate what the annual budget for the Nunavut Inuit Training Corporation will be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Quttiktuq for that question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, at this time, we haven't had our inaugural board meeting as of yet. The names of the board members were given to the public through a news release, but at this time, we haven't had our board meeting to determine what type of budget we're going to have on an annual basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Can the Premier indicate how many staff the Nunavut Inuit Training Corporation will have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, we haven't had our meeting yet in terms of how many employees we would have for the Inuit Training Corporation. Minister Quassa will also be involved and there will be five members from the community and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

(interpretation ends) At this point, we haven't had our inaugural board meeting. There is no determination on the number of staff for the corporation at this point. Once the budget is established, we look forward to moving the training programs forward on behalf of Nunavummiut and beneficiaries. Once that is established, we will surely indicate to this House and the public of our plans moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I would like to thank the Premier for his response. Can the Premier indicate how the Nunavut Inuit Training Corporation will coordinate its training programs with those offered by such existing organizations as Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I have indicated, we're looking at how we're going to come out with the strategy on beneficiary training, and we intend to do it the right way. We're going to be working with NTI very closely on how to best deliver training programs for the beneficiaries of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we surely want to increase the employment within the three levels: Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, of course, the Government of Nunavut, and the federal government. The federal

government is going to be our partner on this. At this point, there's work being done by our officials. We have worked out the details of the terms of reference. At this point, once we have a plan moving forward, again, we will be able to share with the public and the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 088 – 4(3): EU Seal Ban Exemption

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going over a Minister's Statement provided to the House by the Minister of Environment a couple of days ago talking about the EU seal hunting ban exemption. In that Minister's Statement, the minister stated that the Government of Nunavut will be able to certify that sealskins were harvested according to the rules of the exemption, and this will allow Nunavut harvesters to once again sell their sealskins and seal skin products in the European market.

My first question, Mr. Speaker: how is that certification process going to be tracked and how is it going to be done? What type of certification [will there be] to distinguish our sealskins from other sealskins? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. This has been a very challenging issue to try and correct, and we want to make sure that

we use our new rights properly along with certification. I would like to especially say that we have no choice but to work closely with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. There are different laws that apply to it and to certify them in Nunavut, we have to follow the regulations properly. We will be working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to make sure this proceeds well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'm trying to get at is: how are our sealskins going to be distinguished from other sealskins that are harvested around the world under different conditions from traditional hunting methods? Is there going to be a serial number? Is there going to be some type of a stamp? That's what I'm looking for. What is going to distinguish our sealskins to allow for them to be certified under this exemption? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the question from my colleague. We have to keep careful track of what we're going to be doing. It's called a fur tracking system and we will be using that with the new permissions that we will have. It's going to be a barcode. That is what has been said so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I guess that leads to my next question. When these sealskin products and sealskins are certified under this exemption, what is the source? Is it going to be the source of the pelt or is it going to be the source of the labour? A number of craftspeople that I know don't always know where the source of the sealskin came from, but those crafts are produced here in Nunavut by many of our great artisans across the territory. Is this exemption just going to be for the pelt itself or is it going to be as a result of labour produced in Nunavut as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, we have to work closely with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on this matter and we have to do it correctly. I agree with you. As to how it will work, we're not quite sure yet, but once I have that information, I'll be able to divulge it to you. Once I have that information, I will be presenting it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet, Mr. Alexander Sammurtoq.

Question 089 – 4(3): Cancellation of CARS Agreement with NAV CANADA

Mr. Sammurtoq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

On March 4, 2015, I asked the minister questions about the government's decision to end its agreement with NAV CANADA for the administration of community aerodrome radio station services.

One of the impacts of this decision was the cancellation of the observer/communicator training course that had been offered at the Kivalliq Campus of Nunavut Arctic College.

Seven months ago, the minister informed the House that her department would be, and I quote, "looking at ways to offer that training in Rankin Inlet."

What has been done since I first raised this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to work with other government departments on this. I'll have to take this as notice and get back to the member at a later date.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The [minister] has taken it as notice. I shall move on to the next member. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Question 090 – 4(3): Feasibility of a University in Nunavut

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the media has recently reported that the Department of Education has issued a \$246,000 contract for a feasibility study for a Nunavut-based university. The department's assistant deputy minister was quoted as saying that this is going to be a "big project." In reviewing the department's business plan for 2015-18 as well as the 2015-18 business plan for Nunavut Arctic College, I could not find any mention of plans to establish a new university in Nunavut.

