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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

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

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. George Hickers
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasi
(South Baffin)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

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Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Thursday, March 3, 2016****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

>>House commenced at 13:29

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and visitors, welcome to the House.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 075 – 4(3): LED Street Lighting in Iqaluit**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I'm sure my colleagues in the House know well, I have been a vocal proponent for clean, green energy and conservation measures. That's why

it gives me great pleasure to rise in the House today to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) is installing energy-efficient LED, or light emitting diode, street lights in Iqaluit as part of its energy conservation initiatives.

LED street lighting saves energy and reduces the cost of illuminating the city. In February, the Qulliq Energy Corporation replaced conventional street lights with 21 LED lights along the road from the airport to Four Corners. The next phase of implementation will replace the street lights from Four Corners to Arctic Ventures. All of Iqaluit's street lights will be gradually replaced.

This is the first energy conservation project of its kind in Nunavut and is the direct result of tests carried out in 2015 that measured the performance of several energy-efficient street lights. The initial cost of this project is approximately \$30,000. The cost is mitigated by the environmental, economic, and social benefits of this new technology.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to a 30 percent reduction in energy use, QEC expects to reduce its operational and maintenance cost by half as LED lights last five times longer than conventional street lights, freeing up maintenance workers to perform other duties.

As well as saving money in the long term and reducing our carbon footprint, the new street lights are also brighter, improving visibility and road safety, especially during the winter season.

Mr. Speaker, the lessons learned from this project will assist QEC's future plan to extend LED street lighting to the rest

of Nunavut. QEC continues to seek further opportunities to reduce the territory's dependence on fossil fuels and to ensure a sustainable and affordable energy supply for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Acting Minister for Languages, Mr. Mike.

Minister's Statement 076 – 4(3): Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) *Bonjour*. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I'll be making a statement on (interpretation ends) *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*.

Mr. Speaker, from March 3 to 23, francophones from across Canada are coming together to celebrate the French language during the 18th edition of *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*.

Uqaqtittijii, this year's theme is *Francophonie in 3D: Diversity, Duality, Dynamism!*

Nunavut's francophone community is, indeed, a dynamic and diversified community. Not only does Nunavut welcome francophones from all parts of Canada and the world, but also has a number of Inuit who speak the language and are active members of the community.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that my department has awarded \$24,600 this year to help local organizations to organize local events,

including concerts, plays, and French cuisine.

(interpretation ends) *Bonne célébrations à toutes et tous!* Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 077 – 4(3): Canada's Outstanding Principals

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my fellow members to join me in recognizing Abdus Salam as one of Canada's outstanding principals.

Abdus Salam, Principal of Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay, is one of 40 principals from across Canada to receive the 2016 Canada's Outstanding Principals award.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Abdus Salam is a leader who has supported his school by building close relationships with the teachers, students, elders, the community, and the district education authority. He has created a culture of learning at Inuujaq School that uses up-to-date information technology. He supports using balanced literacy and encourages teachers to use targeted resources to help struggling readers. Science fairs, attendance awards, school clubs, and student forums are held to encourage regular student attendance.

The Canada's Outstanding Principals program was developed by the Learning Partnership and was launched in 2005.

The program recognizes the importance of strong leadership in education. Principals are nominated by their peers, school staff, and community members. The award recipients participate in an executive leadership training program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Abdus Salam's achievements are a reflection of his belief that the school and the community are part of a family that relies on everyone's support to succeed.

Please join me in congratulating Abdus Salam, a strong principal who has built a team that helps Inuujaq School provide a nurturing and inspiring environment of learning for all its students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 078 – 4(3):
Establishment of the Nunavut
Joint Planning and Management
Committee for Territorial Parks in
Nunavut**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you and good afternoon. I would like to thank the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung. I send my condolences to the people who laid their loved one to rest.

Mr. Speaker, the statement is regarding the establishment of the Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee for Territorial Parks in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to inform my colleagues of the progress being made on the co-management of territorial parks in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Nunavut Joint Park Planning and Management Committee has been established. The committee is comprised of eight members: four members appointed by my department, three members by the regional Inuit associations, and one member by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Joint Park Planning and Management Committee will guide my department on all territorial parks planning, establishment, and management decisions. The committee represents Inuit and public interests and will help ensure that the Territorial Parks program continues to meet the co-management expectations described by the *Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks in Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to my department entering this new phase of territorial park co-management. I would like to thank the members of the Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee for devoting their time, knowledge, and expertise to the future of Nunavut territorial parks. I also thank the regional Inuit associations and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for their contributions to establishing this important committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more

names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 164 – 4(3): Baker Lake Appreciates Second School Bus

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my appreciation on behalf of my constituents and especially on behalf of the children to the Minister of Education and his department for providing the funds to the Baker Lake District Education Authority to acquire a second school bus for the community.

Mr. Speaker, the schoolchildren who live on the north side of town are now able to ride this new second bus to school, especially on cold days. This is very much appreciated by the parents and residents of the community. It is very reassuring to know that our children are safe and secure on their way to school. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 165 – 4(3): Community Search and Rescue Organizations

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of search and rescue organizations in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by paying tribute to respected Elder Donald

Kogvik, a lifelong resident of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, although Kogvik has celebrated his 84th birthday, he remains a dedicated and active volunteer with search and rescue in the community. I say again that he's a volunteer with search and rescue in the community.

Mr. Speaker, Donald Kogvik is the kind of volunteer who will spend all night without sleep by his HF radio while a search goes on, and he is a mentor to our younger volunteers.

However, I am concerned that not enough people are volunteering to serve in local search and rescue.

Mr. Speaker, as a search and rescue volunteer myself, I know how important and rewarding this work is.

I also want to point out that while volunteers should not expect to receive a paycheque for their time, we need to ensure that adequate resources are provided to search and rescue organizations to cover unavoidable expenses such as fuel and insurance.

Mr. Speaker, one of the specific concerns that I have heard from constituents is the need to review the chain of command with respect to tasking local members of the Canadian Rangers.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of Rangers in Gjoa Haven. They are well-trained and they are ready to go. However, it is my understanding that in order for local Rangers to undertake an official search... .

