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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
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Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickers, Mr. David Joanasi, 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. Shooyook, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

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

Prior to our start, I wish to state that my wife and I have been married for 36 years. I wish my wife a very happy anniversary today. Patricia Kanayuk, see you soon.

>>*Applause*

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Mike.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 037 – 4(3): Team Nunavut Headed to 2016 Arctic Winter Games

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Good afternoon, people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut is participating in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games (AWGs) to be held in Nuuk, Greenland from March 6 to 11, 2016 with the hockey events happening here in Iqaluit.

The Arctic Winter Games is the world's largest northern multi-sport and cultural event. Team Nunavut will be sending a contingent of 191 participants that includes athletes, coaches, managers, mission staff, and cultural performers from communities across Nunavut.

Team Nunavut will participate in 11 events at the AWGs, including arctic sports, badminton, basketball, Dene games, hockey, futsal, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling, and cultural events.

Mr. Speaker, these athletes, coaches, and participants will be representing Nunavut on the world stage. They have trained long and hard for the opportunity to participate in a high-level competition like the AWGs. I know we will all feel a sense of great pride when they raise the Nunavut Flag at the opening ceremonies.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our territorial sport organizations, coaches, parents, and volunteers here at home who help to provide our athletes with opportunities

to train and compete. Without them, none of this would be possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 038 – 4(3):
Grants and Contributions
Deadline**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut and the people of Arviat and Whale Cove.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, communities across Nunavut benefit through grants and contributions programs. Culture and Heritage supports local projects in the areas of official languages, arts, culture and heritage, communications, and toponymy. Our department also provides support for community heritage facilities, community libraries, and for student training opportunities in archaeology and in palaeontology.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform Nunavummiut that the Department of Culture and Heritage is now accepting applications for the 2016-17 Grants and Contributions Program. To allow applicants to begin projects early in the new fiscal year, we have adjusted our schedule for the call for proposals and our application deadline. The new deadline for our first call for proposals will be January 31, 2016.

Applications for funding in any of the program areas received after the closing date will be considered if funds are available.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage offers assistance with preparing proposals through its toll-free line, community visits, and grants and contributions administrators based in Iqaluit. The number for the toll-free line is 1-866-934-2035.

I encourage Nunavummiut to take advantage of the support we are able to offer and I wish applicants the best of success with projects funded by our government and by our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 039 – 4(3):
Nunavut's History Society Young
Citizens Award**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow community residents and my colleagues, as well as Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to my fellow members about the recognition several Nunavut students have received for their research and creativity.

Tyrone Pewatoaluk and Nancy Ootoova of Nasivik School in Pond Inlet entered videos in Canada's History Young Citizens Program. They were among 26 students from across Canada to win the Young Citizens Award, presented

annually by Canada's History Society. Jane Singorie, also of Nasivvik School, received an honourable mention.

Mr. Speaker, Tyrone and Nancy travelled to Ottawa on October 13 to participate in the Canada's History Youth Forum and received their awards on October 16.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut students have participated in the Heritage Fairs program since 2003, conducting research on topics of their choice related to history, heritage, and culture and presenting the projects at school fairs.

Mr. Speaker, in the Young Citizens Program, students aged 10 to 15 create and submit a video based on their heritage fairs project to be viewed on a website. Schools are also eligible to apply for funding from this program to purchase cameras and other items required to help make these videos.

Heritage fairs projects help students focus on literacy, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, work with elders, and gain expertise in multimedia technology.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, a Nunavut representative attended the national annual meeting for provincial and territorial heritage fair coordinators on October 17 in Ottawa. This meeting will help us prepare for special opportunities that are expected in 2017 for Canada's 150th birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3.

Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 089 – 4(3): Successful Narwhal Hunt in Arctic Bay

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

I rise today to share in congratulating people. This summer in our area, we were narwhal hunting and I happened to participate with a hunting party, including several women.

One of the women harvested a narwhal, who is quite young but who has two children. She shot that narwhal without any assistance and it happened to have a lengthy tusk. This was a momentous occasion. Another woman, who was also in the hunting party but who was more mature, was also able to shoot a narwhal and harvested it. The tusk was also quite lengthy. I take great pride in witnessing these events. Also, the oldest woman in the group who is my mother's namesake also harvested a narwhal that also had a long tusk.

These women showcased their skills and with the assistance of their husbands, they were able to butcher them. These types of moments fill one with satisfaction, especially since their harvests had such a valuable by-catch. That is how successful hunters can be throughout our world, whether they are male or female. This was quite momentous and I would like to congratulate those individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 090 – 4(3):
Implementation of Article 23 of
the NLCA**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to revisit the goals and aspirations of the Inuit of Nunavut at the time when the Nunavut territory was created as part of negotiating the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, by creating a territorial government with an Inuit majority, the vision was for Inuit to have control over their own affairs. In the preamble of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, one of the objectives stated is to encourage self-reliance and the cultural and social well-being of Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, we had the honour of watching one of the founding members of Inuit land claims movement, Mr. Tagak Curley, C.M., who accepted the Order of Nunavut and dedicated it to the youth of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I understood that Mr. Tagak Curley's message touches upon what I believe is true in that youth want to find jobs in their own communities and youth to have hope.

Mr. Speaker, one of the important obligations for governments, including this government, is Article 23, to increase Inuit participation in

government employment in the Nunavut Settlement Area to a representative level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Article 23.1.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement specifies that a representative level includes the goal that Inuit beneficiaries are employed within all occupational groupings and grade levels.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit employment is a key component to ensuring Inuit are represented in the workforce to influence policy. Inuit employment is also a key component in the overall well-being of Inuit by allowing opportunities to a productive part of society.

Mr. Speaker, even though this is a public government, we have constitutional and moral obligations to ensure we stay focused on the vision of what the Inuit had negotiated. Creating a public government was not supposed to take away the obligations set out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

With that, we must use practical measures to improve the stagnant levels of Inuit employment within the Government of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have

questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 091 – 4(3): Polar Bear Encounter in Coral Harbour

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is a wonderful day to me personally.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share in some good news. I have a maternal cousin in Coral Harbour who is now elderly aged 71 and his wife, Nattuk, is aged 67. The day before yesterday, while on a water fetching trip, they were mauled by a polar bear as it caught them by surprise and they had no firearm. They just had a (interpretation ends) pocket knife (interpretation) on them. Since that was their only means of self-defence, they waved it at the bear to keep it away as it was right on them.

Nonetheless, I am quite ecstatic that neither of them was injured, although the bear was trying to maul them. They were able to escape from the polar bear that caught them by surprise at the water hole when the wife threw her sealskin mitts to the side that distracted the polar bear, giving them an opportunity to enter their vehicle.

That is what I am expressing my happiness about, since both of them are absolutely fine even though they are elderly. They were fortunate that nothing happened to them and I would like to celebrate with my colleagues, his children and their relatives as they are fine, these two residents of Coral

Harbour who were attacked by a polar bear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 092 – 4(3): Kugluktuk Participants of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games

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

Mr. Speaker, Arctic Winter Games are coming very quickly. Last month here in Iqaluit, several young people and coaches from my home community of Kugluktuk were in Iqaluit to compete in the Arctic Winter Games tryouts for table tennis. Communities from across Nunavut were involved in the tryouts and I want to thank all the young people, coaches, coordinators, and parents for participating.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform the House that in every category of our young people competed, Kugluktuk will be sending athletes to the Arctic Winter Games to represent Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in the under 15 category, Kimberley Okheena and Meeka Angohiatok will be joined by under 15 boys from Kugluktuk. With the under 18 category for girls, Julianne Angulalik and Sarah Etoktoq, along with the under 18 boys from Kugluktuk, Dylan Palongayak will represent Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, Daniel Niptanatiak and Markus

Quqaaq will be alternates in their age category.

I would like to ask the House to join me in congratulating these fine young people from Kugluktuk in making the Arctic Winter Games team and I wish them much success and fun during the Arctic Winter Games in 2016.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 093 – 4(3):
Recycling Plastic and Pop Cans**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was raised by my late mother to protect and respect our environment and we are going through that today. I try to follow her teachings.

I do not like to see plastic being thrown away, so I take them with me when I go down south. I tell my younger family members not to throw away plastic because it is recyclable. If any of you travel to Ottawa, there are bins available right at the airport in Ottawa as soon as you get off the plane. I have a habit of taking plastics down south. When I travel, I encourage others who go down south to do the same, as plastics are bad for our environment, so take them with you.

Here in Iqaluit, the francophone daycare gathers recyclables. There are two recycling bins available nearby the francophone school and another by the Baffin Gas Bar. Instead of throwing pop cans away, I encourage my fellow

Iqalumiut to use those recycling bins as the recycled cans raise funds for the daycare. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 094 – 4(3):
Constituents participating at the
2016 Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Netsilik and my colleagues.

There are two fellow residents here, Heidi Kamookak and Naomi Etuluk, and also with them from Kugaaruk is Sabrina Nartok. They will be participating at the 2016 Arctic Winter Games, so I congratulate them for their participation, and to encourage them to have fun at the Games and when they are playing. I am quite proud of them for participating in the Games as women and I congratulate them on their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 095 – 4(3):
Tribute to Elisapee Ishulutak on
Her 90th Birthday**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today regarding a resident of Pangnirtung. Elisapee Ishulutak, C.M., is her name.

She is an artist and just recently last month, she celebrated her 90th birthday. She is well known for her artistry as she creates art, including drawings.

Elisapee was born in 1925 in Kangiqturjuaq and grew up in Iqalulik. In her lifetime, she has experienced different things in her 90 years. She has seen massive changes and experienced them. When Inuit were living their traditional lifestyle, she was born at that time. For that reason, I would like to celebrate with you.

Even though she is 90 years old, she still carves today and she's still working. Since she started living in Pangnirtung, she has carried that tradition, especially her art. She has many pieces of artwork, but some of them are housed at the Uqqurmiut Centre for Arts and Crafts. Some of her pieces are shown in the centre and they are also used in various publications, such as books.

Recently, she completed a wall hanging for the Winnipeg Art Gallery that is seven metres long. She worked on this hanging with several assistants overseen by the gallery staff.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues.

As I stated earlier, many pieces of art she has created are housed in Ottawa at the national facility with several pieces at (interpretation ends) the National Art Gallery.

(interpretation) As well, Elisapee Ishulutak, C.M., was awarded the Order of Canada and she is a member of that order for the reason that she supports cultural programs and through her drawings. She is a good role model that residents can emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to identify that although it is after her birthday, we would like to congratulate her and share our pride in her as the people of Pangnirtung. I urge you to work that hard when you are that age, as she just turned 90 years old, and I would like to celebrate with you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 096 – 4(3):
Double-tusked Narwhal Caught in
Qikiqtarjuaq**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to celebrate with you the hunt of the migrating narwhal in Qikiqtarjuaq. There were many hunters that caught narwhal with tusks, and tusks are in demand.

There was a rare occurrence; I would like to congratulate my in-law who caught a narwhal with two tusks, and those are in high demand. My in-law had

been ill recently and was getting disabled. He told me just before I came here that maybe he will never catch another narwhal because he cannot see the rifle sights anymore. Although that was the case, he caught a narwhal with a double tusk and did it himself.

This is how capable some hunters are. They can harpoon a narwhal without shooting it. My in-law did such a thing; he harpooned it without shooting it and caught a double-tusked narwhal. I wish for you to join me in celebration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. There are no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Mike.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 056 – 4(3): Swimming Pools in Nunavut

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am so used to rising from my chair that I seem so light when I stand.

This is mainly to do with a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Mapsalak on swimming pools in Nunavut.

Question:

On March 10, 2010, the minister of the day tabled the department's *Swimming Pool Access Review*, which provides information on the feasibility and costs

of constructing swimming pools in Nunavut.

Can the minister indicate if his department is currently looking into the possibility of constructing new swimming pools in Nunavut? Did they do a feasibility study on the costs of constructing swimming pools? Is it still in the works with your department?

Response:

The Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) is not currently doing any work on the feasibility of constructing swimming pools in Nunavut.

CGS encourages communities to identify all infrastructure priorities on their integrated community sustainability plans (ICSPs), including requests for swimming pools.

All infrastructure priorities identified by communities on ICSPs will be ranked and prioritized by the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee (NCIAC) using standard ranking criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my relatives. My nephew P.J. Angnakak is here today.

Please welcome him. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the President of Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Pauloosie Akeegok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 117 – 4(3): Country Food Distribution Program

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

In August of 2015, the department's Country Food Distribution Program Policy was updated. This program provides funding for such initiatives as upgrades to community freezers. Can the minister indicate what has changed in the new policy? 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. Thank you for asking this question. The Country Food Distribution Program Policy was amended in August and the amendments were agreed to because not enough money was being used from that program. They changed it so that if there is a request for a community freezer, then the hamlet and the HTO can make the request. There have not been many requests and they can also ask for extra money to do maintenance. Because of the fact that there has been more funding made available under the program, they included the provision that communities can request community freezers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This policy states in part that funds which are provided to municipalities cannot be used to purchase country food from outside the community. I do support the goal of making communities more self-reliant, but I would ask that the minister publicly explain the reason for this aspect of the policy. 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 for that very important question. We do want the people to know. Under the policy, we

have to come to an agreement with other departments and municipalities. We have to work with the Department of Environment on this policy. Because of the fact that there is a lack of caribou in parts of Nunavut, shipping costs of country foods has become a concern in some communities. We are going to be reviewing the policy to make sure that it is set up right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for helping me understand that. Can the minister confirm whether or not municipalities and HTOs in all communities have been informed of the updated Country Food Distribution Program Policy and how they can apply for support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever the hamlets identify concerns about such things, our staff talks to them about those concerns. For example, there was a meeting in March with the poverty reduction workshop and the policy was explained through that process. Whenever we attend meetings like Nunavut Association of Municipalities, we explain policies and other issues to them as well. If you want to give us anything for extra consideration, you can give it to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 118 – 4(3): Removal of Debris from Demolished Infrastructure in Arviat

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to question the Minister of CG&S.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the Member for South Baffin asked the minister when his department would clean up the burned out steel that remains after the recent tragic school fire in Cape Dorset. In the minister's response to Mr. Joanasie, the minister stated that the clean-up would not happen until 2015.