Can the minister clarify what is the exact purpose of this feasibility study and where the money for this contract is coming from? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. This is an important issue as well. In May 2015, the budget was approved to do a feasibility study for the Nunavut-based university. (interpretation ends) The request for proposals was issued with a closing date of October 2, 2015. Certainly, the work will be beginning in the first week of November.

The feasibility study we're talking about will be covering various issues, for example, whether there exists enough student demand of such an institution; what legal or legislative steps need to be taken by the Government of Nunavut to create a university; what governance and oversight structure would be needed; what types of programming would most effectively meet the needs of Nunavummiut; and what physical and

technological infrastructure would be needed.

With the feasibility study, we will be looking at various issues that we would want to find out first before we move on, on this, for example, again, what ongoing funding would be needed; what additional capacity at the Department of Education would be needed. Those are the areas that the feasibility study will be looking at to look at the possibility of a standalone university in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that the Department of Education faces a number of challenges in producing graduates who have the necessary educational levels and abilities to continue in post-secondary education. There are also ongoing challenges and financial constraints to providing enough post-secondary education and training through Nunavut Arctic College and its cultural institute, Piqqusilirivvik, to fill current needs in Nunavut's labour force.

Can the minister clarify why he feels that this is a good time to look at establishing a university in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. We are all aware, as you stated, we have grade 12

graduates now and if they want to proceed to further education, we need to have a university. It's apparent that we need to have a university in Nunavut. In the world, in the Arctic, we're the only ones left that don't have a university.

Looking at the students who get grade 12, whenever they want to go to university, they have no choice but to go south. They are very far from home communities and they get homesick. Once we have a university in Nunavut, our precious grade 12 graduates will be able to have more options to further their education. Obviously, we have many young people in Nunavut who go south to universities already and many of them come back from university. They would be able to go to university in Nunavut and it's going to really benefit everyone in Nunavut.

We say that in the land claims agreement, there are certain things that we have to follow. It will help us follow the lands claim agreement and all the things that are going to come out of the lands claim agreement, especially Article 23. This will really support that once we have a university in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister there for his explanation. I don't disagree about having a university in Nunavut, but I believe that we have to make sure that we have the number of qualified graduates so that this university can be filled by people of Nunavut. We know that for a university to be sustainable, it

has to have students and lots of students. If there are not enough students in Nunavut, well, they're going to have to come from elsewhere. I believe that we have to work on producing a much higher number of graduates and a much better qualified student in order for this university to be filled by Nunavut.

That being said, I understand that this feasibility study will be done by the end of March. Will the minister commit to tabling the results of this feasibility study in the Legislative Assembly as soon as it's completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier on how a university can be here, it would be a great benefit to the residents of Nunavut and we also know that we already have graduates who qualify for university and this is not something new. Once we have a university, as I stated earlier, this would be an enhancement for people graduating from grade 12.

Presently in our schools, we are still trying to improve the literacy and math skills of our students and we are working very hard on that right now in our schools for them to be prepared once we get a university. I wanted to add that on, that the university is well supported.

Our youth in Nunavut, around 60 percent of the population, not only go to school in Nunavut; they go to other schools outside Nunavut like Nunavut Sivuniksavut and universities are already well prepared. That's the main reason

that a Nunavut university is well supported by Nunavummiut and people outside of Nunavut and they also want to see it.

The feasibility study will be carried out and we're expecting for it to be completed by early spring. I'll be able to table it so that we can explain what is needed in the university and I can present it at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 091 – 4(3): Tourism Initiatives

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

As I am sure all members will agree, Baker Lake's natural beauty is unsurpassed.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, there is significant potential to develop Baker Lake's tourism potential in the areas of ecotourism, hunting, and sport fishing. These provide employment and business opportunities for my constituents.

One of the goals contained in the Government of Nunavut's current tourism strategy is to, and I quote, "provide modular tourism training courses for delivery in communities." Mr. Speaker, this includes training for guides.