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

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

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) However, it is my understanding that in order for local Rangers to undertake an official search, they need to wait for the green light from Yellowknife. This is an area where more delegation of decision-making authority to the local level would be desirable.

Mr. Speaker, we have recently learned that there will be an expansion of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary's presence in Nunavut and the north.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this would be an excellent time for the Minister of Community and Government Services to convene a search and rescue summit in Nunavut. This would be an opportunity for federal, territorial, and local representatives to address issues of concern and to identify new initiatives that will help to make our communities safer. It would also be an excellent opportunity to share ideas on how to recruit and train the next generation of search and rescue volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude today by asking all members to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Donald Kogvik and all of Nunavut's search and rescue volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 166 – 4(3): Team Nunavut Heading to Arctic Winter Games

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut who are listening or watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my pride to Team Nunavut that is going to be going to Greenland for the Arctic Winter Games. I am very happy that they are going to take part in the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents will be going to Greenland along with Team Nunavut. There are 186 athletes coming out of Nunavut, but only one athlete represents my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and express my pride in Jutai Padluq. He is partaking in the volleyball tournament in Greenland. To my "maternal auntie," I just want to extend my thanks for your success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebrating the athletes going to the Arctic Winter Games in various sports, their coaches, chaperones, managers, staff, as well as our representatives of Nunavut. Let's extend our congratulations, pride, and farewells as they leave for Greenland, and I expect them to bring back many golden ulus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 167 – 4(3):
Arviat Participants at Arctic
Winter Games**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to congratulate some people going over to Greenland for sports. I have 14 participants from Arviat and I'm proud of them all. I hope they do well and come back with some gold ulus, not ulu but ulus, a few of them.

>>Laughter

I would just like to name them off. From six sports, we have participants in the arctic sports, basketball, hockey, futsal, which is soccer, volleyball, and wrestling. Just for the record, I would like to name them and I'm glad their going.

Andrew Bell,
Benjamin Manik,
Mahasi Nateela,
Ryan O'Connor,
Connor Fudge,
Tapisa Tattuinee,
Kadin Copland (Pihukti No. 2),
Michael Illnik,
William Campbell,
Andrew Porteous,
Lakeisha Flynn,
Jillian Kaviok,
Shelby Angalik, and
Sylvia Kablutsiaq

Congratulations on being picked and work hard, do well, have fun. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Member's Statement 168 – 4(3): Angel
Street Project**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "hello" to the people of Iqaluit-Manirajak.

Further, I take pride in the athletes attending the Arctic Winter Games and I, too, have expectations that many of them will receive their gold ulus. I participated in the Arctic Winter Games in 1970, so it's obvious based on my experience that they will have an awesome time and I urge them to use their utmost capabilities to compete for the medals. I will not be stating their names as they are too numerous to mention with multiple athletes coming from Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I rise today is to express my pleasure in one of my constituents. The person I wish to recognize is Elisapee Sheutiapik, a past mayor of Iqaluit from October 2003 up to December 2010. Prior to becoming the mayor, she was the deputy mayor in her first successful campaign to run for city council in October 2002 to 2003.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, while Ms. Sheutiapik was mayor, she developed a zero tolerance for violence against people, which the city passed at that time. When she heard the Lucie

Idlout song called “Lovely Irene,” it came to her to start an Angel Street project and she also sells t-shirts for \$20, \$10 of which goes to proceeds for the shelter and the other half to continue that project.

Mr. Speaker, she also helped create that project, Angel Street, which leads to the shelter. Since she started this project, other cities across the country have done similar things, such as in Fredericton, they named Angel Crescent.

She continues to sell these t-shirts because she wants women or girls to know that there is rescue from an abusive relationship, and she does not want to see any others that could die or otherwise get serious harm from that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation) I don’t hear any nays. Please proceed, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues.

After Ms. Sheutiapik did all that, she was presented with recognition. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, she was provided with the Humanitarian Award from the Economic Club of Canada’s third annual Voice of Hope Gala in October 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of my constituent, Elisapee Sheutiapik. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

**Member’s Statement 169 – 4(3):
Addressing Needs of Youth**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I say “good day” to the people of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk.

I also want to speak to events in Kugaaruk as our student body is impacted by sickness. Although the student body numbers around 300, only about 70 students went to school due to the flu. I believe we will be speaking about youth issues today, so I want to start off with this statement, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the importance of addressing the needs of our territory’s youth.

Mr. Speaker, we learned last week that the government needs to spend over \$2.24 million to improve security at community health centres because of vandalism and other problems. Mr. Speaker, it is very sad that this kind of action has become necessary in today’s society.

Mr. Speaker, during the recent election campaign in Netsilik, I heard very clearly from my constituents in Taloyoak and Kugaaruk that we need to work harder in providing after-school options and programs for the youth.

Mr. Speaker, I represent two of Nunavut's smallest communities. Although our communities may be small, the needs are no less great than they are elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the educators and volunteers in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak who dedicate their time and energy to mentoring our youth.

At the same time, I want to clearly state that smaller communities also need investments in the physical infrastructure that we will need to support programming for our youth, which, in turn, benefits the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 170 – 4(3):
Mittimatalik Participants at Arctic
Winter Games**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I rose to express my pride in the athletes attending the Arctic Winter Games to represent Nunavut. Today, I also want to name the athletes by stating their names as athletes will be arriving from Pond Inlet.

The athletes who will be playing men's basketball are Misha Pewatoalook and Tyson Angnetsiaq. They are staying at the hotel where we are staying. Whenever I see them, they keep reiterating that they are going there to grab gold ulus in Greenland. I am filled

with pride when they actually state that they are there to go pick up gold with extreme conviction. Further, I am proud that they are not cowed by that challenge.

In addition, an athlete representing Pond Inlet in the women's basketball team is Rose Tagak.

As well, we have three athletes on the men's volleyball team from Pond Inlet. They are Peter Inootik, Jassie Simonie, and Steven Innuaraq.

We are proud of their accomplishment and of their participation as part of Team Nunavut. I hope you do your best and we know you will represent Nunavut rather well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 171 – 4(3):
Resignation as Minister/Member
of the Executive Council of
Nunavut**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My name is Paul and I'm an alcoholic. The last drink I had was on June 11, 1991. I had to stop because my children were about to be born and supported my own family.