The minister also stated, and I'll quote from the *Hansard* on Friday, October 30, "We will need to bring the equipment up that crushes steel. It would be very good to use that crusher and we will be able to use it next year. That crusher will be arriving next sealift and I know that it would be very useful for the community."

My question is this: can the minister give me some details on the capacity of this crusher? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have mentioned this more than once in the House now regarding the old Cape Dorset school. I have stated that in the year 2016, the clean-up will proceed after the equipment has been brought in

to crush the metal. That's what I have stated in the House and we will see if it's necessary to do that.

If the clean-up proceeds, we just wanted to make sure that the crusher was available because of the need to dismantle the school that burned down in Cape Dorset. We had to look at such things because we needed to plan the clean-up properly and that's what we did. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did ask the minister for the capability of the crusher and I didn't get an answer, but the reason I asked about the capability was right now, Arviat has about 50 years worth of old metal and old vehicles, and it's a really big pile. It's a much bigger pile than the metal and debris from one school. That is why I asked the minister what the capability of this crusher would be because it would be nice if Arviat could get a crusher to deal with its big metal pile. We call it the metal dump. I asked the minister if he could look into bringing a crusher or a shredder into Arviat to deal with their scrap metal. Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually with regard to the concerns held by the Cape Dorset MLA on the plan to complete the work, including meetings with Cape Dorset organizations such as the DEA

and CG&S, the burnt rubble requiring the clean-up is the subject of the planning meetings. This is where that concern was first voiced. The statement just provides for the possibility, especially if it has to be cleaned up next year in Cape Dorset, as it is mostly the metal foundations that are left.

With respect to the question that is currently being raised by my colleague about a new issue related to crushing, it is something we will have to review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did ask the minister about the capabilities of this crusher in view that maybe it will work for Arviat too; if the same crusher will work well. Just for clarity, is the minister stating that he will look into bringing a crusher or shredder into Arviat to deal with the metal waste there? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to the capacity of the crusher or metal presser, I haven't been briefed about the particular details with respect to that equipment and we are looking at that possibility of shipping a crusher to Cape Dorset to clean up the metal debris.

Yes, that is as far as we have gone in terms of planning, but I don't have the details on the capacity or the horsepower

of the crusher. I haven't received that level of detail yet about the equipment.

Further, for the request from Arviat coming from my colleague about that mindset, we can look into that, as I said. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 119 – 4(3): Total Allowable Harvest for Foxe Basin Polar Bears

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question today is for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised the issue of total allowable harvest quotas for the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation on a number of previous occasions.

Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that more female than male polar bears have been coming into the community, sometimes requiring the community to kill the bear in defense. As a result, the community is limited from being able to harvest female polar bears outside of the need for defence.

Will the minister commit to working with local HTOs to determine a method of allocating the total allowable harvest for Foxe Basin polar bears that will allow the community of Naujaat to harvest female bears beyond the need for defence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking that question. With respect to the polar bear TAH and the polar bear management agreement, we use the MOU to make a decision in regard to harvesting female and male polar bears. We follow the polar bear management MOU and that's what we use. For that reason, perhaps my colleague can indicate or make suggestions if he can elaborate further on his question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I'll be asking my first supplementary question in English. (interpretation ends) I note that new regulations to amend the total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation were included in the July 2015 issue of the *Nunavut Gazette*, which indicates that the new total allowable harvest is now only 52 polar bears.

Can the minister indicate if this total allowable harvest includes any parameters of how many male and female bears can be harvested in the Foxe Basin area? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the figures for the total allowable harvest of male or female polar bears. I will have to look into that for the new

decision that was made recently in regard to the Foxe Basin area, so I'll have to get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's evident now that there is an overpopulation of polar bears and the Foxe Basin TAH is only 52. That's very small. We know that there's a high population of polar bears in Foxe Basin. That's why I said that we usually run out of tags when the polar bears are just coming into town.

Can the minister commit to doing a full review with the co-management partners on how they can amend the issue of the TAH for female and male polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his concern. Yes, in Nunavut, polar bear management is up to MOUs and the MOUs stipulate the concerns. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement stipulates that we have to work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, as well as the HTOs and RWOs. We have to work with all of these organizations as well as other wildlife stakeholder groups on this matter. That is also our general practice, and due to that, we are open to any suggestions to improve the management system and it will always be open for further improvement.

I will consult with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to deliberate on our options, as well as alternatives that can be explored to resolve the concern we were informed about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 120 – 4(3): Support for Search and Rescue Organizations

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question today is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is well aware, his department provides funding to search and rescue organizations in Nunavut under its Community Search and Rescue Organization Support Policy and Community Based Search and Rescue Contributions Policy. These policies both include provisions that require search and rescue organizations to prepare proposals that outline organizational goals, objectives, and timelines and complete financial reports.

Mr. Speaker, I note with concern that the versions of these policies that are currently posted on the department's website are expired. Can the minister indicate if these policies have been updated and, if so, when will the updated versions of these policies be made publicly available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his concern. Yes, I will be able to look into when it was updated. The financial reports for search and rescue do follow the policies. Search and rescue organizations are very beneficial to Nunavummiut and we have to fund the search and rescue organizations. I can look into when we can put the updated version on the website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize the importance of accurate financial reporting when allocating public funds to any given organization. Can the minister indicate what assistance, if any, his department provides to local search and rescue organizations in completing proposals or financial reports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, search and rescue is very important in Nunavut. We would like to see these organizations funded. I can only report to you on what was used in the past. Whether it is winter or summer, no matter the mode of transportation, fuel, food, and warm clothing are necessities. Yes, we can pay for all of that because search and rescue is very important to Nunavummiut. We can only proceed with search and rescue

when they're funded. That is how it is set up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has come to my attention that a number of search and rescue organizations may not have the technology or software that is needed to complete these reports and meet the standards set out in the department's policies. Under these circumstances, search and rescue organizations may have to resort to using personal equipment to meet the reporting requirements and receive funding.

Will the minister commit to working with each search and rescue organization to ensure that they have the resources and capacity to meet the reporting requirements that are set out in the department's policies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for his question. Yes, we work closely with the hamlets, particularly regarding their local resources and search and rescue capacity. Yes, I can review this matter to see how it can be managed better in that regard.

Furthermore, the status of some search and rescue organizations are different as some are actual societies with (interpretation ends) society status

(interpretation) while others are under the hamlets. We have to work with the hamlet councils or with all Nunavut hamlets to resolve our challenges and we can work on the member's concern at that time. Indeed, financial reporting and accounting have to be completed and on time. I will ask my officials to look into this matter further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 121 – 4(3):
Telecommunications Services**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People of Pond Inlet, good afternoon, especially to Tyrone, Nancy, and Jane. I am very proud of you. They were the young people who were mentioned in one of the statements.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the House will recall, I have raised the issue of problems with telecommunication services in Pond Inlet on a number of occasions.

In recent weeks, concerns have come to my attention that technical problems have severely impacted the operations of the municipality's offices. It has been occurring for approximately one whole month. It is my understanding that the regional office of the minister's department is aware of these issues.

Can the minister tell me what his department is doing with the Municipality of Pond Inlet to make it

clear to NorthwesTel that the recurring problems with our community's telecommunication services need to be fixed as a matter of urgency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the member's concern, this is the very first time I have heard about this problem and I have never heard the extent of the problem. I will look into that in regard to NorthwesTel's telephone system because the company had stated that they want to do improvement work in the communities. I believe that before I became a minister, NorthwesTel had stated that they wanted to make improvements. I can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister to not just look into it. If you just look into it, it's not going to do any good. Could you instruct your staff to start dealing with NorthwesTel right away? It's a major problem in our community, so we have to make sure that it's fixed as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank

you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the Legislative Assembly sitting of October 22, 2014, I asked questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the need for Northwester to improve its services to Pond Inlet. The response to my question was of the view that the company's plans "don't go far enough." If the company's plans did not go far enough, what is the government's view today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated to the member that I was going to look into it and not just look it, but get some action going. I will make sure that I get all the information from my officials to see what types of plans they have for the communities in Nunavut and where the improvements were going to focus on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 122 – 4(3): Standardizing the Inuktitut Writing System in Nunavut's Education System

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the community of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in April, the minister wrote to all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly about his department's plans to adopt a standardized writing system for Inuktitut in the education system.

I am sure the minister is aware that some Nunavummiut welcome the use of Roman [orthography] writing system while others feel very strongly about maintaining the use of syllabics.

Phase 1 of the minister's implementation plan focused on resource development as well as on communications and consultations.

Can the minister provide an update on the current status of this initiative?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. This is a huge discussion in Nunavut and I'm very glad about that because they're thinking about the writing system that is used in Nunavut.

We have indicated that we had plans to standardize the writing system through the education system using our teachers. The questions that we have brought forward to ensure we have enough resources in the schools are: how much Roman orthography written curriculum and documents are available now, and how capable are the teachers if we were to adopt the Roman orthography writing system? We were looking forward to it

and we knew that there was going to be some opposition.

We are going to be continuing with our consultations over the year 2016. If you remember correctly, we had a meeting in January 2015 with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and they approved the standardized writing system in the education system. They supported the idea and that's what prompted us to some consultations on the usage of Roman orthography.

We have not decided whether we're going to be implementing the usage of Roman orthography or not. The members know that looking at the global picture and looking at Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, within Nunavut, Northern Quebec, Labrador, and NWT, it has been a discussion at some point and there are other stakeholders involved.

To date, there are 17 out of 30 teachers that have responded to our questionnaire, and more schools have responded to the questionnaire and outlined their preferences. Yes, we knew that there was going to be opposition, but I would like to reiterate that we are still going to be consulting for another year on the standardization of Roman orthography. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, there are many Nunavummiut who feel strongly about maintaining the use of syllabics to write in Inuktitut. Can the minister describe what kinds of concerns have been expressed about continuing to teach the use of syllabics and how he proposes to

address those concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I didn't understand your question. I think you were talking about syllabics. We are still using Inuktitut syllabics today. The syllabic ABCs are still in use because we have been using it for a long time. I think I have mentioned that our schools are using the dual writing system. Roman orthography is being used in the west and in the eastern side, we use syllabics. We use a dual writing system in the schools. As I indicated earlier, there has been no change to date; we are using both Roman orthography and syllabics.

Again, there are teachers in the lower grades especially who are opposed to the idea. There is very little Roman orthography written curriculum in the schools, so we have to find out how much more we have to produce in order to have adequate resources. Those were some of the questions that were asked, and that's why they were opposed to standardizing the writing system. They were (interpretation ends) not ready yet (interpretation) for this change. There are not enough resources written in Roman orthography.

These were some of the reasons for people being opposed to this idea in the initiative this department is trying to undertake or research. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. Mr. Speaker, the minister's letter to MLAs indicated that he had contacted NTI regarding the transition to using Roman orthography for written Inuktitut in Nunavut's education system. Has the minister received any response to date on this issue? 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 am very pleased that my colleague asked that question because we did receive a response from Nunavut Tunngavik and we have been shown a motion that was passed which indicated that they will support the system only after they have consulted and reviewed the whole process. That's the letter we have received from NTI. The Inuit Language Authority, again, wrote us a letter and they also sent a copy of a motion they had passed. We have a copy of these two letters. We have support from Nunavut Tunngavik only after a thorough review. That was the indication of the letter we received from NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 123 – 4(3): Cancer in Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that we all know individuals and families whose lives have been affected by cancer. As with many diseases, the early detection of cancer allows for much greater chance of treating it successfully and to give survivors the opportunity to continue to live full and healthy lives.

Can the minister provide an update on what initiatives are undertaken by his department to screen for cancer and to prevent this terrible disease? 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) There are various types of cancers. Unfortunately, we lead the country in a couple of areas. Colorectal cancer is far too high, along with lung cancer, which are much higher than elsewhere. Those are two main causes that we have seen so far. There are other forms of cancer like cervical cancer and breast cancer that are also detected in our territory.

In terms of cervical cancer, we are currently creating screening guidelines and we're having training sessions with our community health workers, and we hope to have that completed soon. We are also currently reviewing our breast cancer screening policy. A colorectal cancer screening program is in development. Unfortunately, for lung cancer, there is no effective form of screening at this time that we know of. Those are some steps that we are doing for cancer and detection of cancer in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that the NWT recently released its first ever cancer strategy. When they went to develop the strategy, the Department of Health and Social Services met with cancer patients to discuss areas of improvement in cancer diagnosis and treatment, from screening to patient support and wanted to find what kinds of information and services are most useful.

Can the minister explain why, here in Nunavut, we don't have a comprehensive cancer strategy and when can we expect one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said in my reply, we are working on various stages of detecting cancer earlier. At the same time, we are reviewing our screening policies to make sure that we have the most effective means of screening for cancer in our territory. Those are progressing and I hope that we can come up with a broad screening and detection strategy for our territory, as we need to have very good effective cancer screening and treatment programs in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I recognized that some forms of cancer are linked to lifestyle choices, but also, a lot of them are 100 percent curable if we can catch them soon enough. There just seems to be so many cases where it's not caught as fast as it should have been. I'm wondering if the minister would commit to doing the same type of thing, to meet with the patients who are going through this terrible thing. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe that we are trying and that we understand that there are far too many cases, unfortunately, in our territory and we need to find better ways of screening for and treating cancer. I hope we can come up with a good policy and strategy in the near future, and I hope that we can move forward and start having a more effective program for cancer patients. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 124 – 4(3): Implementation of Article 23 of the NLCA

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to Premier Taptuna.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier tell us how frequently he, along with any of his cabinet colleagues, has met with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated regarding *Aajiiqatigiinni*, specifically

as it relates to Inuit employment within the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we do have many programs that we try and increase our Inuit employment numbers within the government. We have Inuit employment training programs, plans, and other internships that we talk about.