Is the minister aware of how many such courses have been offered in Baker Lake over the past five years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Last spring, we were able to approve funding to Nunavut Tourism for them to hire a training coordinator this summer. That person is already well on his way. There will be Guide Level I and Guide Level II training here starting in Iqaluit. Up to March 2016, there will be two other courses. We are not sure which communities they will be delivered in yet in the two other regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know she elaborated in a general fashion, but can the minister describe how her department is currently working with organizations such as Nunavut Arctic College, Kivalliq Partners in Development, and Nunavut Tourism to provide tourism training courses in communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. It is presently being worked on by Nunavut Tourism and they have a lot of members. They are having discussions right now and anybody can contact them or call them with their ideas on what type of training programs they can provide. They say they will welcome any callers.

Right now, some ideas are (interpretation ends) Wilderness First Aid, small vessel operating efficiency, and customer service. (interpretation) Those are the types of courses that are being designed right now. To elaborate on the position, that's being funded by Economic Development and Transportation, but they have applied for funding from CanNor for their operations. They can apply for funding anywhere they want. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for her response. The Government of Nunavut's current tourism strategy, as the minister is aware, indicates that one of the partners in developing this sector of the economy is Parks Canada, which is a federal agency. Will the minister commit to inviting her new federal counterpart to visit Nunavut, including the community of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: And Pond Inlet.

>> *Laughter*

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): I thank the member for his questions. I met with my counterparts last year and in the coming year, we will also be meeting with them in January, but we expect for them to come to Iqaluit in November and that's what we have arranged. We asked them last year whether the ministers can visit here and they have agreed to do so, and I am happy that that can be arranged, but if they want to go anywhere else, they will identify it. When tourists come and visit, they are urged to visit other places and where they want to go will be up to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 092 – 4(3): Longstanding Vacancies

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Finance.

Earlier this year, the Legislative Assembly approved supplementary funding for the construction of new staff housing units. At that time, we were informed that the government would be conducting a review of longstanding vacant positions, which I understand was undertaken by the Department of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on many occasions about how Government of Nunavut staff housing units in my community of Pond Inlet have stood

empty and unused for significant periods of time due to positions in the community remaining vacant.

Can the minister tell us today what actions the government will be taking to address the issue of longstanding vacancies in decentralized communities like Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I'm aware of his concerns. He has been eloquently speaking about it for years. Mr. Speaker, it begins with the departments. The Department of Finance can only process the job action requests when they come forward and it's incumbent upon each department to prepare the necessary paperwork to initiate the competitions.

Usually on staff, they're saying that we can't fill positions because there's no housing. In Mr. Enook's case, there's housing, but we just can't fill the positions. Our department is aware of it and they continue to work with all the government departments to fill vacant positions where housing is available. Usually before the positions are advertised, if they require housing, we've got to ensure that there is housing before they even go to competition.

In the meantime, they will continue to staff positions where possible with qualified casuals or contractors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask it this way. In cases where a department is being unreasonably slow in going out to competition to fill a vacant position, what actions does the Department of Finance take in that case when they are not filling the vacant positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, our staff in the Human Resources Division constantly reviews and monitors departments. We're aware of the vacant positions in Pond Inlet. I got an update yesterday, again, when he was asking some of the ministers questions about vacant positions in his community.

Mr. Speaker, we do follow up with the departments and there are a number of reasons provided. Many reasons are tied to, if you run a competition, eligible people are ruled ineligible because they don't screen into the position for interview. They continue to use casuals where necessary and/or contracts, as I indicated before. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of my constituents are understandably frustrated when they see that perfectly usable units in the community stand empty for significant periods of time for those who are not working for the government are always

short of housing. I do recognize that staff housing units need to be available for such life-and-death positions as nurses, but I believe that we need to think carefully about what to do with the chronically vacant units for government staff.

Let me ask the minister: how is the Department of Finance working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on this issue? Have you had discussions on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Speaker, here in Iqaluit and at the regional levels, there are staff allocation committees that work with all the departments to assign houses to positions that are ranked as a priority. I believe there are positions that are higher priority for employment for housing in all the regions. I think teachers, for example, would be one; doctors and nurses.

I believe that the Department of Finance is working with the housing corporation to review the whole staff allocation process. I just can't give him an update today on exactly what they're looking at, but I will ask my officials to give me an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 093 – 4(3): Problems with Medical Boarding Home

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I brought up a concern from my constituents in regard to the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

There are concerns from my community with the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. To date, the way it is set up is not adequate for people with disabilities. Many patients stay at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home and I was asking questions in regard to this. I know that some of the issues have been resolved.