I was blessed with a strong family who supported me in my decision and reaffirmed my decision. I recall my late grandmother telling me, "If only your mom was here to see it." It came too late, but it gave me the strength.

However, I wouldn't have been able to continue if I didn't have the support from other groups when I was living down south. It is with their support and various facilities that I was able to continue my sobriety to this day.

On that basis, I have been pushing hard for my department to implement the supports needed for our citizens so that we can support them in their fight against addiction. Our recent budget reflected the commitment where we are laying the foundation for our citizens to get the support within their communities. However, that is not complete. There is much more work to be done.

This morning, I informed my cabinet colleagues that I cannot continue as a minister under the current circumstances. I cannot support an institution of selling beer and wine in my community where we don't have the facilities to support those who may not be able to combat their addictions.

Accordingly, I am resigning from my ministry today. I will continue to serve as a Member of this Assembly to serve Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. (interpretation ends) At my discretion, we will have a 10-minute break.

>>House recessed at 14:03 and resumed at 14:22

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. (interpretation)

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity today to recognize an Arviat resident, Eric Anoe Jr., who is in Iqaluit. It is always joyous to see people from Arviat here, so I hope Eric feels welcome here and to watch the proceedings at his leisure. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa. No? I'm sorry. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to rise and welcome Mr. Terry Audla, the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, into the Assembly. Mr. Audla will be sitting at the witness table with me within the next few days within the Committee of the Whole.

I have spoken to a number of the staff. Although we miss Ms. Kimball very much at the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Audla's leadership and his desire to serve Nunavummiut within the housing portfolio has been exceptional and I very much welcome Mr. Audla to the House. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurток.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 216 – 4(3): New Hunter Education Program

Mr. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, (interpretation ends) I would just like to express my sincere and deep disappointment in the resignation of the Minister of Health and Justice.

(interpretation) To the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, have a good day. My fellow Rankin Inlet residents, you are in my thoughts and I remember your prayers from yesterday.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

In his Budget Address last week, the Minister of Finance announced that the Government of Nunavut is, and I quote, “developing a hunter education program to teach harvesting skills and firearm safety.”

Can the Minister of Environment indicate when this new program is scheduled to begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot say right now when it will start, but I will return with the answer to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister has taken this as notice. I will continue to the next member. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurток.

Question 217 – 4(3): Summer Student Employment Equity Program

Mr. Alexander Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, approximately 45 young people from Rankin Inlet have worked in the government’s Summer Student Employment Equity Program. I support this program and want to see it succeed in helping our students succeed.

Mr. Speaker, the government’s guidelines for the program indicate that one of its goals is to, and I quote, “ensure that all summer students are provided the opportunity to improve their employability skills.”

Can the minister describe the process by which students are placed with departments whose work best matches the students’ field of study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Alex Sammurtok for the question. Mr. Speaker, the summer student program has been quite successful over the last several years. Last summer, we had, I believe, over 200 summer students working in government departments and public agencies across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the eligible students would be from grades 10, 11, and 12 and then, of course, university students. We make every effort to work with the Department of Finance's HR Division to match the students with the types of jobs that would be suitable for them to progress in their studies and hopefully come back and work for the Government of Nunavut or a public agency. It's not possible in every case because there may be more students for a particular job than jobs that would pertain to their field of study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is said that it's hard to get a job without experience, but you need experience in order to get a job. Can the minister describe what kinds of additional training are provided to summer student program participants in such areas as preparing for job interviews? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Alex Sammurtok for that question. Mr. Speaker, I believe the HR departments in every region

make available information and personalized attention to assist students to develop resumés and prepare for interviews. Those services are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that all forms of government hiring are done fairly, including summer student hiring.

Directive 206 of the Department of Finance's *Human Resources Manual* contains rules and guidelines to prevent favouritism, preferential treatment, and nepotism in the hiring process for GN employees.

Can the minister describe what rules are in place to ensure that the summer student hiring process is also conducted fairly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Alex Sammurtok for the question. Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear in the *Public Service Act* that nepotism is not condoned in the government. You get hired on merit and promoted on merit, and that should apply, whether it's a summer student or more experienced workers in the Government of Nunavut.

Our human resources managers in all departments and our human resources staff in the Department of Finance are very aware of all the rules and processes. I would expect that they would ensure

that the employing department's managers and supervisors adhere to the transparency and fairness in the hiring of summer students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 218 – 4(3): Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “hello” to Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As we learned last week, the Energy Options Working Group that has been established by the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable is working to, and I quote, “access the required federal funding to undertake the next phase of the transmission line project between Manitoba and Nunavut.”

One of the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation's federal counterparts is the Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

Mr. Speaker, CanNor has been identified as a potential source of federal funding for this important project in the Kivalliq.

Has the minister written to her federal counterpart in support of this project? 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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the round-table meeting in Churchill, Manitoba occurred just last month, February 2016. The department supports the activities of the Energy Options Working Group, which is leading the work on the proposed power link. EDT is currently working with QEC and CG&S to analyze the scoping study and recommend next steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, who represents the constituency of Mississauga-Brampton South, is also responsible for the Government of Canada's six regional economic development agencies in the Atlantic, western Canada, northern Ontario, and other places.

Mr. Speaker, I envy his Aeroplan mileage balance.

>> *Laughter*

Can the minister indicate whether or not her federal counterpart responsible for CanNor has visited Nunavut since his appointment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Navdeep Singh Bains has not come to Nunavut as yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is well aware, Baker Lake is the home of the Meadowbank gold mine and the Kivalliq is the heartland of Nunavut's economic engine.

I believe that the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency would very much appreciate the opportunity to see our economic development potential in the Kivalliq, including our gold mines and the projects being undertaken by the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable.

Will the minister invite her federal counterpart to visit the Kivalliq this summer? 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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. If the opportunity permits, we will be inviting different ministers to come up north. As the Minister of Economic Development and

Transportation, I am pleased to say that the ministers of tourism will be here later this year, as an example. If we could do more of those, that would be great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 219 – 4(3): Development Partnership Agreement

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

Mr. Speaker, in exactly 28 days from now, the Government of Nunavut's Development Partnership Agreement Policy will expire.