As members are well aware, we do work closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. In fact, the member has indicated the MOU that we work with. In fact, I did meet with the president a couple of weeks ago on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would now like to ask the Premier if he can explain how the Government of Nunavut ensures that their staff, particularly at the senior management level, is made aware of the constitutionally protected obligations outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement with respect to Article 23. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, as Premier, I expect all the departments,

corporations, and deputy heads to develop and implement Inuit training programs and to develop plans to support them. As members are well aware, in the 2015-18 business plan, those plans have been incorporated into the government's business plan.

Also, we initiated and established an Inuit steering committee which is chaired by a director of Inuit training from Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The membership is all senior managers from all departments and corporations. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the steering committee is to develop hiring policies and other training programs that will be beneficial in increasing Inuit employment within the government pertaining to Article 23. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut likes to say that the Inuit employment rate is at 50 percent. However, if we look closely at the numbers using the Inuit employment statistics from December 2014, there are approximately 1,707 beneficiaries in the workforce out of 4,529 positions. This equals 37 to 38 percent Inuit employment. Is this accurate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. The numbers aren't

accurate. Mr. Speaker, the number of 50 percent has been stalled at that for several years. As members are well aware, the labour force is very small in the territory of Nunavut and there are a lot of Inuit who are employed through the local housing associations and other Inuit organizations that are counted in these employment numbers.

As members are well aware, with these small numbers in the labour workforce, it's very difficult to move above the 50 percent mark, but at this point, we have created and established programs and we have created policy where we can make efforts to increase the Inuit numbers within the government workforce.

In fact, the new Inuit Training Corporation that we established through partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated aims to do that. At this point, we haven't had our inaugural board meeting yet, but once those are established with the help of our partners, not only Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated but the federal government, we will certainly expect these numbers to rise in our workforce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 125 – 4(3): Update on the Action Plan on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut

Mr. Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Family Services.

On March 8, 2011, the Auditor General of Canada provided a report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and it was tabled under Children, Youth, and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut. This report contained 20 recommendations. In the following sitting on June 7, 2011, an action report was tabled dealing with the 20 recommendations from the report. Mr. Speaker, on September 17, 2013, a progress report to the standing committee was tabled.

My question today would be: what is the status of that action plan, and has there been any progress been made on developing an implementation plan and work plan to follow up on it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question about social services. The Office of the (interpretation ends) Auditor General (interpretation) has submitted 20 recommendations that are concise and clear to the Department of Family Services.

From that list, Recommendation No. 35 has been fulfilled. If the Department of Family Services is going to train workers for social work or if they will hire social workers, there are minimum requirements they will have to pass in order to conduct social work without waiting for training to be completed.

For Recommendation No. 23.2, it recommends working with Nunavut Arctic College to design curricula for a

course specific to social workers that is based on Inuit societal values, including IS3, which was completed in February 2015.

Action item No. 23.4 is to carefully monitoring the vacant positions within the Department of Family Services and this work was completed on March 15, 2015. We know which positions in the communities have been filled.

The third item, which is Recommendation No. 50.1, is comprised of two parts. The processing of the cases ranges from 800-812 and 904-912. With respect to Recommendation No. 50.2, which calls for a review and close monitoring of past actions, and to disseminate information that needs to be sent out, it includes review of the annual report and consideration of social services recommended for the Department of Family Services. It was also completed in March.

There were additional recommendations completed in this period; I just mentioned the primary recommendations considered of importance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for updating some of the specific recommendations from the report. What I'm looking for is an overarching response from the government in an updated manner.

Just going further, on March 18, 2014, the Office of the Auditor General provided this Assembly with a follow-up report with six further recommendations.

At that time, the department provided the Quality Protects Action Plan in addition to the earlier action plan.

My questions would be: does the department currently have a process or mechanism in place to track or monitor progress on activities that have been committed to in both of these action plans? When can this Assembly look at getting a formal update on the actions within both of those action plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for requesting more information on the recommendations. We get together and come up with deadlines. There are deadlines for those documents. At the winter session, I can provide an update on which action items have been completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that action plan update could be available even sooner, I'm sure we would appreciate it, but if not, we will look forward to seeing it when it's available.

I would like to touch on one of the parts of the follow-up report that the Office of the Auditor General provided. In the introduction of the follow-up report, the Office of the Auditor General provided some basic statistics on the number of community social worker and supervisor

positions across Nunavut, as well as the number of children in care.

My question would be: are the number of staff and budget allocated to this division adequate to meet the need for child protection services across Nunavut? 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 also thank my colleague for asking that important question. For every community, our goal is to have two social workers locally, which is part of our plans. With respect to the caseload for each worker, as an example, the number of children per caseworker, we are also deliberating on those issues.

With respect to vacancies in the Department of Family Services, we want to have positions filled, but a number of vacancies remain and some communities are understaffed and some don't have a social worker. We're working with human resources in an effort to find many social workers. We want to make sure that we get many social workers working. Looking at the future, our plan is to try to have two social workers for each community. 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. (interpretation) Item 8. (interpretation ends) 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. Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters*

Committee Report 005 – 4(3): Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I gladly rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 annual reports and the 2015-16 business plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The Nunavut Development Corporation's 2013-14 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2014. Its 2014-15 annual report was backdoor tabled on September 22, 2015 pursuant to the provisions of Rule 44(2) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2013-14 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2014.

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 5 – 4(3).

Its 2014-15 annual report was backdoor tabled on September 19, 2015 pursuant to the provisions of Rule 44(2) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

The 2015-16 business plans of both entities were included in the Government of Nunavut's consolidated set of 2015-16 departmental and Crown agency business plans, which were introduced in the Legislative Assembly as part of the 2015-16 main estimates and budget consideration process.

Between the 2010-11 and 2015-16 fiscal years, approximately \$23.0 million of public money was approved by the Legislative Assembly in direct contribution funding for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. These amounts were appropriated through the annual main estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in June of 2015, the standing committee announced its plans to hold televised hearings in the fall of 2015 on the most recent annual reports and business plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The purpose of the televised hearings was to enable members of the standing committee to consider in detail the annual reports and business plans of both arm's-length entities.

Similar televised hearings concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation and Nunavut Tourism were held in September of 2014 and June of 2015 respectively.

The September 24 to 25, 2015 appearances of witnesses from the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. Mr. Speaker, transcripts from the standing committee's hearings are available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the thematic areas that the standing committee has addressed in its report:

- First, the adequacy of the governance frameworks for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.
- The extent to which the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation are successfully fulfilling their statutory mandates. Section 3 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* provides that the corporation's role is to, and I quote, "create employment and income for residents of Nunavut, primarily in small communities." Section 5 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* provides that the corporation's role is to, and I again quote, stimulate "economic development and employment in Nunavut..." The standing committee's recent hearing

enabled members to explore a number of important issues with witnesses from both territorial corporations. These included the extent to which the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is actually able to measure the number of jobs its lending activities create or preserve; the extent to which the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation should diversify its lending activities away from the construction and real estate sectors; the extent to which the Nunavut Development Corporation's current approach to subsidizing jobs is sustainable; and the extent to which the Nunavut Development Corporation should be establishing new subsidiaries in smaller communities.

- The report also contains the adequacy of both territorial corporations' public reporting practices concerning such matters as disclosure of loan recipients.
- Also, the question of whether the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation should remain as separate entities. In 2008, a report was commissioned by the Government of Nunavut on this issue. This report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 12, 2008, recommended that the Government of Nunavut establish a new "Nunavut Enterprise and Investment Corporation" in Rankin Inlet by combining the existing Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation into a single entity. The standing committee's recent hearing

enabled members to explore this issue with witnesses from both territorial corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I would note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Committee Report 006 – 4(3): Bill 7,
An Act to Amend the Labour
Standards Act (Minimum Wage)**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be shorter than my colleague.

I wish to report that Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 7 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 7 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed and Bill 7 will be placed on the order paper for today.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Mike.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 030 – 4(3): Office of the Fire Marshal’s 2014 Annual Report

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today the Office of the Fire Marshal’s 2014 annual report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 031 – 4(3): Nunavut Law Foundation’s Annual Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2013

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Nunavut Law Foundation’s annual report for the

year ending December 31, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Mr. Taptuna.

Tabled Document 032 – 4(3): 2015 Annual Report for the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2015 annual report for the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 033 – 4(3): Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council’s Annual Report for 2014-2015

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council’s annual report for 2014-15.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Tabled Document 034 – 4(3): Annual Report on the Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the Period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 035 – 4(3): Towards a Representative Public Service, Statistics as of March 31, 2015

Tabled Document 036 – 4(3): Towards a Representative Public Service, Statistics as of June 30, 2015

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table Towards a Representative Public Service, Statistics as of March 31, 2015 and as of June 30, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 037 – 4(3): Response Letter from Canadian North to the Deputy Minister of Health regarding the Codeshare Agreement

Tabled Document 038 – 4(3): Response Letter from First Air to the Deputy Minister of Health regarding the Codeshare Agreement

Tabled Document 039 – 4(3): Response Letter from Calm Air to the Deputy Minister of Health regarding the Codeshare Agreement

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to also table the response letters from Canadian North, Calm Air, and First Air to the Deputy Minister of Health regarding the codeshare agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 040 – 4(3): Response Letter from Canadian North Addressed to the Premier Regarding Codeshare

Tabled Document 041 – 4(3): Response Letter from First Air Addressed to the Premier Regarding Codeshare

Tabled Document 042 – 4(3): Response Letter from Calm Air Addressed to the Premier Regarding Codeshare

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the response letters addressed to myself regarding the codeshare agreement from the following airlines: Canadian North,

First Air, and Calm Air. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Hon. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 007 – 4(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 5, 2015, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that when the House concludes its fall 2015 sitting, it shall be adjourned until February 24, 2016.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Motion 008 – 4(3): Referral of Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), and 140 – 4(2) to the Committee of the Whole – Notice

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 5, 2015, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the hon. member from Tununiq, that Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2),

and 140 – 4(2) be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Motion 009 – 4(3): Promoting Green Energy in Nunavut – Notice

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 5, 2015, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that this House formally expresses its strong support for significantly increased efforts to promote and develop renewable sources of green energy in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Hon. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Motion 010 – 4(3): Invitation to Representatives from Northern Airlines to Appear Before the Full Caucus of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – Notice

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 5, 2015, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that representatives from the management and ownership structures of Canadian North, Calm Air, and First Air be invited to appear at a special meeting of the Full Caucus in early 2016 to respond to members' questions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. (interpretation) 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, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and Tabled Documents 107 – 4(2) and 149 – 4(2) with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed further, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:24 and Committee resumed at 15:57

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order.

First of all, Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and

watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your committee.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 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 review the following supplementary appropriation bills along with the supporting budget document: Bills 1, 2, and 6. Following the completion of these three bills, we wish to review Bills 4, 5, and 7. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. As we proceed with our meeting, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he has witnesses that he would like to bring to the table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like my witnesses here. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson would like to have his officials with him at the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your officials that are with you at the witness table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Jeff Chown, Controller General. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. D'Arcy and Mr. Chown, welcome to the chamber. I will now ask the minister to make his opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. I am pleased to appear before you today to present Bill 1, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*.

Bill 1 is for operations and maintenance supplementary appropriations for 2014-15 totalling \$4,621,000. It consists of the following items:

- \$4,336,000 to the Department of Justice to cover cost overruns in Corrections and RCMP during the 2014-15 fiscal year; and
- \$285,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services to bring the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund (PPSF) within its limit of plus or minus \$10 million.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are there any general comments? If not, let us deal with Bill 1. We will start from page 4. I don't have an Inuktitut version, so I will read them in English. If you have any questions, please raise your hand, even when I am reading this, and I'm sure the officials will address your concerns. I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Total Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$376,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): On the same page, (interpretation ends) Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Total Law Enforcement. \$1,100,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): On (interpretation ends) Justice, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple questions on the corrections, on the \$2,860,000. Traditionally, it seems that corrections has been frequently part of the list in overtime and also quite frequently leading that list of the amount of overtime dollars that are needed to provide the services that they do provide.

Recently, there was an RFP that was put out for an organizational review of the Nunavut Corrections Division (staffing, overtime and other) and the closing date

on that was July 31, 2015. My initial question is: has that RFP been given to tender? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for that question. I can't answer that question at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I guess it would be safe to assume the minister wouldn't be able to answer my next question of when that review is anticipated to be completed, but I'll ask it anyway in case he does happen to have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. My understanding of the information I received pertaining to this particular document is that the information, when it is completed, will be discussed some time during the winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're looking at the amount that's being applied for, the \$2.86 million, to address a budget shortfall in compensation and benefits, the corrections staff, according to the RFP, currently has 256 indeterminate staff and

113 casual relief staff. To me, that seems like quite an extraordinary amount of money as far as to address the shortfall, never mind the already compensation and benefits budget line for the division of corrections.

I guess what I would like to see is some type of oversight. What oversight does the Department of Finance provide to not just corrections but also to other departments on use of overtime and tracking of it to identify any issues as early as possible so that it doesn't come to this point where they have to come back for supplementary appropriation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Chairman, there's a monthly overtime report generated by the Department of Finance based on information provided by all departments. The overtime report is broken down by department. Individual deputy ministers receive copies of the overtime report for their department and they're asked to provide explanations for the overtime and solutions to the overtime.