However, according to the concern that was given to me, their telephone system has no PA system in the kitchen, outside, or in the rooms. Some patients don't even know that there was a family member calling into the boarding home because there is no PA system. Can the minister agree to look into the PA system for the boarding home? 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. I also thank my colleague. The operators of Tammaativvik meet four times a year. They met in August and they were advised of the contract requirements to provide proper services and security. Some of these issues have been resolved and that's what I hear.

Only after we hear about a concern, we can make improvements. If any patients have any concern, they can call 1-855-438-3003 or make a complaint to patientrelations@gov.nu.ca. If they can inform us about those, we can look into them. I will look into that through my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response in regard to the concern. Mr. Speaker, in the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, there needs to be improvement work done. The boarding home is a place where patients just wait. They sit around and there is no activity place. Some patients have to stay at the boarding home for quite some time, waiting to see a doctor.

For the patients staying at the boarding home, there is no activity place for men or women. Some women would recommend that there should be a sewing room or at least an activity room for men. Can the minister commit to planning for such a thing for Tammaativvik so that at least there would be activities for the patients? At least they will have something to do when they have to stay at the boarding home for a long time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The boarding home is run by an independent entity and we have a contract with that entity. The funding does not come from the

Nunavut government; it comes from the federal government, so there is hardly any leeway for us, but we can voice our concerns. I will have my officials look into that to see what can be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his good response and that he would look into it. I expect that something will be done on behalf of my constituents and I believe that my constituents will expect to see something about it.

Can you commit to making sure that this information is provided to the entity? I received that concern from my community and it doesn't just come from my constituency; it also comes from the Baffin region. There are patients who stay at the boarding home that come from other communities in the Baffin region, not just Qikiqtarjuaq. On behalf of Qikiqtaaluk, I'm just making this comment. 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. Yes, we keep monitoring to make sure that they're following the policies. I said that we meet with the operators four times a year and we remind them that they have to follow the contract. We keep advising them that they have to follow the contract, but I urge people to call this phone number that I mentioned earlier.

The only way we can find out about the concerns is when people let us know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 094 – 4(3): Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Development Program

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry that I was not prepared for my oral question, although the Speaker recognized me.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Premier, who is the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, regarding his Minister's Statement today.

(interpretation ends) The [Hivuliqtikhanut] program, the minister announced that there are 24 students enrolled. Can he give us the number of applicants that applied to this program and of that, how many were beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the detailed number of applicants that applied for the program. As I indicated in my Minister's Statement, 71 percent of the participants are beneficiaries and we hope that it will increase in the future. As I indicated, once we do a number of these programs... There are three levels of programs for this and of course, the first one being the emerging leader and I

indicated supervisors and senior managers. Once we get established on this, we hope to increase the number of beneficiaries participating in this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That leads me right into my next question. According to the latest Inuit employment statistics from December 2014, the beneficiary employment rate at the senior management and middle management level are 21 percent and 24 percent respectively, and those are the lowest out of all the different levels. Can I ask why this [Hivuliqtikhanut] program not geared towards beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a public government, we're open to all of our employees within the government. As the member has indicated, there are low numbers of beneficiaries in senior management positions. Hence is that program. We want to increase the percentage and the number of beneficiaries in senior management levels and we intend to do that through this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can I get the minister to commit to the

Nunavut employment targets? As this program is not specified for Inuit, I just used those two different senior management and middle management levels. If they're not targeting leadership programs to Inuit, the number of 24 students... .

Well, there are 24 students and 71 percent of which, if my calculator is correct, is 17 out of the 24 that are beneficiaries, which is still a high number, but those seven positions in this program could have been filled by beneficiaries and we would have had 100 percent. I'm just trying to get some commitment that, perhaps, future programs for leadership in the public sector can be specifically targeted for Inuit the next time around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, as a public government, we're open to training all the government employees for emerging managers, supervisors, and of course, higher senior level supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, I responded to a question earlier asked by the MLA from Quttiktuq on how the Inuit Training Corporation is going to operate. That is strictly for beneficiaries with our partners from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. As the member can recall, last May, when a settlement was reached with the federal government, there was money given to NTI and we're using that to increase the number of beneficiaries working at three different

levels: at the territorial government level, the Nunavut government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the federal government. With that in mind, that is specifically for beneficiaries only.