Let me first ask this question, Mr. Speaker. Will the government be renewing its Development Partnership Agreement Policy or will it allow this important policy to quietly expire and die? 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. I thank my colleague for asking the question. This is specific to mining companies, this (interpretation ends) development partnership agreement (interpretation) which I believe the member is referring to. To date, it remains the same as the last time it was

revised in 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope you restart my questions because she responded to a matter I wasn't even asking about. Mr. Speaker, what I was trying to ask was about this matter and I also stated that the expiration date is within 28 days. Once these 28 days have passed, does it mean that this policy will just die? Will it come to a dead end now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current partnership agreement is in place. It does not expire with the fiscal year. We are currently looking at revising it, but at this time, a development partnership agreement is with one mining company and that is still in existence, that being Agnico Eagle's Meadowbank mine agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll continue. Last year, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's business plan indicated that it was working with three different mining companies, including Baffinland, on development partnership agreement negotiations. That's what we heard last year.

Can the minister clearly explain why her department's current business plan does not even mention development partnership agreements? Why is that so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Currently, we have only one development partnership agreement and that is the Agnico Eagle Meadowbank mine agreement. The departments of Economic Development and Transportation and Finance have come to the consensus that the Fuel Tax Rebate Program should be cancelled, at least for operating mines. The two departments are now working on developing a replacement for the development partnership agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am having difficulty understanding. Do I understand correctly that the development partnership agreement is now being reviewed, that it will not expire, that you will be coming up with a new development partnership agreement? Is my understanding correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we are now working on

developing a replacement for the development partnership agreement program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 220 – 4(3): Status of Sewage Lagoon in Naujaat

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of CGS.

Mr. Speaker, on May 28, 2015, the minister at that time indicated that the design for a new sewage lagoon in Naujaat was completed and that \$6 million had been identified in the capital plan for this project, “with construction anticipated to start in the summer of 2016.”

As the minister is aware, his department issued a construction tender for a sewage lagoon upgrade project in Naujaat on October 23, 2015. However, the department cancelled this tender on November 11, 2015. Can the minister clarify why his department cancelled this construction tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The sewage lagoon project for Naujaat was cancelled because the government feels at the moment that it was not going to be money well spent on a sewage lagoon.

Our conclusions to that have to do with the Dalhousie University study. We have a contract with Dalhousie University and they are doing wastewater studies in many different communities. We are finding that regulations that have been in place by the federal government are not, I wouldn't say not applicable, but not quite right for Nunavut. We have different conditions here and quite a different environment. This study that the university is doing in many communities over wastewater is stating that in fact.

It's not to say that Naujaat won't get a sewage lagoon, but the tender to process it now was cancelled and the reason was the study. The way the wastewater is being naturally treated right now is working very well and the end product or the end outcome after the wetlands is it's not that bad for the environment. It's good. It's doing the same thing as a sewage lagoon would do. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister already responded to the other question I was going to ask. However, to add to that remark about this study that needs to be completed for the sewage lagoon, as in future lagoon, as there is nothing at the moment in Naujaat, they are currently spilling the effluent onto the ground because that is the only choice. When does the minister expect the study to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Dalhousie University study I was talking about is going to be done for Naujaat this summer of 2016 and we will have a better idea of what needs to be done in Naujaat once the study is completed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The situation in Naujaat obviously is that the houses are increasingly requiring service. Extrapolating the amount of units means that a huge amount of effluent is being poured out into the area where they dump the sewage. Further, in looking at the ground where they dump the sewage, it is seeping all over the land, as it goes quite far downhill.

Did I understand correctly that this study that was undertaken didn't show any kind of hazardous contamination or that it won't result in dangerous contamination since the effluent isn't spilling into the ocean? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member is correct. There is no harmful stuff, I guess. By the time the sewage gets to the water after it's treated by the wetlands is in good enough condition that there is no environmental or contamination concerns.

Like I stated, this summer, the study will be done in Naujaat and the community council will be part of the process where they consult with them. Once this study is completed, we will have a better idea of exactly what is needed for Naujaat. There will be something put in place. We're just not sure what it is right now. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Question 221 – 4(3): Infrastructure Funding Announcement

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Earlier this week, the minister announced new funding for recreational and cultural infrastructure in Nunavut.

As I noted in my Member's Statement, we need to have adequate resources in place, including physical infrastructure, to help support healthy lifestyles for our youth and provide alternatives to unhealthy behaviours, such as vandalism and substance abuse.

Can the minister indicate whether or not his department is currently contacting municipalities, including the municipalities of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, to provide them with information on how to apply for the new funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The announcement that was made is about the Small Communities Fund. There are different criteria on what these funds can be used for and the main criteria that will be going to the smaller communities will be playgrounds and arena upgrades. The communities will be invited to put in proposals for what would they want for their arenas to be done to upgrade. All proposals and submissions will be looked at and they will be prioritized. Right now, there has not been a call order put out, but through the process here, there would be a call order put out for any communities that may want to have their arenas renovated or upgraded. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The integrated community infrastructure sustainability plans for both Kugaaruk and Taloyoak identify a number of needs in the area of recreational infrastructure. Can the minister indicate how these plans will be considered by his department when reviewing applications for funding from municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The integrated community sustainability plans that each municipality has would be looked at in the normal process where each community makes a priority of what they want done for infrastructure in their

community. Once yearly, it's looked at by the other committee. I can't remember the name offhand, but it's made up of municipalities and the government. Their recommendations go forward to CG&S as to what should be funded for infrastructure.

This list for the nine arenas is just for renovating. There's nothing in there about new structures. I believe these are two separate issues and they both are their own entity and they operate differently. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The announcement that the Minister of Community and Government Services made earlier this week indicated that new funding for the replacement of playgrounds is being provided to the Department of Education. Can the minister clarify whether or not locally elected district education authorities can make applications for this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member noted, it's under the Department of Education and I cannot speak for the Minister of Education and he should direct his question to Education. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. The

Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Question 222 – 4(3): Polar Bear Fur Sales and Pricing

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is aware, the government is currently in a partnership with the Fur Harvesters Auction house in North Bay to sell and market furs that have been harvested in Nunavut.