I'm aware of the overtime; I have been pressed on this for three years, so Mr. Hickes' question is not unusual. The RFP, as I understand it, that was put out is an attempt by the Department of Justice to get a handle on the overtime that is paid at the correctional facility. I have discussed with the minister and like myself, he is quite concerned about the overtime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. In the analysis and in your discussions with the Minister of Justice, is it the lack of staffing or positions filled or is it the demand on the services by the staff that are filling the positions? I guess my first question would be: are all positions filled or if not, is this what's leading to all this necessary overtime? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Hickes understands that this RFP is designed to assist the minister and his officials and ourselves to address the overtime and out there to determine if the facilities are properly staffed and make recommendations on how to find solutions to some of the staffing issues out there and schedules.

From what I understand, reading through the RFP, it's quite a comprehensive RFP. Hopefully it will come forward with some good recommendations that the department and ourselves as the Department of Finance can use to alleviate some of the conditions out there, including the stress and the burnout and staffing issues associated with that facility. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just make a comment. I'll look forward to seeing the results of the RFP. I'm sure the Minister of Justice and I

will have some discussions on the timeline associated with the RFP process and when the final report will come due for information purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment, I believe, and I don't think you're waiting for a response. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hickes asked most of the questions I was going to ask. I do want to ask one thing. I'm assuming and perhaps you can just confirm that this amount of \$2.8 million is for all the correctional facilities across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. The answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also have a question on the same subject regarding this money. How many positions are we talking about here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for his question. The information I have before me is there are 216 PYs for corrections as a whole. Of these 216

positions, 153 are filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. At this time, there are 153 employees and there are 216 positions in total. Are you going to be increasing or decreasing the number of positions? Of course, one of them is a new facility that just recently opened in Iqaluit and we went to go see it. Are you going to be increasing the numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. This entire staffing review will help the department determine if they have adequate staffing levels. We anticipate that it will increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. On the same subject, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. With the response that was given to my colleague, Mr. Mikkungwak, it said that there are 216 positions, of which 153 are filled, yet in the RFP, it states that the Corrections Division currently employs approximately 256 indeterminate staff and 113 casual relief staff. My math isn't always perfect, Mr. Chairman, but those numbers don't jive to me. Could I get a clarification? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. I'm looking at a document that the Department of Justice provided me. Unless there's a misunderstanding, the current staffing levels in corrections are what I'm referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. This RFP that was issued just this summer on July 10 states that the Corrections Division currently employs approximately 256 indeterminate staff and 113 casual relief staff. I'm just seeking some clarification on what numbers are accurate. Maybe the minister has got inaccurate information. I would like to get a comment from the minister on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for his question. Mr. Chairman, there could be inconsistency in terms of exactly what staff are in there. There is corrections staff. There could be admin. staff included in that number. I would have to seek assistance from my colleague, the Minister of Justice, if there's further clarification required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) You're seeking clarification from the minister, your colleague, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This isn't the Department of Finance's RFP. If there are inconsistent numbers in there... I have a briefing note from the Department of Justice that has the number I'm using, 216, so I'll have to defer that question to the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, can you respond to that question? Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, there is a high vacancy rate at this time, so a lot of it is casual and that's why there is a lot of overtime or stress leave. A combination of the mix has not been helpful. Hopefully we can staff up the facilities and have more permanent staff with proper training so that there is less stress involved in our facilities. That's part of the strategy of trying to have a more comprehensive human resource, staffed up corrections division. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not trying to belabour this point; I'm just trying to get accurate numbers so that we know what we're approving. I just had a cursory glance again from the RFP that was put out. It's got a number of different correctional centres. I just had a rough look. I get 210 indeterminate employees. With the clarification, within the RFP, can I assume - again Mr. Chairman, you know I don't like to do that - that these are available positions and that the wording

in the RFP that it "currently employs" is incorrect, that it is "currently has available for employment"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. I'm just going to comment and then defer to my colleague, but we do have the RFP in front of us. Yes, it does say 256 and it breaks it down by different facilities across Nunavut and includes administration.

In the document, we have this briefing note. It does clearly say 216 PYs for corrections. We believe it might be a subset of this RFP. I just don't know what the 216 refers to. I will defer that for further clarification to my colleague, the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The question is referred to Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The latest I have is 92 approved positions here in Iqaluit, supervisory and on the floor, in corrections, 46 indeterminate employees at the same level throughout the territory, and 103 casuals and relief employees at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. Mikkungwak, do you have any more questions? Go ahead.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. With the numbers and since the creation of Nunavut, what percentage are aboriginal people who are employed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer that question to the Minister of Justice. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. It is deferred to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Right here at BCC, it's a pretty sad statistic. I don't even have it right now. It changes regularly. We're doing very well in Rankin Inlet. We're at 75 percent in Rankin Inlet and a very high number in Kugluktuk. I'm very encouraged by Rankin Inlet, where they actually have Inuktitut non-beneficiaries working in the facility. That's a wonderful example. In the Makigiarvik, we're hopeful that we will have 50 percent, but it's a very difficult case here in Iqaluit. That's why I'm hoping that we can increase more facility space in Rankin Inlet, where it's far more encouraging than here. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's just a comment. I would like to state

my support. There are graduates every year in Nunavut. I'm sure that they would be available to gain employment in the correctional facility. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. I think it's just a comment and I don't think he's expecting a response. We are on page 4. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Corrections. Total Corrections. \$2,860,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): On page 4. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Total Department. \$4,336,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 5. Turn to page 5. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. I think the Inuktitut has some errors. The Inuktitut and English versions are different. On page 5, it says Justice in Inuktitut. On page 5 of the English, it says Community and Government Services. Please give me a moment.

My apologies. My Inuktitut version was in error, but the correct one is in English. I'll start again. Page 5. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question. From what I understand, the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund has a plus or minus \$10 million. That number is a fairly insignificant amount of money. Just to

clarify in my own head, I am quite familiar with how revolving funds work. With the recent coverage and announcements on the lower fuel prices this year, it is anticipated that the government will have savings overall. I'm sure many Nunavummiut are hoping and anticipating for lower fuel prices this upcoming year.

Is this just an accounting? I realize it's 2014-15 and we're in 2015-16 right now, so the fuel costs are still being totalled. Is this just an accounting thing or is this actually money that needs to be brought into the account and then, potentially, we have the swing going the other way in the next fiscal year from the lower fuel costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Chairman, it is actual money. That's why it is an appropriation. The department needs \$285,000 to bring the account into the \$10 million range, plus or minus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the fuel costs are analyzed for this upcoming fiscal year - I hate using this word - I'm going to assume again that this fund will not be in the negative, that it's potentially into the positive again depending upon how the fuel prices are calculated from the Petroleum Products Division of Community and Government Services, but with the lower costs in this

fiscal year, what is the recovery discussion on this fund with Community and Government Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Chairman, if the petroleum products were to make \$10 million in profit this year, the balance of this fund would be zero. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to page 5. Community and Government Services. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$285,000. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I just have one question. My colleague was talking about gas prices and that. Does the minister know when an announcement might come out for what our gas and oil prices will be for this year? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Chairman, the PPD folks are still analyzing the information. Most of the sealifts have just concluded in the last little while. Until they're ready to provide us with the information, we will have to wait and see if the prices go up or down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to page 5. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously

Authorized. Directorate. Total Department. \$285,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 2. Following the Inuktitut version, 2014-15 Supplementary Appropriation, No. 3. Bill 1. Operations and Maintenance. Supplementary Appropriation. \$4,621,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please refer to the bill in your white legislation binder. We will begin the clause-by-clause review of Bill 1.

I believe you all have the bill in front of you. It reads, Bill 1, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*. 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): Go to the Schedule on page 3, page 2 in English. (interpretation ends) Go to the Schedule on page 2. (interpretation) It reads, Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2015. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation.

\$4,621,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back. 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): Do members agree to Bill 1 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), are we agreed that Bill 1 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

**Bill 02 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2015-
2016 – Consideration in
Committee**

This is concluded. We will move on to Bill 2. The Minister of Finance will still

be at the witness table. Do you wish to have the same officials at the witness table or do you want other officials, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring in Ms. Lori Kimball, the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out of the Chamber. Minister Peterson would like the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation at the table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please escort the official.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, to my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Lori Kimball, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Kimball, welcome to the House. On Bill 2, if you have opening comments, you may now begin. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I am pleased to appear before you today to present Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016*.

Bill 2 is for a supplementary appropriation of \$7,478,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to cover the funding shortfall for 2015-16 for the public housing program due to increases to water and sewage rates in seven communities as well as increased consumption in heating fuel and water.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any general comments? If there are no general comments, we will be dealing with Bill 2. We will start off with page 4. All of Minister Peterson's opening comments are covered in these sheets. Once we get to them, you will be able to ask detailed questions. In Inuktitut and English, they're both page 4. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like, perhaps, the president of the housing [corporation] to tell us out of the water and heating, what's gone up in price? Is it the water or the heating? How are you dealing with this at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$7.4 million can be broken up into three components. The \$2,224,000 is for partial year coverage

of both water and electric. The breakdown of that is \$1.1 million is water and \$1.1 million is power, so it's equal parts. The second component of that number is \$3,866,000. Of that, \$2,785,000 is water and \$1 million is heating fuel. The last component is water rates alone, and that's \$1,388,000. It's a mix of both. Water rates vary by community and they get changed throughout the year by the different communities whereas the power and heating is basically about consumption and one-time change in rates. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a really big number when you're climbing past \$7 million for increases in water and heating. What kind of dialogue have you had with the communities about how you can address this? What's the strategy? What's going to happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to water rates, for all the communities on trucked water, we're actually consuming water per litre per person at a below World Health Organization standard, so we really aren't pushing the aspect of conservation. Instead, we're more

looking at working with our colleagues in terms of the water systems. Is there any way to make that more efficient in terms of producing water at a lower rate? That's a bigger infrastructure question.

In terms of power, that is certainly something that we're looking at how we can address consumption. The current program of 6 cents per kilowatt-hour doesn't provide a tremendous amount of incentive for conservation.

This past year, we had an unusually cold heating season. We believe that's an anomaly in terms of the extra heating costs that we were incurring. Depending on how the weather holds for this year, we're hoping the heating doesn't recur. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. One of my colleagues asked part of this question already, but I would like to ask some more about it. With respect to the people who rent public housing from the housing associations, the question I have is: how are they educated or taught how to conserve fuel and how to keep the house warm? Do you deliver any training or education to your tenants about those things? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Ms. Kimball advises that they have tenant engagement committees, calendars and information

that are distributed to the tenants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As you stated earlier, last year was very cold for all of Nunavut and that's what I heard earlier. In the past years, have the numbers stayed pretty much the same or do the expenditures drop and climb? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. I'm very glad I brought Ms. Kimball to answer all these detailed questions, so I'll defer that question to her. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Overall, we have seen the cost per unit last year rise compared to the prior year where it was over \$26,000 per year per unit for the social housing program. On the overall budget, it's also continuing to rise because we're adding more units. With the investment of the \$100 million from 2013, we're now starting to see those units be completed as well as with the GN's investment in addressing the unit shortfall throughout the territory. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

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

would like to ask another question. Some of these new homes that are built, I know that we have raised it here along with my colleagues that they're facing the strong winds. Does that cause them to be more expensive to heat? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We continue to work with the municipalities in terms of which lots we get allocated as we're going forward with new construction. We're unable to do different designs based on the lots that we're being given. It's very costly to do designs of housing, so we do try to repeat our designs. For instance, our five-plex, we try to repeat that in the different jurisdictions.

We are trying to develop better long-term planning. This year in our annual report, we are publishing the needs information so that communities can give more of a heads-up that we're going to be coming to them looking for land. In the end, the direction that the building faces is really dictated based on the lots that we're given within the community and community's own design in terms of how they lay out the roads and facing directions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on page 4 in English and Inuktitut. It reads, Nunavut Housing

Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$7,478,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 4. Total Department. \$7,478,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 2. 2015-16 Supplementary Appropriation, No. 1, Operations and Maintenance. \$7,478,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to your legislation binder. Turn to Bill 2. I think you have it in front of you now. Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2015-16. 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): Let us refer to page 2 in English and page 3 in Inuktitut. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total

Supplementary Appropriation. \$7,478,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let us go back to page 1. 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): Does the committee agree to Bill 2 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

**Bill 06 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
3, 2015-2016 – Consideration in
Committee**

We are now going to deal with Bill 6. Before we proceed to Bill 6, Minister Peterson, would you like to have different witnesses with you at the witness table for this one? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If you have any opening comments on Bill 6, you may now begin, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. I am pleased to appear before you today to present Bill 6, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016*.

Bill 6 is for a capital supplementary appropriation of \$1 million for the Department of Education. This appropriation is required in 2015-16 for the design cost of the new Cape Dorset school, which is estimated to cost \$34 million in total.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. The opening comments are all contained in the supplementary appropriations. Are there any general comments? There are no general comments. Please go to page 4. It reads, Education. Not Previously

Authorized. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions regarding this \$1 million for the school in Cape Dorset.

We received a document stating that most of the schools covered carry some sort of insurance on them and this document also states that there's a \$10 million deductible on each school. I noticed for the Cape Dorset school that it says there's only \$6 million worth of insurance on it with a \$10 million deductible, so the entire cost of the new school is going to be fronted by the government.

I'm wondering if you can explain why we have such low levels of insurance on the school when we know that the replacement value is like \$34 million, which the minister just stated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Mr. Rumbolt is correct, there is a \$10 million deductible. In that particular situation, that school was a very old school and its value was at \$6 million, as Mr. Rumbolt stated.