With this program that we run as a government, it's open for our GN employees to get these upper management, senior levels, and whatnot. As the member has indicated, we target our beneficiaries for these positions also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 095 – 4(3): Income Assistance Review

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister responsible for Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2013-16 business plan from that department, it lists a priority in the 2014-15 section, "To complete the comprehensive review of all government income assistance programs." And then in the 2014-17 business plan, it changed that priority to "Initiate a review of the income assistance programs, daycare subsidies, senior fuel subsidy, senior citizens supplement benefits and others."

Earlier this sitting the minister announced through a Minister's Statement a \$25 a month or a \$300 a year increase in the Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit. I have been requesting an increase in this and other income assistance programs, even requesting numerous times to increase

the minimum wage to one of your colleagues.

When will these reviews actually be completed and recommendations implemented? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his questions regarding the subsidies and when the review is going to be done. Our target is March 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like some clarification. My first question out of that would be: is that all of those programs that fall under income support? I'm sure the minister will respond to that.

The minister also made a recent statement of the stage the social assistance review is in. The minister stated that it's in the community consultation stage. Income support hasn't been increased in some time and there have been numerous consultations, like the poverty roundtable as an example, numerous reports to highlight the cost of living increases in Nunavut. Why is it taking so long to complete the review of income support funding and when can we expect that to be completed as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. It's an ongoing review of the Income Assistance Program. From what I understand, there will be an additional \$20 million included into that budget. The income assistance review will be completed by March 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll disregard my second supplementary question I had prepared from the response from the first one.

With the \$20 million increase in the income support budget, is that going to be spread out across the different programs or is it going to be just the income support component which, from I recall, is around \$40 million right now? That looks like quite a hefty increase that's forthcoming to income support recipients. Maybe if I could just get some clarification from the minister on how that \$20 million increase is going to be broken down across the different programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question. Maybe I didn't come across clearly. We're still at the review stage and looking at the cost of living, we would have to increase it by \$20 million. We don't have the \$20 million. We are also looking at realigning the income assistance program, employment

assistance, and other programs through our department. We had numerous questions about increasing the Income Assistance Program. We're at the \$40 million stage here and we would have to increase it by \$20 million in order to catch up with the cost of living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. (interpretation ends) Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 023 – 4(3):
Department of Justice's Response
to the Standing Committee:
Reviewing the 2015 Auditor
General Report on Corrections**

**Tabled Document 024 – 4(3): Nunavut
Correctional Facilities Strategy,
2012**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents, the review of the 2015 Auditor General's report on corrections in Nunavut, and the other one is to table the *Nunavut Corrections Facilities Strategy 2012*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of

Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

**Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Labour
Standards Act (Minimum Wage) –
Notice**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, November 2, 2015, that Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*, will be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow the first reading of Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 7 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 7 has received first reading.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow the second reading of Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to waive the one-day waiting rule so that Bill 7 can be read today for the second time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill increases the minimum wage in Nunavut to \$13 an hour and allows for future increases in the minimum wage to be prescribed by regulation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion has been carried and Bill 7 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 and Tabled Documents 107 – 4(2) and 149 – 4(2) 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 15:13 and Committee resumed at 15:37*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 and Tabled Documents 107 – 4(2) and 149 – 4(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the clause-by-clause review of Bills 8 and 9. After completing these two bills, we wish to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 8?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes
Amendment Act – Consideration
in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. As we commence with our review, I would like to ask Speaker Qulaut if he has witnesses that he would like to bring to the table. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I would like witnesses here with me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Speaker Qulaut would like to have his officials at the table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Speaker Qulaut, please introduce your official for the record. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): On my right is John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Quirke, to the House. If you have any opening comments on the item that we're dealing with, the floor is yours, Speaker Qulaut. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 8, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act*.

As the House is well aware, one of our most serious responsibilities as elected members is to impose discipline, when necessary, on our colleagues and peers.

Bill 8 amends two existing statutes to provide that a Member of the Legislative Assembly who is formally suspended by way of a vote in the House shall not accrue pensionable service during his or her period of suspension. This is a tough but necessary measure that makes it very clear that there are serious consequences for serious misconduct.

I would also note that similar provisions were recently adopted by the Parliament of Canada in relation to our national legislature's membership.

Bill 8 also amends two existing statutes to provide the Management and Services Board with the authority to approve direct appointments to positions in the offices of two independent officers of the Legislative Assembly. These provisions are consistent with existing provisions in the *Public Service Act* respecting the Executive Council's authority to approve direct appointments to positions in departments of the Government of Nunavut.