I am aware of a number of hunters from my own community who still market their polar bear hides through the government's program. I have also received concerns from my constituents that the auction house has not sold a lot of bear hides in the past two years.

Can the minister update the House today on the number of polar bear hides that are currently in storage at the Nunavut Fur Harvesters Auction house? 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 that question. We know that there are approximately 300 polar bear hides that are currently in storage at the Fur Harvesters Auction house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that untanned

polar bear hides that are kept in storage for a period of time will age and discolour, turning yellow and rendering the hide worthless. The process usually begins within two years. Further, when this discolouration occurs, it is irreversible, even with treatments such as bleach.

Can the minister specify how many of the 300 polar bear hides that are currently in storage are aged and discoloured to the point that they are no longer marketable to auction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, these polar bear hides I referred to are in that situation at the current time. This concern has been voiced about the lack of sales for polar bear hides recently. Mr. Speaker, what I want to state here is that with the market trending down, the future doesn't look too bright. With that kind of uncertainty and due to the fact these hides may degrade, we are looking at selling them at lower prices. If we can sell these hides, that is our only choice and with that uncertainty, it seems to be our only option at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of the government's Fur Pricing Program is to allow hunters to receive compensation for their work and fur products in a timely and fair manner. However, it is important that the Fur

Pricing Program remains financially viable to ensure that it remains operational to help Nunavut hunters in the future.

Can the minister indicate the amount of funding that has been directed to fur pricing polar bear hides in Nunavut that have been stored and now lost market value and will no longer provide a return for the Government of Nunavut's investment and what the department's plan of action will be to account for the lost dollars? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, these factors as they stand are not pieces of good news, especially with the market for polar bears dropping. With the fur prices dropping, we have started to review how to provide more assistance to our hunters. Due to that reason, the government has identified this month after cabinet approved the request that after that meeting, I will be able to provide an answer to the member's question about options to resolve this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 223 – 4(3): Work with
Community and Government
Services**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Education. It's not about the school, but education in general.

Mr. Speaker, I was asking questions yesterday about the school that burned down and of the need to move the students to another school. Nonetheless, there was also a daycare that was housed at the Peter Pitseolak School.

The minister is well aware of the benefits of daycare spaces in the communities, so I would like to first ask him a question. I apologize. I would like to ask the minister if he has started consultations with his colleague from CGS, as per his past statement about meetings held in December prior to Christmas about plans for the future. I would like to ask him if he has had planning discussions with his colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for requesting further information on this matter. Absolutely, the member is correct in his assumption about the importance of our daycares, as they are crucial to success and communities require daycare spaces, particularly for our student bodies, as some students require daycare to continue their education.

To date and based on what I am aware of, the DEA and the manager of the old daycare have met with the municipality to discuss this issue and to come up with alternatives, such as the sewing facility. I believe the member knows which building I am referring to. To date, this is the facility they are discussing to replace that space.

Whenever we need to deal with these types of issues, we have to involve the Department of Community and Government Services, so we collaborate on these issues. However, the decision lies with the local government on how to resolve this challenge. I am just waiting for their decision. Once the decision is made, we can move forward with providing the operational funding and resources. Once a daycare space has been identified, this would move forward immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. The second question I direct to the minister about this matter is if he is aware of any student whose child was in that daycare in the higher grades. Is the minister aware of any student dropping out to date due to not having daycare space for their child? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was yesterday when I partially answered or tried to answer a similar question.

At this time, the Department of Education is reviewing the Peter Pitseolak School student records after the student body was moved to the other school. January, February, and up to March... Oh, I apologize. I meant November, December, and up to January is what we have reviewed as to whether

a decrease has occurred in the numbers, but it is still being researched.

Nonetheless, I haven't heard personally if this has been the case nor did I receive any correspondence about the question he just raised about students who may have dropped out due to that reason. I haven't heard anything related to that up to now. However, I do know that the Department of Education officials are reviewing the data to see if a decrease has occurred. Since this is still being researched, I haven't received any definite numbers related to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the minister will look into the lack of daycare facilities and whether there was anyone dropping out of school.

For my last supplementary question, he did mention the sewing class that is being administered by the hamlet. I'm sure the minister can work with the community or with his colleagues about the space at the community learning centre. They said that it's available and maybe we can reconfigure it so that it can become a daycare centre. Can the minister look into it? 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. In Cape Dorset, there's another daycare centre. I'm not sure what the name is, but we

are working with them and they are available. There used to be a daycare centre before the school burned down. They said that they have placements available. We are looking at how many spaces they have. That's the understanding I got today.

Yes, having daycare facilities available is very important. We will look at how we can make additional spaces prior to the new high school being built. We're looking at different options, but the sewing class space is available and they are looking at that again. We're working with the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 224 – 4(3): Western Canada Lottery and Nunavut Sports

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

On November 4, 2015, the minister at that time tabled the government's 2014-15 financial statements for the Nunavut Lottery. According to these statements, the government's revenue after expenses from the Nunavut Lottery in 2015 was over \$490,000.

Mr. Speaker, section 4 of the *Western Canada Lottery Act* provides that "profits accruing to the Government of Nunavut from the Western Canada Lottery shall be used for the purpose of

promoting sport and recreational opportunities for Nunavummiut."

Can the minister indicate what specific initiatives his department plans to direct this \$490,000 in profits towards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. It almost sounds like a question I know of that a general used to ask.

For the member, the profits are for sports. I can't tell the member offhand right now exactly where it goes, but this year, we are helping Greenland run the Arctic Winter Games. We are hosting the hockey here in Iqaluit, plus we have to send a bunch of athletes over to Greenland. I imagine a good chunk of that would be taken for the Arctic Winter Games.

As for specifics as to exactly where every bit of it went, I can't tell the member right now because I don't have that information in front of me. If the member wants it, I can get it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. We would be grateful if we could get that information.

Mr. Speaker, sports and recreation is an important program that provides many Nunavut residents, specifically youth, with the opportunity to participate in activities that promote confidence, travel and volunteer experience, and healthy living.