The Department of Community and Government Services had hired a consulting firm to go around and estimate the value of government buildings across Nunavut. In that particular case, they didn't take into account the \$17 million and change of upgrades to the school to bring the value up to a higher level. Consequently, when

the school burned down, the deductible was higher than the cost of the school, so now the Government of Nunavut has to pay the entire amount for the school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister just stated that it was probably underinsured because of the age. I got probably 30 examples here of schools that are underinsured and I'll take another school for an example and I'll use my own community. It's the Paatsaali High School that was only built three years ago, so it's fairly new, yet this government only carries \$9 million worth of insurance on it with the replacement value of a little over \$26 million. I'm wondering if the minister can explain why there's such low insurance coverage on this particular school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the disaster in Cape Dorset, the Government of Nunavut has been looking very closely at the insurance levels across Nunavut. As the Department of Finance ourselves, we can only work with the information that we receive for the facilities across Nunavut. We are working now with CGS to address the insurance levels and ensure that the buildings are insured to their current value. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to this document, just about every school in Nunavut is underinsured. With the \$10 million deductible, I'm wondering if the minister can inform us on today what kind of premiums are paid by the government for insurance on the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I believe he's working with the information that we provided from the commitment from the standing committee, but we don't have the answer to the question he just asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 4. It reads, Education. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$1 million. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get clarification. I believe it was back in 2011 that you mentioned, perhaps, there was a renovation done worth \$17 million. Although it was an old building, it was renovated. Did you mention \$17 million worth of renovations? Did I hear you correctly?

(interpretation ends) Did I understand correctly that there was no assessment of the value of the school after the renovations had been done? Was it valued at the old amount of \$6 million before the renovations were complete? Is that how I understood it, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Did he understand correctly? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. If I understand him correctly, it was an old school, it was valued at around \$6 million, but there were the renovations. I just don't have the precise number before me, but the renovations were around \$17 million and perhaps \$17,750,000, I don't know, some number in there. We are still looking at working with CGS to understand why the facility wasn't insured to a higher level.

There were some fires since 1998, one in Cambridge Bay and elsewhere in other communities, which destroyed the schools in those communities. The insurance was so high that the government decided that there had to be a \$10 million deductible. There was a firm that was engaged to go around, I think it was in 2012, to look at all the facilities and give the government an estimate of the replacement value of those facilities.

As to why the renovation wasn't factored into Cape Dorset, we're still investigating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. The government as a whole, whenever there are new renovations being done to any existing facilities, maybe we should do follow-up assessments to look at the value after. If we put in \$17 million into an existing building and the value was

set to be \$6 million, there are two quite different amounts. I'm just trying to get a commitment from the government to look at new and existing renovations that they look at doing a property evaluation from then on.

This \$1 million is for a new design. Is that correct?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for his question and comments. Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut is currently working on many of the suggestions Mr. Joanasie has put forward. CGS has a new program to factor in the insurance costs and the costs of any buildings that are renovated will be factored into the formula. The new buildings will be insured at the replacement cost. That work is already underway.

Just to respond to Mr. Rumbolt's earlier question, there isn't a lot of new information for him. We're suggesting the replacement value for the school in Sanikiluaq is \$26,190,000, so we would be insuring it for that amount.

The \$1 million for this year is for design-build. Rather than put the whole \$3.5 million in this current year and have to carry it over, \$1 million would be used to start the design-build work in this current fiscal year and then there will be additional appropriations in the following fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Peter Pitseolak School was the biggest building before it burnt down in Cape Dorset. Are they going to take a look at the size? I understand there were up to 170 students enrolled in this school. Looking at future growth, the design will spell out exactly how big it will be. I just want some commitment that you are going to take into consideration the size of the community, population growth, and the number of students that are enrolled now in looking forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for his question. I'm going to defer that question to the Minister of Education, who would probably have more accurate information on future projections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The question was deferred to the Minister of Education. Minister Quassa, are you ready to respond to the question? Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, it becomes obvious as we have the data on the numbers of students every year by September 30. Further, it is part of our deliberation since we know the school will be smaller than its predecessor. We are exploring ways to house the Peter Pitseolak School students (interpretation ends) from grades 7 to 12, (interpretation) which is how it was set up. At this time, we are reviewing all the considerations related to this issue, including making it only for the higher

grades and move the junior high grades to the Sam Pudlat School. That was the reason for selecting a slightly smaller school building. That is what we have envisioned for that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Our high schools, do they usually start at grade 8 or grade 7? Is it standard? I think that it's going to be smaller than the old school. If you can clarify if high school starts in grade 7 or grade 8. Where does high school start? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that the question is directed to the Minister of Education, Minister Quassa. I will refer that question to Minister Quassa. If you can respond, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we look at past data such as back in the 2005-06 school year when the Peter Pitseolak School underwent renovations, there were 192 students enrolled for grades 8 to 12. That was the data used as the foundation. Further, as per the member's preamble, it required further renovations.

Back in 2011, there were 237 students enrolled, which was just near capacity. At this time, for the 2014-15 school year starting from grade 7 up to grade 12, 143 students were taking classes. Now, for the 2015-16 year, there were only 135 students enrolled at that school. Due to that reason, the new school will be constructed with a capacity to house 215

students. At the time when the Peter Pitseolak School was still in use... I apologize. There were 192 students initially, but currently in the 2015-16 numbers, we had 135 students. This illustrates that the numbers of students we anticipate enrolling in this school will be lower than past years and it is noticeable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This \$1 million for design has been identified now. Has the department, in collaboration with the community, identified a suitable location for a new school? I understand it's not going to be where the old school was. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Education and his officials have been working very closely with the community. I'll have to defer that question to the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The question has been deferred to the Minister of Education, so if you can answer it. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my ministerial colleague correctly stated, our department is working with Community and Government Services. We are reviewing another location for

the Peter Pitseolak school that will not be reused for this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. When are we going to find out where the location is going to be? Can the minister give us the location? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I think it's pretty obvious that it's directed to the Minister of Education. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also had discussions with the people of Cape Dorset and worked alongside with the hamlet council and the district education authority. They were talking about taking the location of where the health centre was going to be. That is according to what the people of Cape Dorset wanted. We might possibly think about locating it where the health centre would have been. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would just also like to ensure that the Minister of Education... Even though it's going to be a smaller school, I just want to make sure, in the design, it's going to have an option, if necessary, to expand it so that, for example, in ten years from now, we don't need to build a brand-new school; we could add onto it. Are you going to take that into

consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I think I can go directly to the Minister of Education. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The schools that we're going to be building will have the option of being able to be extended some time in the future. We will have it designed so that it will be capable of being expanded, as I'm sure the school population will grow in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I don't think I have any more questions, but I would like to thank the government staff and my colleagues for working very hard on getting another school going. It was a hardship for our community, but we have to look into the future and possibly make some designs that are adaptable to accommodate all the students, teachers, and so on.

I can even say that there was a father of one of the students who said that his child was going to be graduating from grade 12. They can't do that this year, but they will be able to graduate next year. They are hopeful that even though they have no school, they look forward to going ahead with the graduation and all that. Thank you for giving me the opportunity, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that was just a comment and he doesn't expect a response because he

didn't ask a question. Thank you, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I originally didn't have any questions under this category, but in one of the responses to my colleague, Mr. Rumbolt, the minister stated that they didn't have the information on the premiums on the insurance policy of this nature with them. Which department is responsible for insurance premiums on GN assets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just prior to responding to Mr. Hickes' question, I would just like to thank Mr. Joanasie for his thanks to the government employees and the minister and the Minister of CGS. Their staff worked very hard to address that issue. It was a real tragedy. In Cambridge Bay, we had a similar tragedy in 1998 and it really disrupted our community and our high school students. It's very reassuring and a good feeling to see government officials and MLAs working together to help a community and their children.

The response with respect to Mr. Hickes' question, the Department of Finance is responsible for insurance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall correctly, I believe this question was asked previously. The entire insurance cost to the Government of Nunavut for its assets of this nature is

approximately \$2 million a year. When I look at the document that Mr. Rumbolt was referencing and he brought up some examples of under-insured amounts, but I look at one as an example. There's a daycare/dormitory building in Rankin Inlet. The replacement value is \$770,000 and it's got a \$10 million deductible on it. I think I want to be your insurance agent.

I just don't understand the logic of how this policy is designed to benefit the Government of Nunavut in a replacement fashion for its assets. More than half the schools, as an example, are under the \$10 million value and almost all of them have very little residual value after the \$10 million deductible is put into place. I understand it's a comprehensive policy that covers a number of different asset lines and different categories and different deductibles, but to me, the school component of what we're looking at today seems really out of whack. I know the minister did say that he's looking at a review of the insurance methodology that's being currently utilized.

Maybe the minister can just explain a little bit. Going back to the Iqaluit high school, we all know there have been a number of renovations that have been done on that building over the last five years. The replacement value is almost \$74 million, yet the current replacement value on this document is under \$18 million. The minister has stated that they're doing a review of these assets. I guess my question would be: when can we expect to see updated numbers on these government assets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Hickes for his question and comments. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately we didn't bring our scheduled insurance premiums today. We could have responded more accurately with some information. As I said, the review is underway. When we get that information, I'm sure we will be able to provide it to Mr. Hickes and his colleagues so that we can have a more informative discussion about insurance and the coverage for our assets across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We're on the issue of insurance premiums and it seems that most of the communities have one school. In my community of Baker Lake, we have two schools. My question is: are they insured the same? Are the elementary school and high school insured for the same amount because they're approximately the same size? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge, they are insured the same. I have to comment there. It's the insurer that slapped the \$10 million deductible on our insurance policy for schools. I think three or four of them burned down a few years apart. They just said,

“We’ve got to put a \$10 million deductible on your policy concerning schools.” It wasn’t something we suggested. It was something the insurer imposed on us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister correct that, for example, in Baker Lake, seeing that there are two schools within our community, it’s covered by a blanket insurance policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before you respond, I would like to remind everyone that we are looking at the new school project for Cape Dorset. Please keep to that line. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Thank you for reminding us on what we’re talking about.

Mr. Chairman, I didn’t anticipate getting into a full discussion on insurance today, being it’s an O&M type item. Mr. D’Arcy may be able to provide some information about how the insurance works concerning schools and it will address Mr. Mikkungwak’s concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are you prepared to answer the question, Mr. D’Arcy?

Mr. D’Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it’s fairly obvious that we can only insure what we have. We can’t

insure what we want to have in the future. The insurance is based on what that school, what that asset looks like at this point in time, when it was built, and what its replacement value is and its square footage. We understand that that’s difficult right now. We came across this in the Cape Dorset school.

What we’re doing in the interim is we’re taking the square footage of all the schools, so the two in Baker Lake, we’re going to multiply that by the average build cost in 2015, which is around \$10,000 a square metre. In the very large spreadsheet that was provided to members, you can see that there is a column that has that new amount in there. We want to move forward with that in the interim.

Meanwhile, we’re working with Community and Government Services to get new assessed values for all of the assets and we will adjust them accordingly when we get them done. In the interim, although we might end up being over-insured a little bit, we think that’s better to apply just a blanket \$10,000 a square metre to the current size of the asset. If you have to change that asset and it’s going to be half again as much, then it’s obviously going to cost more money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I read my documents, and when I consulted with my colleague, this Cape Dorset school, I believe, is a common design and they have taken that design aspect from another community. When you look at the insurance for any

upcoming schools in communities, with a common design approach, will the insurance value be equal or will it vary by community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my last question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Just to clarify, the new school in Cape Dorset won't be a common design. It's a design-build, so it will be a new design. The insurance on the facility will be the cost of the asset. If it's \$50 million or \$40 million or \$34 million, it will determine the cost of the insurance, not the design itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page 4. It reads, Education. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$1 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 2. 2015-16 Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3. Schedule 1. Capital. \$1 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please refer to your legislation binder. Bill 6. I think you have your copy. It reads, Bill 6, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016*. 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): Please go to page 2 in English and page 3 in Inuktitut. It reads, Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$1 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 1. 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): Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 6 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do members

agree that Bill 6 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This is completed. I can just carry on.

Bill 04 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2014-2015 – Consideration in Committee

Thank you. We will carry on. We will deal with Bill 4. I'll ask Minister Peterson, when we're dealing with Bill 4, if he wants different officials at the witness table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will keep the two officials I have with me at the table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can deal with this right away. I will give you a chance to make your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2014-2015*. Bill 4 is for the write-off of government assets for 2014-15 totalling \$542,526.86. The total write-off relates to six of Nunavut Housing Corporation's public housing units valued at \$542,526.86 that were damaged by fire.

Mr. Chairman, these public housing assets are still in the public housing inventory. This bill writes down or reduces the value of each unit. By doing this, the government ensures that we do not overstate the value of our assets and provides a more realistic picture of those

assets on the books of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and, ultimately, in our public accounts.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? 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 4, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2014-2015*.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members had a detailed and productive dialogue with the minister concerning a number of matters, including the methodology by which the Nunavut Housing Corporation calculates write-downs of fire damaged units and the criteria that are used to determine whether or not a fire damaged unit remains inhabitable. Members also raised questions relating to the disposition of government owned buildings that have been condemned or otherwise rendered unusable due to contamination or other factors.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 4 to all of its members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any general comments on the opening comments? If there are no

general comments, we will now be dealing with Bill 4. Please refer to the bill in your legislation binder. Bill 4. I think you have a copy of it in front of you. We will now deal with the bill. It reads, Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2014-2015*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Schedule on page 2. It reads, Assets Written Off. Total. \$542,526.86. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 4 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 4 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That bill is concluded. Thank you. Members, we will take a five-minute break.