Bill 8 also amends the *Official Languages Act* to provide that the term of office for the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut will become five years. This term of office is consistent with those of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Integrity Commissioner, and the representative for children and youth.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Speaker Qulaut. As we proceed, you will be able to ask questions during the clause-by-clause review.

I would like to give anyone an opportunity to make general comments on the opening remarks. If there are no comments, turn to Bill 8 in your white legislative binder.

I'm sure you all have Bill 8 in front of you now. It reads, Bill 8, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 2. Clause 3. Do you agree? Mr. Hicke.

Mr. Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask what the reasoning is behind changing the term of the Official Languages Commissioner from four years to five years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hicke. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question, Mr. Hicke. I would like Mr. Quirke to respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Quirke.

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will give us consistency in dealing with independent officers. The Languages Commissioner's term is four years. The child and youth representative is five years, the Privacy Commissioner is five years, and the Integrity Commissioner is five years. The only exception to this rule is the chief electoral officer, which remains at seven years. We will have consistency amongst the balance of our independent officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to the bill. Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 8 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 8 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Speaker Qulaut, we are done with that bill. If you have closing remarks, I'll give you the opportunity now. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I thank my colleagues very much for approving this bill. I'm sure Bill 8 will be enacted soon. Thank you all.

**Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the
Nunavut Elections Act and the
Plebiscites Act – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will move on to the other bill. Before we move on to the other bill, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out.

Bill 9 is our next order of business. We will proceed with Bill 9. Speaker Qulaut, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I do.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to have the Speaker's witness join him at the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Speaker Qulaut, for the record, please introduce your witness. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The witness is the Legal Counsel from Elections Nunavut, Patrick Orr.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the House, Mr. Orr. We will be dealing with Bill 9. Speaker Qulaut, I would like to give you the opportunity to make your opening comments on the bill. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*.

Bill 9 implements recommendations that were contained in the chief electoral officer's report on the administration of

the fourth territorial general election, which was held in 2013.

As members will recall, I had the honour of appearing before the Committee of Whole in early 2014 to present the first bill to be passed by our current Assembly, which provided for a fixed election date for our territory.

As we approach the midpoint of our term, the amendments before you today will help to ensure that our elections legislation is kept current.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to take a few moments to highlight some of the key features of Bill 9.

Bill 9 provides the Management and Services Board with the authority to approve direct appointments to indeterminate positions in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. These provisions are consistent with existing provisions in the *Public Service Act* respecting the Executive Council's authority to approve direct appointments to positions in departments of the Government of Nunavut.

In addition to a number of housekeeping matters, Bill 9 modernizes our legislation with respect to the sale of alcohol on election day.

As members will recall from the decisions that were announced at our February 2014 Full Caucus Retreat in Kugluktuk, a territory-wide plebiscite will be held next year concerning the sale of municipal lands.

Although our current chief electoral officer's term of office expires next month, Bill 9 contains provisions to

allow the chief electoral officer to hold office until her successor is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. These provisions, which are consistent with those that are presently contained in the *Integrity Act*, will help to ensure continuity in her office with respect to the administration of next year's plebiscite.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. As the Chair, I'm sorry that we couldn't immediately provide copies of Speaker Qulaut's opening comments. Once we are able to do so, you will get a copy of it, perhaps before the end of our meeting.

We will proceed with the bill. Bill 9 is in your white legislation binder. Please refer to the bill.

I believe you all have a copy in front of you. We are on Bill 9. It reads, Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. It's on page 9 in English and it's not written in Inuktitut. Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree to Bill 9 as a

whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 9 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Speaker Qulaut, we are done. If you have any closing remarks, you now have the floor. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank the members and ministers for dealing with Bill 9. We will be expecting the bill to be passed. I would also like to thank my official, Patrick Orr.

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

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to move to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 8 and 9 and would like to report that Bills 8 and 9 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

>> *Laughter*

All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – Third Reading

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member from Cambridge Bay, that Bill 8, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and Bill 8 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – Third Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 9 is ready for assent.

Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 30:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions

12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 3
- Bill 4
- Bill 5
- Bill 6
- Tabled Document 107 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Clerk. A reminder to all members to join me at 6:30 p.m. in our Chamber for the Order of Nunavut Investiture Ceremony.

This House stands adjourned until
Friday, October 30, at 9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:03*