Can the minister indicate how his department raises public awareness of its Traditional Activities Grant program and Inuit Games Support Contributions program under its *Sport and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question again. CG&S funds the hamlets to have recreational coordinators. These recreational coordinators work for the hamlets. They are knowledgeable of where to get funding. I know that they have Inuit traditional summer games on in the summers. These recreational coordinators, I believe that's what they are called, can apply for funding and get that funding.

How else can I put this? The recreational coordinators are knowledgeable about their jobs. When they start, there can be orientation courses on where they can apply for funding. There are many sources of funding that can be applied for, not just from the territorial aspect but from the federal aspect too. We encourage the recreational coordinators to apply for funding when they need it from as many sources as they can.

Like the member stated, recreation and fitness is important. Fit people don't get sick as often and we know how bad our health care is in terms of it's always over budget. I encourage Nunavummiut to stay fit. If getting money to stay fit helps, then by all means do it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is responsible for the government's sports and recreation administration, which develops and facilitates programs "designed to promote opportunities in Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity for Nunavummiut at the community, regional, territorial, national and international level."

Can the minister indicate what, if any, programs his department has developed to promote Inuit games? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we promote all forms of activities and all games, anything that will make people more active and more fit. Like I stated earlier, they have the summer games. They also have Inuit arctic sports in the Arctic Winter Games and we have participants going over to Greenland for that sport. We do fund part of the Arctic Winter Games when it is on or when we are co-hosting or when

we are hosting it. We do fund Inuit traditional games. Thank you.

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

Question 225 – 4(3): Status of Proposed Amendments to Nunavut’s Education Act

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

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Legislative Assembly’s Special Committee to Review the *Education Act* presented its final report, containing 23 recommendations, to the Assembly on November 5, 2015.

Although the special committee was dissolved immediately after its review, members appreciated receiving a comprehensive response to the report from the Department of Education this past December. I note from the response that it is the department’s intention to bring forward a legislative proposal for amendments to the Act.

Can the minister provide an update on his department’s proposed timeline to introduce amendments to Nunavut’s *Education Act* within the term of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that excellent question. This is a very important aspect as, obviously, expectations can develop

whenever a new program is being started and how it will be set up.

Maybe firstly we should remember that the *Education Act* contains clear language stating that every five years, the legislation has to be reviewed. December 2015 is when this process started, this (interpretation ends) legislative proposal, (interpretation) as the review started in December 2015 up to January 2016.

The departments that were consulted were the Department of Justice, including others such as (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage, (interpretation) where we reviewed all the documentation and language. It included the (interpretation ends) *Inuit Language Protection Act* (interpretation) amongst others that were part of this review.

Just recently in February extending up to March, the different departments will be meeting to draft the new legislation, as an example, within the various jurisdictions that need to be involved, as well as the IQ committee and the policy division. These are the types of issues being reviewed currently.

Reaching to the middle of April, the (interpretation ends) cabinet (interpretation) legislation review committee has to review this. This process will run to mid-April. We expect that we can submit it to cabinet in the middle of April.

From that point, we still need to consult outside agencies and organizations, such as (interpretation ends) NTI, (interpretation) the local district education authorities, the Coalition of

Nunavut District Education Authorities, (interpretation ends) CSFN, (interpretation) and the regional Inuit organizations. I imagine this will take until the end of April for this work.

For May/June, we envision that consultation process will continue and we are thinking of picking June to consult the regional organizations for these (interpretation ends) consultations (interpretation) with the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtaaluk regions. Actually, in the Baffin region, we envision a sub-regional approach where North and South Baffin would be separate.

From that point forward, that reaches about July, so the period up to October is when we expect to complete the process. In November 2016, we hope to submit the draft legislation to the House.

That is how the consultation process will play out, with the various groups I spoke to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, the three key areas of the *Education Act* which have been identified as priority areas for legislative amendment are inclusive education, language of instruction, and the roles and responsibilities of DEAs. Can the minister confirm that any proposed amendments to the *Education Act* will also address these areas of concern? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is the plan as laid out, but it is primarily the three options we have reviewed stemming from the legislative review group and we followed their recommendations. Obviously, we had to review various options, such as the Auditor General's recommendations that we had to include as well, including the (interpretation ends) special *Education Act* review committee.

(interpretation) Yes, it is absolutely truthful that (interpretation ends) the amendments with respect to inclusive education, language of instruction, DEA roles and responsibilities within the mandate (interpretation) will formulate the main objectives under this process here. That is how it is set up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, one of the key issues identified by the special committee was the need to promote greater understanding of different roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities identified in the legislation. Can the minister describe what steps have been taken to date to articulate and publicize these aspects of Nunavut's education system for everyone concerned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier remarks about the various action items still needing work, such as consultations, this process to date has been used for the review of the draft legislation as we are consulting with many groups.

Further, with respect to the groups the member referenced, it is only after we get feedback from these bodies in order to have a comprehensive list, perhaps it would take up to the middle of April before it goes to cabinet as a (interpretation ends) legislative proposal (interpretation) that we hope to present at that time.

However, we will review all applicable information. I want all my colleagues to understand that all the recommendations and options, if necessary, compose the majority of our upcoming work. I want my colleagues to expect this draft legislation in November 2016 when we hope to table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 226 – 4(3): Development Partnership Agreements

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

As our government has stated, their development partnership agreement is presently being looked at and they will decide whether or not to make changes. Let me first ask: what is the reasoning

behind the need to review that agreement? 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. Thank you for asking this question again. We have one main agreement presently with Agnico Eagle. The funding that is identified is the fuel tax rebate. They were able to return some funds. We want to look at other types of agreements on cooperation that we can decide on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will base my question on the statement by the minister. The minister stated that it is presently being reviewed on how they can have agreements in other areas. What does that mean? 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 was listening to the English channel. I didn't quite understand. What is he asking about? Can my colleague clarify his question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Member for Tununiq, (interpretation) please clarify your question.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was clear earlier, so I don't know how to make it any clearer. I will just restate it. The (interpretation ends) hon. minister (interpretation) stated that they will be looking at other areas for partnership agreements. My question is: what does her statement mean by other partnership agreements? 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 also thank the member asking questions. I was listening to his question directly and now I understand what his question entails.