I'm sorry. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Thank you. We will return in five minutes.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:34 and resumed at 17:49*

Bill 05 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We will proceed with Bill 5. Minister Peterson will be at the witness table. I would like to ask him: while we're dealing with Bill 5, would you like to have any of your officials at the witness table? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have two witnesses that I would like to bring in. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The minister would like to bring in witnesses. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Lisa Clarke. She is the regional superintendent for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission that is based here in Iqaluit. To my right is Judy Kainz. She is the director of prevention. She is based in Yellowknife, but travels between the two territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Kainz and Ms. Clarke, welcome to the House. We can proceed with Bill 5. Minister Peterson, if you have any opening comments, the floor is yours. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the*

Safety Act, proposes several amendments to the *Safety Act*.

The reasons for the amendments set out in Bill 5 are:

1. New Occupational Health and Safety Regulations have been developed jointly by the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for recommendation to the Commissioner, but there is not enough authority in the *Safety Act* for a small portion of the proposed new regulations; and
2. This is an addition to what was in the previous bill, Canada has enacted new Workplace Hazardous Material Information System legislation (WHMIS) and amendments to the *Safety Act* are needed to enable harmonization with the federal legislation.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed amendments to the *Safety Act* will clarify the requirement for and roles and responsibilities of occupational health and safety committees and representatives, and authorize the related regulatory provisions. Specifically, the proposed amendments will:

1. rename “Joint Work Health and Safety Committee” to “Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee”;
2. define “occupational health and safety representative”;
3. require every employer at a work site and in accordance with the regulations to establish a joint occupational health and safety committee or designate an

occupational health and safety representative at small work sites;

4. set out the duties of a joint occupational health and safety committee and occupational health and safety representative;
5. require an employer to ensure that a worker who is required to do anything under the Act or regulations, including as a member of a joint occupational health and safety committee or occupational health and safety representative, has that time credited as time at work and will not lose any pay or benefits as a result of that activity;
6. clarify the regulatory-making authority necessary to authorize the proposed regulations concerned with joint occupational health and safety committees and representatives;
7. provide enabling legislation to harmonize WHMIS provisions with the new federal WHMIS legislation; and
8. repeal section 5 of *An Act to Amend the Safety Act*, S.N.W.T. 2003, c. 25, because the requirement for work site safety programs is covered in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.

No consultation has been undertaken with respect to this specific bill. However, during the course of the development of the proposed new Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, extensive stakeholder and public consultations were undertaken with respect to what forms the contents of this bill.

During the period September 2010 to March 2011, representatives of industry, labour, and the public in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were engaged in consultations aimed at reforming Occupational Health and Safety Regulations that apply to workplaces other than mines and some aspects of oil and gas operations. The overall objective was to improve the regulatory environment for occupational health and safety in ways that best meet the needs of stakeholders and the public in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories passed similar amendments to the Northwest Territories' *Safety Act* in early October of this year.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Safety Act*.

The standing committee has no objections to the purpose of Bill 5, which was described in detail by the minister in his opening comments.

As members are aware, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is shared between the governments of

Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. A number of statutes are administered by WSCC in both territories. These include the *Safety Act*, the *Workers' Compensation Act*, and the *Mine Health and Safety Act*.

One of the consequences of this ongoing relationship is the need to coordinate legislative initiatives in both jurisdictions. Last month, Bill 65, a piece of mirror legislation to Bill 5, was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories prior to that assembly's dissolution. This bill had been introduced in the NWT's legislature in June of this year.

Testimony provided to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole by the chief executive officer of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission indicated that WSCC plans to undertake a rewrite of the *Safety Act*.

As members will recall, extensive consultations took place between standing committees of our two legislatures during our recent consideration of the proposed new *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*. These consultations led to the development and passage of a significant number of amendments to the bills.

In the event that a substantially new *Safety Act* is developed by WSCC for introduction in both legislatures, it will be important for the appropriate standing committees in both legislatures to coordinate their consideration of their respective bills.

In March of this year, detailed new occupational health and safety regulations under the *Safety Act* were approved and published in the Northwest Territories. It is the standing committee's understanding that a parallel set of regulations for Nunavut will be approved by cabinet and subsequently published in Part II of the *Nunavut Gazette* following the passage of Bill 5.

The standing committee notes that WSCC has recently published new *Codes of Practice* for the establishment and operation of joint occupational health and safety committees. The standing committee encourages WSCC to make efforts to ensure that these materials are available in the Inuit language for employers and workers in Nunavut communities.

The standing committee also notes that Bill 5 provides that "every employer shall implement and maintain an occupational health and safety program for a work site as required by the regulations." The standing committee looks forward to future annual reports of WSCC accounting in detail for such matters as its enforcement of this requirement in Nunavut's 25 communities and its initiatives to assist small businesses in Nunavut in complying with new regulatory requirements. This information will be of use to Members of the Legislative Assembly and the general public in evaluating the extent to which the regulatory requirements are administratively reasonable and financially affordable for small businesses.

The standing committee also notes that Bill 5 contains provisions related to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The standing committee recognizes the role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in identifying any specific concerns that her office may have with these provisions in her future annual reports to the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee also notes that although the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission tabled its 2014 annual report in the Legislative Assembly on October 28, 2015, WSCC's 2011 annual report has not yet been formally tabled in the House despite its having been available on WSCC's website for a number of years.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 5, members took the opportunity to also raise a number of general concerns regarding workplace safety in Nunavut, including such matters as mould in government facilities and language use at work sites.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 5 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Are there any general comments on the opening comments? If there are no general comments, let us move on to the bill. I'm sure you all have a copy of it. It's in your white legislation binder. Bill 5. You all have a

copy of it. It reads, Bill 5. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question about... I know the department did some public consultations in regard to the regulations of this proposed bill. I'm wondering if you can tell us who you went to for the public consultations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Ms. Kainz to my right will answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kainz.

Ms. Kainz: The consultation was held over a period of several months and it was a written consultation, so people from across both territories, across Canada, submitted. We received 75 written submissions that totalled about 775 comments and recommendations that were all reviewed extensively by the advisory committee. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you please tell us who is on the advisory committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kainz will answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kainz.

Ms. Kainz: Thank you. The advisory committee was made up of representatives from Nunavut and NWT. The Nunavut ones were Clarence [Synard] from Nunavut Construction; Imo [Adla], who is the Occupation Health and Safety Manager for the GN; and also on the NWT side, Stephen Moss, who is the Fire Marshal, Office of the Fire Marshal; Sonja Boucher, who is a nurse at Stanton Hospital; and [Mary Lou Cherwaty], who was the federation of labour president. There was one more from Nunavut and I'm sorry I have forgotten the name. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the submissions, how many would you say as a percentage were from small businesses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kainz advises that we don't have an exact number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going forward with the bill, how do you envision providing support

to small businesses so that they do comply with the Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for her very important question. I'll ask Ms. Kainz to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kainz.

Ms. Kainz: WSCC has several small business initiatives and there are several templates that small businesses can use that are available on our website. As well as in 2016, we have a rollout that is directly for small businesses with tools for them to start with developing or to enhance their OH&S program. Our safety officers are out there as well and when they're doing inspections in locations, part of what they're doing is education for small business, for any employers, really; small businesses to understand compliance with the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While you were speaking, I was thinking about like a business in Qikiqtarjuaq where a unilingual person owns that business, they own a hotel and that. How would you meet his needs when it comes to providing support to be in compliance with this Act? He's not going on the website. Unless you have people who speak Inuktitut, which I'm assuming that you would... . Maybe you

can explain a little bit to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. That's a very important question as well. Ms. Kainz will respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kainz.

Ms. Kainz: Thank you. Our officers go out and do inspections. In that case, when we're in the community, if they're asking us, we're always open for it. If they make requests into our office here in Iqaluit, we work with them. We do provide language translations. In one of the comments, it talked about our codes of practice being available in Inuktitut and they are away actually being translated now. I don't have a specific timeframe for them, but I know that they are in the process. All of our literature is available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering: how many officers do you have that would help monitor compliance of this bill? I guess my second question would be: if a business didn't know about these regulations or that they had to comply with this, how do you reach those people who may not know about it? Maybe there is a language barrier. I don't know. That's two questions, sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I believe we have four employees who do a lot of travel to the different communities. On the specific details of how we reach them and work with the employer, I will ask Ms. Kainz to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kainz.

Ms. Kainz: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have four officers based here in Iqaluit, but all the officers are appointed for both territories. We travel back and forth as needed. If we need more here, we move where the need is.

Also, the rollout plan that we have with the new legislation, we have a communication plan in place to make sure that we're trying to get it in the hands of as many employers and workers as we can across the territory through community advertising and presentations. We're planning on travelling to the communities to do presentations. We have a whole plan in place to get that message out as quickly and as best we can to everybody in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if you can tell me how many of your officers speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Ms. Kainz informs me that none of them speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would assume that it would be a pretty big challenge. I guess you would have to work through interpreters all the time. What are your plans to change that so that you can have workers who can actually speak with their clients directly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Ms. Kainz will respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kainz.

Ms. Kainz: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is something that we're always striving for every time we go out for recruitment. That's one that we're always striving for. The other thing that we have developed is what we call a junior safety officer program, where we're training and mentoring people that are from the north that will be able to fit into the safety officer role. That is going into its second year of a two-year program right now.

When we went out for recruitment of that position, the candidates are Yellowknife-based currently. When we go out next June, it is offered to both territories. The successful candidates

came from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I'm a little concerned about that. When we talk about an Act and compliance, these kinds of things are very important, yet we still have a language barrier today. I do know how hard it is get the proper people to be employed, but I think the sooner you really put a lot of effort into this and maybe you can get some help at the community level to find somebody from the communities that could do the job. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. I don't think you're expecting any response for that, so I'll move on. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions. In your opening comments, you have a joint occupational health and safety committee. This Act is for all employers and workers in small communities. In small communities, we have hamlet offices and housing associations that have employees. They also have hamlet councillors and board members. Would these board members and councillors be considered as an occupational health and safety committee? That's my question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. If I understand him correctly,

he's asking if politicians would be members of a joint occupational health and safety committee. I believe it would be the employer and employees, the employer being, perhaps, the senior administrative officer and other officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If the minister didn't quite understand it, maybe you can rephrase it, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You say that board members and hamlet councillors are politicians, but they are also on the board to look after the safety of the workers in workplaces as in hamlets and housing associations. I'm just asking if they would be considered as a safety committee, if they would make rules to the foremen, if there are any safety issues, which is what I'm getting at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for clarifying. The board members could be considered members of a committee, but the committee itself has to be 50-50, so it wouldn't be 100 percent board members. You have to have employees and employers on the committee, you know, equal representation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying it. Would you then go into the communities to train these safety committee members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. My understanding is that the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission doesn't provide training specifically, but when the safety officers are travelling, they would provide assistance to the committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one more question. How many times would the safety officer go into the small communities as far away as the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for his question. I don't have the details of how often safety officers are going to the communities, but Ms. Kainz could perhaps provide a little bit of information in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kainz.

Ms. Kainz: As I mentioned, we have four officers and we travel as required and we have a travel schedule, so we may not hit all the communities every year, but every other year. If there's a need, we go more often to go into the communities. I can't give you an exact number of how many times we would go into a community, but we try to cover all

of the communities over a period of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my colleague, Ms. Angnakak, was going to that area. You don't commit to it every year, but you miss some years and maybe you miss four years. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question and I don't think you expect a response. Moving on. We're on Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Safety 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): Do members agree to Bill 5 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do members agree that Bill 5 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you and thank the committee members for your good questions and many questions during our committee meeting upstairs.

I would like to thank Ms. Clarke and Ms. Kainz for being here with me today.

I would also like to recognize, over in the gallery, Burt Hausauer. He's a chief safety officer for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. He's based in Yellowknife. His first day on the job as the chief safety officer was yesterday, so this is very timely for him to be here to hear your good questions and get passage of this bill.

I would like to also take an opportunity to thank all our Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission folks who work across Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. I have met many of them. They are a hardworking group.

I would also like to recognize our two Nunavut workers, governance members Bob Gabuna and Janet Brewster, who do a lot of long work at the governance level, bringing our issues forward to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

I would like to thank my colleagues again for being here today with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome to the gallery and congratulations.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Minister Peterson, if you could stay at the witness table. (interpretation ends) I have a comment to make, if you can stay at the witness table.

(interpretation) Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Minister Peterson, I would like to thank you for the bills. Before you leave, I would like to remind you that it's not new. Most of the time when bills come out, the Inuktitut has many errors. I can overlook that if they were just a few typographical errors, but I can use an example of the previous bill that was in English. It said one thing and the Inuktitut said another thing. It is embarrassing for yourself and your

department and me, as the Chair of Committee of the Whole.

I would like to remind you, Minister Peterson, to make sure that the Inuktitut is proper and make sure that they're perfect so we can proceed properly and that everyone understands the same thing and have the same information in front of them. Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I apologize for the inconsistencies and I will talk with my officials about your concerns and I hope that we can correct them as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now proceed. We still have items to deal with. Let me ask the Minister of Justice, Minister Okalik, if he can go to the witness table.

Thank you. Let me first apologize. I think I said it the wrong way in Inuktitut. It's for the Minister of Justice. Minister Okalik, welcome. As we begin, let me first ask if you have officials that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Okalik.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Okalik would like to bring officials to the witness table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

We will be dealing with Bill 7. Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Okalik, please introduce your officials. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Good evening. With me here this evening to my right is my Deputy Minister, Elizabeth Sanderson, and to my left is Stephen Mansell, Director of Policy and Planning for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Sanderson and Mr. Mansell, welcome to the House. At this time, please proceed immediately with your opening comments on the bill. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the committee for the review of *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, which proposes to increase the minimum wage in Nunavut from \$11 to \$13 effective April 1, 2016 and allows for future increase by way of regulation.