My department and the Department of Finance agreed on the process related to the (interpretation ends) Fuel Tax Rebate Program (interpretation) that is paid as a tax every time someone pays for fuel. Even if the mine project has started to operate and can finance their own needs, they are still eligible for this program, so they get rebates from the Nunavut government.

We expect in the future or hope to come up with an agreement in the future where only mineral exploration companies or junior partners starting up would qualify for these rebates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate when this review will be complete and

when a new one will be tabled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Yes, they are presently working on it. The Department of Finance staff and our staff have to work together with the companies that have agreements with us. We need to have clear discussions. This is not a simple matter. I can't say exactly when the agreements will be in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 087 – 4(3): Correspondence from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a letter from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization that has been provided to me. The HTO's correspondence concerns caribou

habitat.

Mr. Speaker, I will also have detailed questions on this issue for the Minister of Environment before the end of our winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I don't have any more names on my list. Ms. Angnakak.

Tabled Document 088 – 4(3): Letters of Support for Sailivik Society

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement yesterday, I referred to the wonderful support that the Sailivik Society has received with respect to establishing an elders facility in Iqaluit. I would like to table copies of these letters of support that have been received to date. Again I extend my warm thanks and appreciation for the ongoing contributions made by organizations such as these and by many individuals and community residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have no more names. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:34 and Committee resumed at 15:58*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Order. Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2016-17 Main Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: *Iqsuqtii*, please assist the staff to the witness table.

Minister, please introduce your staff.
Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, I have Ms. Lori Kimball. She's the DM. To my left is Darren Flynn, the ADM. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We were on page J-7. Branch Summary.

Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

The next name on the list, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister. I won't be asking a question related to the figures but rather just for clarification, if you will allow me, Mr. Chairman.

It is in this tab speaking to (interpretation ends) Property and Asset Management, (interpretation) which I believe is the subject of my question. As the minister is aware, I have raised questions about these old buildings previously owned by the government that have sat unused for many years and are becoming a safety hazard.

I have raised questions on how to transfer the assets to the hamlet or even to any organization, but every time I ask

a question related to this matter, it seems like I get different responses, especially in how they can be disposed of.

I am sincere in my statement that I believe they pose safety hazards, and youth just wander in and do all sorts of things, such as vandalizing them, yet the buildings are just left as they stand. I was a lot younger back then and now I am close to old age, yet some of these buildings remain exactly as they were years ago.

As the minister, how will you attempt to resolve these concerns? As per my earlier statement, I seem to get different answers when I ask about these buildings. What is your position on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll first explain how the process is supposed to work. When a building is not used anymore by a department, they can write it off. Once it is written off, it can be offered to the hamlet or it can be disposed of for sale or for destruction. That's the process, but CGS would assess the building to make sure that it is in safe condition.

Right now, we're in the process of doing an overall inventory of any old or unused buildings in Nunavut. We don't want old, derelict buildings around because it is a safety issue. We're in the process of finding out exactly what is out there.

That being said, sometimes a department will not use a building anymore, but then they don't go to the next step of writing it off. When it's seen in the books, it's

still seen as an asset that is viable. When an asset is not being used anymore and written off, we have to make sure that there are no contaminants because some of the older buildings do have asbestos and we would have to deal with that. That is how the process is supposed to work.

Like I said, right now, we're doing an overall inventory of buildings that aren't being used. Once a building is deemed to be unsafe, it would have to be dismantled or torn down because if it's unsafe, then we wouldn't want to turn over a building that is unsafe to anybody. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once a building owned by a government department has no more official use, what length of time or period from that assessment has to pass before the department can write it off? That is, if you understood my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no set time as, "Okay, the building is not being used. Therefore, in 90 days, it has to be turned over to someone." There are no set times.

I know that sometimes some buildings fall between the cracks, sometimes it's at the fault of CG&S, other times it's at the fault of departments, but we don't want old, derelict buildings around. When a department quits using a building, if it's not needed and it's still in good condition, then we wouldn't destroy it

because infrastructure is expensive and limited in Nunavut and we want to take advantage of anything that is useable to be used. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, they are currently doing a review or inventory of the conditions of all buildings, especially the old buildings that are no longer being used. Are Qulliq's buildings included, such as the oil generator buildings? Are they included with government department units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we would not deal with Qulliq Energy's assets. They are their own entity and they would deal with it however they deal with their old surplus buildings, if they have any. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Qulliq's buildings are not included, which buildings are not included in the GN buildings? Are those the only buildings that are not included? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should have elaborated. It's the same with the Nunavut Housing Corporation because it's a Crown corporation. Any Crown corporation would deal with their own asset disposal methods. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps he responded and I didn't comprehend it. How long do you expect the review to take place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't give an exact timeframe because, when a department deems... I used the word "write-off," but it was not the proper word. I should have used the word "surplus." When a department surpluses a building, then we would have to assess it and see what state it's in. No, I don't have a timeframe for the member, but it is a priority in terms of it has to get done. We have heard from many MLAs about old, derelict buildings that have been in the communities for a long time that are an eyesore, a safety hazard, and a fire hazard. We don't want any old buildings around at all. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the minister and I are having difficulty understanding each other. I believe that the minister had stated that there's a review being done currently with the derelict buildings that are no longer being used. I thought that the minister had stated that. That's why I asked when the review of the derelict buildings or inventory will be completed. I'm talking about the derelict buildings that are no longer being used. I thought you were doing an inventory. Didn't you say that you were doing an inventory on those? Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I did state that we are in the process right now of doing an inventory. Once the inventory is done, we have to go back to the departments to make sure that the data and information is, in fact, correct, and then that would come back to us again and we would go from there. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): That's my question. When do you expect to have this completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't give an exact timeframe because we have to work with all the departments and we don't have an exact timeline, but I assure the member that it is going to get done. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank the minister. I would expect this to be completed before I become a senior citizen.