The minimum wage in Nunavut was last increased in 2011. At that time, it was the highest in Canada. Since 2011, the minimum wage rate in other Canadian jurisdictions has been rising. Nunavut's minimum wage is currently below the NWT, Ontario, and Alberta and has not kept up with our increased cost of living.

Mr. Chairman, the figure of \$13 is based on policy review and consultations. The data collected and consultation with

businesses across our territory suggest that a \$13 minimum wage can be absorbed by Nunavut's business community, is an amount which will have a positive impact for Nunavut's lowest income earners, and may provide greater incentive for those on income assistance to enter the workforce.

This bill is also proposing that the *Labour Standards Act* be amended to allow for future minimum wage increases to be done by way of regulation rather than legislative amendment. This change will allow for more frequent and regular updates to the minimum wage and brings Nunavut in line with the rest of Canada.

An increase to the minimum wage and simplifying the procedure for future adjustments is overdue. The proposed increase will allow Nunavummiut making the minimum wage to provide more for themselves and their family and will bring our wage rate to an appropriate amount which reflects the high cost of living in Nunavut.

This is a summary of the comments I wanted to make, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any comments? 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 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*

(*Minimum Wage*).

The standing committee has no objections to the purpose of Bill 7, which was described in detail by the minister in his opening comments.

The standing committee emphasizes that the proposed amendments to the *Labour Standards Act* would not remove the existing statutory requirement for the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the minimum wage in Nunavut. The preparation and tabling of this annual report is an extremely important part of the process by which Members of the Legislative Assembly evaluate the extent to which an adjustment to the minimum wage is warranted.

The standing committee notes that the 2013 report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March 13, 2015. The 2014 report is overdue.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 7 to all its members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Before we go to the contents of the bill, are there any general comments? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to acknowledge the work that the minister has done to bring forward this amendment in legislation. He and I have been working together over the last couple of years to get to this stage. I would like to commend the minister on taking the initiative to add in the amendment to the legislation on

allowing further changes to go through regulations to be able to act more reactionary to the needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) General comments. We will then go to the bill. Please refer to your white legislation binder. We will deal with Bill 7. It reads, Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*. 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): Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 7 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do members agree that Bill 7 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have concluded the bill. Minister

Okalik, if you have any closing remarks, you have the floor. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I want to thank all of you for supporting this very important initiative.

At the same time, I would like to respond to the committee's concern on the annual report. The fault lies with me. I wanted to get this bill passed. The annual report that is required will be tabled in the winter session. I wanted to pass this legislation so that we can make it better and I appreciate the support.

I also want to acknowledge my colleague for Iqaluit-Tasiluk for pushing this along. Thank you. To my colleagues, (interpretation) thank you very much. This will help a lot.

(interpretation ends) My employees, who have been working overtime for the last little while, trying to consult with the communities, I thank you very much for all the work. I look forward to seeing this passed and moving forward.

(interpretation) Thank you very much. Have a good evening.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker (interpretation): 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 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and would like to report that Bills 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 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, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 1, *Supplementary Appropriation*

(Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: Question has been called. 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. Mr. Peterson.

Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2015-2016*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2 is ready for assent.

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

Bill 04 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2014-2015 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2014-2015*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: Question has been called. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is ready for assent.

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

Bill 06 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 6, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. (interpretation ends) To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): Question has been called. All those in favour. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The

[motion] is carried and Bill 6 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, for Bill 5, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 05 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Safety Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and Bill 5 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Justice, for Bill 7, Mr. Okalik.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage Increase)*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 7 is ready for assent.

(interpretation) Going back to the orders of the day. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for tomorrow:

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
 - 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 (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 4, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:45*

Appendix – November 3, 2015



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports and 2015-2016 Corporate and Business Plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

**3rd Session of the 4th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Fall 2015 Sitting**

**George Hickes, Chair
Alexander Sammurtok, Co-Chair
Tony Akoak, MLA
Pat Angnakak, MLA
Joe Enook, MLA
David Joanasie, MLA
Pauloosie Keyootak, MLA
Steve Mapsalak, MLA
Simeon Mikkungwak, MLA
Allan Rumbolt, MLA
Tom Sammurtok, MLA
Joe Savikataaq, MLA
Isaac Shooyook, MLA**

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Introduction

Section 100 of the *Financial Administration Act* provides that:

- (1) Every public agency shall submit its annual report to the appropriate Minister not later than 90 days after the end of its financial year or an additional period, not exceeding 60 days, that the Minister of Finance may allow.
- (2) Each appropriate Minister shall lay a copy of the annual report of each territorial corporation before the Legislative Assembly at the first opportunity following the receipt of the annual report.

The Nunavut Development Corporation's 2013-2014 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2014. Its 2014-2015 annual report was backdoor tabled on September 22, 2015, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 44(2) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*. The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2013-2014 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2014. Its 2014-2015 annual report was backdoor tabled on September 19, 2015, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 44(2) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

The 2015-2016 corporate/business plans of both entities were included in the Government of Nunavut's consolidated set of 2015-2016 departmental and Crown agency business plans, which were introduced in the Legislative Assembly as part of the 2015-2016 main estimates and budget consideration process.

Between the 2010-2011 and 2015-2016 fiscal years, approximately \$23.0 million of public money was approved by the Legislative Assembly in direct contribution funding for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. These amounts were appropriated through the annual main estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

In June of 2015, the standing committee announced its plans to hold televised hearings in the fall of 2015 on the most recent annual reports and corporate/business plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The purpose of the televised hearings was to enable Members of the standing committee to consider, in detail and in a public forum, the annual reports and corporate/business plans of both arms-length entities. Similar televised hearings concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation and Nunavut Tourism were held in September of 2014 and June of 2015, respectively.

The September 24-25, 2015, appearances of witnesses from the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearings are available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Observations and Recommendations

Issue: Statutory Mandates

Section 3 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* provides that:

Objects of Corporation

3. The objects of the Corporation are

- (a) to incorporate, establish and carry on the business of companies or corporations and to develop, establish, operate, manage and carry on the business of projects, directly or indirectly, within the Corporation in order to
 - (i) create employment and income for residents of Nunavut, primarily in small communities,
 - (ii) stimulate growth of businesses in Nunavut, and
 - (iii) promote economic diversification and stability;
- (b) to invest in business enterprises in order to
 - (i) stimulate growth of businesses in Nunavut, and
 - (ii) promote economic diversification and stability; and
- (c) to promote the economic objectives of the Government of Nunavut.

It is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made by the Nunavut Development Corporation in measuring the extent to which its expenditures have served to fulfill its statutory mandate to “create employment and income for residents of Nunavut, primarily in small communities.”

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada’s report on the 1999-2000 financial statements of the Nunavut Development Corporation indicated that the corporation:

“... has not collected information as required under sections 16 and 17 of the [*Nunavut*] *Development Corporation Act* ... under these sections of the Act, the corporation may pay subsidies to cover operating costs to its subsidiaries, or invest in subsidiaries and business enterprises, based on jobs created directly or indirectly. The corporation has not collected the necessary information to determine the number of jobs created.”

Although this observation was repeated in the Office of the Auditor General’s report on the 2000-2001 financial statements of the Nunavut Development Corporation, it has not appeared since that time. Indeed, the Nunavut Development Corporation’s recent annual reports have provided very precise figures concerning the number of direct and indirect jobs that have been created and/or sustained by its investments in its subsidiaries.

It should be noted that in September of 2013, new regulations under the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* were published in Part II of the *Nunavut Gazette*. These regulations provide that the “maximum amount ... for each job directly or indirectly created in a project or subsidiary ... is \$37,997.”

However, the methodology by which the Nunavut Development Corporation calculates the number of jobs that are created and/or sustained by its recent investments in private entities is unclear, as is its formal definition of what constitutes a “small community” within the meaning of section 3 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act*.

It should be noted that the 2014-2015 annual report of the Nunavut Development Corporation indicates that:

“... it is the intention of the corporation to divest itself of its subsidiary investments once the subsidiary has attained a sustainable level of profitability.”

However, testimony provided by the President of the Nunavut Development Corporation to the standing committee during its September 24-25, 2015, hearing indicated that:

“Pangnirtung Fisheries is no longer a subsidiary. We divested of our controlling interest. It became viable. Ivalu in Rankin Inlet is viable, but outside of that, the processing plants in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay will never become viable, ever. It’s not going to happen. The remaining arts and crafts companies are probably not going to ever be viable or profitable.”

In recent years, the Nunavut Development Corporation has become more active in “investing equity capital (shares) in Nunavut-based companies that demonstrate significant employment and income-earning potential for Nunavummiut.” This strategy is consistent with recommendations that were contained in the 2003/2004 *Shupe Report*.

However, the extent to which this strategy promotes a “level playing field” between private entities that compete for business, especially in the sphere of government contracting and procurement, is unclear. For example, testimony provided to the standing committee during its September 24-25, 2015, hearing confirmed that the Nunavut Development Corporation’s current investment guidelines allow it to make equity investments in both co-operatives and municipally-owned ventures. From time to time, private ventures may compete with co-operatives for government contracts in such areas as fuel delivery services in communities.

Section 5 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* provides that:

Powers

5. (1) Subject to this Act, the Corporation may
 - (a) for the purpose of stimulating economic development and employment in Nunavut, make loans to business enterprises, guarantee loans made by financial institutions to business enterprises, provide bonds to resident

business enterprises and indemnify bonds provided by bonding companies to resident business enterprises; and
(b) acquire and hold security for the due discharge of obligations under a loan made, a bond provided or a guarantee or an indemnity given by it and sell or otherwise dispose of or realize on such security.

However, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation itself acknowledges the challenge of measuring the extent to which its lending activities have actually served to “stimulate economic development and employment.” The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation’s 2014-2015 annual report indicates that the corporation:

“... is committed to developing quantifiable performance measures and annual reporting practices to enable an objective assessment of the corporation’s success in fulfilling its statutory mandate to stimulate economic development and employment in Nunavut.”

This issue was discussed in detail during the standing committee’s September 24-25, 2015, hearing. Testimony provided by the Acting Chair of the corporation’s board of directors indicated that:

“We do keep track of a company in how many people are working, let’s say, because this company borrowed money from [the] Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, there are four people working for that company. They could claim that we created four jobs in that community, but maybe Atuqtuarvik lent them money too and are taking credit for those four jobs that are created. In lending money, it’s not as easy for us to say that a specific X number of jobs were created, but we feel that with the \$23 million that we have out there right now, there are more people working than if we hadn’t invested that \$23 million, if we hadn’t lent out that money. There are 600 people currently working for those companies that borrowed from us. We lend money to clients who, in turn, create jobs in their communities. We monitor to make sure they do what they say they will do in their loan application. We require that they report to us in a manner that gives us an idea of the company keeping to the mandate or what they said they would do in their loan application. We keep track of how many people work for that company, but we don’t really know if that company is creating jobs just because we gave them money.”

It should be noted that the 2014-2015 annual report of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation formally defines the corporation’s mandate as a “blend of being a lender of last resort and a developmental agency for Nunavut businesses.” It should also be noted that the 2015-2016 *Ministerial Letter of Expectation* to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation makes reference to supporting “harvesting, arts and tourism sectors.” However, the 2014-2015 annual report of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation indicates that over 64% of its loan portfolio is in the construction, real estate and retail sectors of the economy.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify, in detail, the methodology by which the Nunavut Development Corporation determines the number of jobs that are created and/or sustained by investments made in private entities through the corporation's Venture Investment Fund.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, formally define what constitutes a "small community" within the meaning of section 3 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, formally define what constitutes a "sustainable level of profitability" within the meaning of the Nunavut Development Corporation's current investment and divestment policies and/or guidelines.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify, in detail, the Nunavut Development Corporation's position with respect to providing equity investments in private entities that are intended to enhance their competitive position vis-à-vis other Nunavut-based entities with respect to government contracting and procurement in such sectors as travel, hospitality, fuel delivery and construction.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed update on the status of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's work to "develop quantifiable performance measures and annual reporting practices to enable an objective assessment of the corporation's success in fulfilling its statutory mandate to stimulate economic development and employment in Nunavut."

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify the extent to which the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's formally-defined role as a "blend of being a lender of last resort and a developmental agency for Nunavut businesses" is consistent with its statutory mandate and is complementary to the role of the Nunavut Development Corporation, which makes equity investments in private entities.

Issue: Governance

A significant number of individuals and entities play roles within the governance frameworks for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. These are:

- The chairs and members of the boards of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- The Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- The Presidents/Chief Executive Officers of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- The Financial Management Board;
- The Executive Council; and
- The Public Agencies Council.

However, there has been a lack of public clarity as to where the ultimate decision-making authority rests with respect to such matters as the:

- Final approval of the annual corporate/business plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Final approval of the annual reports of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Final approval of the annual Ministerial *Letters of Expectation* to the chairs of the boards of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; and
- Final approval of the annual operations and maintenance budgets of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

In November of 2007, the Auditor General of Canada issued an unprecedented denial of opinion on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's financial statements. A number of actions were subsequently taken to address these concerns, including the relocation of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's offices from Cape Dorset to Iqaluit.

It is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made. In November of 2012, correspondence from the Office of the Auditor General was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. In his letter to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Auditor General noted improvements in the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's governance and financial reporting.

It should be noted that neither the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* nor the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* have been substantially amended since April 1, 1999.

This issue was discussed in detail during the standing committee's September 24-25, 2015, hearing. Testimony provided by the Acting Chair of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's board of directors indicated that:

"At our board meetings, we talk about how much more autonomy we can have as an arm's-length corporation. Sometimes we feel that the legislation should reflect that. I'm trying to remember a particular one that we felt needed change. As you say, the Act is very old and it doesn't always reflect the realities of today. Some of the reporting requirements are not indicative of the corporation being a mature corporation, for lack of better words, that they feel that we have followed our mandate and recovered the corporation to a state where we should have the power to deal with certain issues without always having to go to the Minister.

Some of them are reporting requirements that probably don't add to any more assistance to you, I guess, as people who have to read these reports that we submit to.

As an arm's-length corporation, I think it's important that we have the ability and that's only after we have proven that we can do the mandate the best we can with the resources that we have. Obviously the \$1 million threshold is a big one because they have the ability to go up to \$40 million and our goal to even reach \$25 million is way below the \$40 million that we could be authorized to give out."

The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2013-2014 annual report indicated that the corporation's board of directors "has recommended to the Minister [of Economic Development and Transportation] that the maximum lending limit be increased from \$1.0 million to \$2.0 million, [because] the lending limit has not been updated since the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* came into force in 1991." This recommendation was repeated in the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2014-2015 annual report.

This issue was discussed in some detail during the Legislative Assembly's recent consideration of the 2015-2016 main estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. This change would require the Legislative Assembly to approve an amendment to section 37 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*.

However, the extent to which the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation supports the recommendation made by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's board of directors is unclear. It should be noted that the standing committee has no specific opposition to the recommendation.

Section 20 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* requires that the corporation's board of directors establish an "investment committee, an audit committee and a personnel committee."

However, testimony provided to the standing committee during its September 24-25, 2015, hearing suggested that this provision is outdated and is not actually being followed in practice.

The President of the Nunavut Development Corporation stated that:

“The corporation is not that large. Many years ago, we went towards an Executive Committee approach consisting of a Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary, with the Executive Committee assuming responsibilities for those three particular items identified in the legislation.”

Following the establishment of Nunavut in 1999, the Government of the Northwest Territories created a new Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC) in the year 2005 by combining its development corporation and business credit corporation into a single entity.

In 2008, a report was commissioned by the Government of Nunavut on this issue as it related to the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. This report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 12, 2008, recommended that the Government of Nunavut establish a new “Nunavut Enterprise and Investment Corporation” in Rankin Inlet by combining the existing Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Business Credit Corporation into a single entity. Ultimately, however, no amalgamation occurred.

The advisability of revisiting this recommendation was raised during the standing committee’s September 24-25, 2015, hearing. However, a clear position on the issue was not offered by witnesses from either the Nunavut Development Corporation or the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The standing committee recognizes that the 2008 report was prepared in the context of the Auditor General of Canada’s unprecedented denial of opinion, in 2007, on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation’s financial statements.

However, it should also be recognized that both the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation exist to achieve complementary goals: creating employment for residents, generating income for communities, fostering economic development and encouraging economic diversification.

It should be noted that the 2014-2015 annual reports of both territorial corporations list 9 individuals who sit on the board of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and 7 individuals who sit on the board of directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. However, only one individual out of the total of 16 directors sits on the boards of both entities.

The standing committee observes that even if amalgamation of the two territorial corporations were to be conclusively rejected, there is no clear rationale for not increasing the number of individuals who sit on the boards of directors of both corporations.

These “co-appointments” would serve to enhance the capacity of both boards to provide strategic direction to their respective corporations in a manner that is more mindful of the other entity’s priorities, initiatives and operations.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation table in the Legislative Assembly, at the earliest opportunity, all approved governance and operating policies of the boards of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, the respective authorities of the chairs and members of the board of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Financial Management Board, the Executive Council and the Public Agencies Council with respect to the:

- Final approval of the annual corporate/business plans of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Final approval of the annual reports of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Final approval of the annual Ministerial *Letters of Expectation* to the Chairs of the Boards of Directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; and
- Final approval of the annual operations and maintenance budgets of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, its position concerning the recommendation made by the board of directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation regarding amendments to section 37 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the extent to which section 20 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* is being currently followed by the corporation's board of directors.

The standing committee further recommends that the boards of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation formally submit a comprehensive set of specific recommendations for specific amendments to the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* and the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* to the Minister responsible for both territorial corporations for consideration.

The standing committee further recommends that these recommendations be submitted no later than September 1, 2016, and that they be subsequently tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the fall 2016 sitting of the House.

The standing committee further recommends that the boards of directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation formally consider the advisability of amalgamating the two corporations into a single entity.

The standing committee further recommends that the boards' recommendations concerning amalgamation be submitted to the Minister responsible for both territorial corporations no later than September 1, 2016, and that they be subsequently tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the fall 2016 sitting of the House.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation seek opportunities to increase the number of individuals who serve on the boards of directors of both the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Issue: Public Reporting Practices

During the standing committee's September 24-25, 2015, hearing, significant attention was paid to the public reporting practices of both the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The Government of Nunavut's annual reports on grants and contributions clearly identify the recipients of financial assistance from different departments.

The Government of Nunavut's annual reports on procurement, contracting and leasing activities clearly identify companies and individuals that have been awarded contracts by different departments, Crown agencies and territorial corporations.

Although the annual reports of the Nunavut Development Corporation clearly identify the private ventures that have received equity investments from the corporation, the annual reports of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation do not explicitly disclose the identities of recipients of loans or other financial assistance.

It should be noted, however, that photographs of a number of identifiable individuals have been published in recent annual reports of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation under the heading, "NBCC Clients." The corporation's rationale for including the photographs of a select number of clients in its annual reports is unclear.

The 2014-2015 annual report of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation indicates that as of March 31, 2015, the corporation's total loan portfolio stood at \$23,196,954. The annual report also indicates that:

"Section 47 of the [*Nunavut Business Credit Corporation*] Act also authorize[s] the Government [of Nunavut] to advance to the corporation an amount out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund not exceeding \$50,000,000 for the purposes of providing financial assistance to business enterprises. In 2014, the Financial Management Board set the working capital advance limit to \$40,000,000. These advances are repayable to the Government of Nunavut on such terms and conditions as the Minister of Finance may determine."

It is the standing committee's position that the funds loaned by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to businesses and individuals are, ultimately, public monies, and should be subject to the same level of transparency and public disclosure as any other form of financial assistance provided by the government to individuals and enterprises.

Consequently, the onus is on the government to clearly demonstrate what policy objective is achieved by shielding loan recipients from public disclosure.

Although the standing committee recognizes that some businesses and individuals might *desire* to have their identities shielded from public disclosure when applying for loans or other financial assistance from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the standing committee does not accept the premise that such businesses and individuals should be *entitled* to be shielded from public disclosure.

During the standing committee's September 24-25, 2015, hearing, the opportunity was provided to witnesses from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to publicly offer a clear and compelling rationale for the benefits and merits of secrecy in the corporation's current lending practices.

No clear or compelling rationale was offered for how such secrecy serves to help fulfill the corporation's statutory mandate of "stimulating economic development and employment in Nunavut."

The standing committee notes that section 15 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* provides that:

Confidentiality

15. Any information received by an employee of the Corporation or a director about a business enterprise that applies for a loan, bond, guarantee or indemnity is confidential and shall not be disclosed by the employee or director

- (a) **except as may be required in the administration of this Act** or the regulations or any proceeding under this Act or the regulations; **or**
- (b) **unless the business enterprise consents.**

The standing committee further notes that the *Declaration of Applicant* section of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's *Application for NBCC Assistance* form **explicitly requires** applicants to agree to the following condition:

"If financing is provided, the applicant provides permission for release of their name (if an individual) or the company name (if a company) to the public."

The standing committee further notes that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's *Business Client Consent Form for Use of Commercial and Personal Information* **explicitly requires** clients to agree to the following condition:

"The undersigned Client also acknowledges that as a territorial corporation and department of the Government of Nunavut, both the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation are subject to the obligations imposed on public government by the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* of Nunavut, including the obligation to release information. **The undersigned client authorizes and expressly consents to the disclosure of all information, including "personal information" of any individuals (including the Client) relating to the Loan application and the Loan, to the public or to members of the public, at any**

time and from time to time following submission of the Loan application, where such disclosure is required pursuant to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act of Nunavut*, and provided always that any proposed disclosure complies with the procedures and other requirements of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act of Nunavut*.”

It should be noted that the issue of public disclosure of the identities of recipients of loans or other financial assistance from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation was also raised during the standing committee’s September 28, 2015, hearing on the 2014-2015 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. During her testimony to the standing committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“Let’s start by saying that companies *per se* have no privacy rights under the [*Access to Information and Protection of Privacy*] Act. Only individuals have privacy rights. In my opinion, if I were asked to do a review recommendation on this, I would recommend that the names of the corporations and the amount they receive be disclosed. The name of the person and the amount, off the top of my head, I can’t think of any reason why that kind of information shouldn’t be disclosed ...”

It is important to note that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation’s lead witness publicly acknowledged the prerogative of the Legislative Assembly to statutorily ensure full public disclosure of the identifies of recipients of loans and other financial assistance from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Section 31 of the *Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act* explicitly provides that:

31. The annual report that the Corporation is required to submit under section 96 of the *Financial Administration Act* must include a specific category setting out the following information in respect of each business enterprise that the corporation provided financial assistance to or in which it made an investment in the financial year:

- (a) the name of the business enterprise;
- (b) the name of the owner or owners of the business enterprise as determined in accordance with the regulations;
- (c) the total amount of financial assistance provided to or investments made in the business enterprise;
- (d) the name of the community in which the business enterprise or its head office is located.

The annual reports of the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation clearly disclose the recipients of all forms of financial assistance from the corporation.

It is important to note that there is no evidence to suggest that this public disclosure has reduced the demand for financial assistance from the corporation, or meaningfully impeded it from fulfilling its mandate.

Questions arose during the standing committee's September 24-25, 2015, hearing concerning the extent to which the corporations' annual reports on procurement, contracting and leasing activities clearly distinguish between award values and actual expenditures.

Questions arose during the standing committee's September 24-25, 2015, hearing concerning the extent to which the Nunavut Development Corporation's equity investments in private ventures include elements of ownership, direction and control of the ventures.

Although the detailed notes to the corporation's annual financial statements make reference to "partnership units," "share subscription agreements" and "fixed cumulative preferential distribution entitlements," the standing committee is of the view that the corporation's annual reports would benefit from greater clarity in this area.

Sections 30 and 36 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* provide the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation with significant authority to confirm or reject recommendations and decisions made by the corporation's board of directors in respect to loan applications. The Minister may also review applications (i.e. appeals) made by rejected loan applicants under certain circumstances.

Although testimony provided to the standing committee during its September 24-25, 2015, hearing indicated that no recommendations or decisions made by the corporation's board of directors in respect to loan applications had been overturned by the Minister in recent years, it is nonetheless important to recognize that the Minister's current powers under sections 30 and 36 of the legislation are significant.

Consequently, it is important that the exercise of these powers be accounted for in the corporation's annual reports.

Subsection 78(1) of the *Financial Administration Act* provides that:

Directives

78. (1) Where the appropriate Minister and the Executive Council are of the opinion that it is in the public interest, the Minister of Finance may issue a directive to a public agency respecting its financial management and financial administration.

Although the recent annual reports of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation clearly indicate that no such directives were issued during the fiscal year covered by the report, the recent annual reports of the Nunavut Development Corporation are not as explicit.

It should be noted that the Nunavut Development Corporation's 2013-2014 annual report indicates that its current "investment policies and guidelines" and other related items were approved by its board of directors on June 24, 2010.

It should be noted that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2013-2014 annual report indicates that "four manuals concerning credit management, administration and conduct, board orientation and accounting have received approval from the corporation's board of directors and the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation."

It should be noted that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's current business plan indicates that the corporation has "entered into separate memoranda of understanding with the Baffin Business Development Centre, Kitikmeot Community Futures and the Atuqtuarvik Corporation." It also indicates that it is working to "formalize a relationship with the Kivalliq Business Development Centre."

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in the interest of the greatest possible certainty and clarity, bring forward an amendment to the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* during the winter 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly that is explicitly modelled on the provisions that are contained in section 31 of the *Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act*.

The standing committee notes that this would allow the corporation's next annual report to the Legislative Assembly for the 2015-2016 fiscal year to fully disclose the identities of recipients of loans and other financial assistance from the corporation, as well as the amounts of financial assistance provided to recipients.

The standing committee further notes that this would also provide an opportunity for the government to introduce the amendment to section 37 of the legislation that has been recommended on a number of occasions by the board of directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, in light of the observations made in this report concerning the disclosure requirements that are presently contained in the corporation's application and consent forms, clarify its position regarding its current practices in this area.

The standing committee further recommends that future annual reports on procurement, contracting and leasing activities which are prepared by the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation explicitly account for actual expenditures incurred in these areas.

The standing committee further recommends that future annual reports on procurement, contracting and leasing activities which are prepared by the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner by the Minister responsible for both territorial corporations.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify, in detail, the extent to which the Nunavut Development Corporation's current equity investments in private ventures include elements of ownership, direction and control of the ventures.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Development Corporation's future annual reports more clearly account for the extent to which its equity investments in private ventures include elements of ownership, direction and control of the ventures.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's future annual reports explicitly account, in detail, for actions taken during the fiscal year under the provisions of sections 30 and 36 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Development Corporation's future annual reports explicitly account, in detail, for directives issued during the fiscal year under the provisions of subsection 78(1) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation table in the Legislative Assembly, at the earliest opportunity, the corporation's current *Investment Policies and Guidelines*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation table in the Legislative Assembly, at the earliest opportunity, the corporation's current manuals concerning "credit management, administration and conduct, board orientation and accounting."

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation table in the Legislative Assembly, at the earliest opportunity, the corporation's memoranda of understanding with the Baffin Business Development Centre, Kitikmeot Community Futures and the Atuqtuarvik Corporation.