Moving on, I believe we're on page J-7, Mr. Chairman. Your department deals with the *Building Code Act* and the *Fire Prevention Act*. In the past, it was mentioned that sometimes it takes a long time to do inspections due to lack of staff. It takes quite a while to deal with buildings that need inspection. Buildings end up not getting an inspection way

past their due time. Do you have any new information about the lack of staff or are buildings that require some work being dealt with in a timelier manner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Yes, we have problems with not enough manpower and we are adding three positions. There will be two PYs in the region and one in headquarters and those are to help out with the inspections. We do have to do inspections into the building code and fire inspections, like you said. We are adding some positions to help us out in that department. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, where are these jobs going to be and when do you expect them to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I stated, we have two going to the regions and one going here. The building inspectors will be one in Rankin Inlet, one in Cambridge Bay, and one in Iqaluit. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Regarding the inspectors, can the minister indicate to us if they are going to be electrical inspectors or plumbing inspectors? What kind of inspectors are they going to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These inspectors are going to be inspectors for the building code. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short question. Are we on page J-7? Yes. In November 2015, there's written reference that you made requests for office spaces. In your business plan, it indicates that you're going to be filing a report on office spaces. When will you be tabling this plan in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I also thank the member for that question. I responded to that question yesterday, but I have no problem answering it. The study was Nunavut-wide to assess office space needs, whether it is adequate or required. The study was completed and the report is lengthy with 635 pages. At this time, the study has been completed, but we are still evaluating the results and we haven't made a decision as to whether we need to construct office space in a specific community or if we can lease a building for office space. The study is still being evaluated. However, the study has been completed. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister, but we are reviewing this page and it states that you will bring this information forward. I understand that although the study is done, the review is not done. Once the review is completed, will it be tabled perhaps in another year or so? When does your department anticipate completion of this review and tabling of the information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, the document will be provided. I don't know the equivalent Inuktitut word for (interpretation ends) "tabled," (interpretation) but with respect to the timing, I don't know the timeframe since the study is a very thick document.

We will be using this study to determine where we need to increase our office space capacity, as it was to study all the needs, communities with adequate office space or the ones requiring more office space. We will use that study to determine our priorities to determine where we need office space.

With respect to the timeframe, I can't provide a concrete date because it is a big document. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I'll drop that subject now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, with respect to this particular term "plans," it is one word that has resounded ever since I sat as a

Member of the Legislative Assembly. Planning seems to be an excuse. We hear about all this planning, some extending for four years. Where does the requirement to continually plan come from?

It seems all the actionable items are delayed by planning. Planning is something this government needs to fix. Is there any way to expedite this process? It seems the departmental refrain is "We are planning it." I am aware of the complexity involved, but I wonder where we can expedite the planning process for the government departments. Have you given any thought to accelerate this process or is this too far out in left field? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) This term "planning" can only work if we follow the process properly. The government departments we work with will help determine the size of office space required, including future office space needs. We are trying to scrutinize this need carefully because if we built office space before it is needed or even in leasing or renting an office, we may find that in several years, the building is at capacity or they require more office space as a result. The term is used for future needs to ensure that we have adequate office space built.

The study took so long and it is so lengthy because we wanted it to be comprehensive. We want to have adequate office space to allow for growth, even if we don't construct the building ourselves and just least it, but

the study was to determine current and future office space needs, as we know that in the future, office space may be inadequate. That is why we have a long-term vision in this plan. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're at Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$107,863,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to page J-3. Okay, J-8. Page J-8. Information Item. Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can also ask questions on J-8 and I have some questions.

Just this winter in December, your department issued a news release stating that the prices in Nunavut for both diesel and gasoline would be going down by 10 cents a litre, which I'm very pleased about, and that it would become effective on January 1, 2016. I would like to know how your department calculated this 10 cents per litre figure. Why wasn't it 11 cents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't explain it all here because it's quite a complicated process. Even I have a hard time getting my fingers around exactly how they come up with the price. In a nutshell, they came up with the price.

As the member will recall, we had to ask for more monies because the stabilization fund that PPD has can be plus or minus \$10 million and it was in the hole for over \$10 million. It is in legislation that we can't go over \$10 million. Extra money was asked for and granted by the MLAs to get it to \$10 million. Once that was done, we put the price of gasoline and diesel down but not as much as we could have because we have to pay off that \$10 million deficit. Once the \$10 million deficit is paid off, we can look at the options again of what the price should be.

The main reason that it only went down as much as it did was due to the deficit in PPD in the stabilization fund. Another fact that has to do with it is that all our fuel is in bulk. It's bought in US dollars and the Canadian dollar has been very weak, so that has a bearing on it. Combined with those two factors, that was the best we could do at the moment. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I ask another question, as I'm sure we have been briefed, could the minister remind me why the deficit limit is set at \$10 million? Can you remind us why did it go over the limit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just explain the role of the stabilization fund first. It's there. It's a buffer so that we don't have to drastically increase or decrease the price of gas that we sell it for.

Some time in the past when the price of the gas and diesel that we were selling should have gone up to a certain level, it either didn't go up or didn't go up to the level it was. Therefore, we were selling the diesel and gasoline for less than what it cost us to purchase and distribute it and that's why the fund was in a deficit. The price of fuel should have gone up or should have gone up more at some time in the past and it didn't. That is why the fund was overdraft; I guess you call it, if you're talking banking terms. Right now, we're trying to pay down that debt. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Could the minister remind me why that happened? (interpretation ends) Why was it allowed to happen and why did it happen? (interpretation) Why did that happen and why did we let it happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not trying to pass the buck or pass the blame here, but it was a decision that was made by the previous government and I can't speak on behalf of them. When the price of fuel and gas should have gone up, it didn't go up or it didn't go up as much as it should have. That's all I can say about it. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that happened, it can reoccur in our future. However, I don't understand this part. Irrespective of the person holding the portfolio or the premiership, the top officials rarely

change. The lead officials of the departments don't change, but we never see any tangible change in the direction with new ministers. That is what I can't quite understand. The employees don't quit when a minister is reassigned. They are the ones running the departments. Although I am not personally pointing fingers, I don't get why things stay the same.

I am in disagreement with that response primarily because, when the minister is changed, the (interpretation ends) deputy minister, the assistant deputy minister, (interpretation) and their head officials are responsible for the daily operations. It is frustrating. I will leave it at that.

Let me move to another matter in your business plan for 2016-19 where it states yet another study will be launched. It states that the POS equipment or (interpretation ends) electronic point of sale (interpretation) is being tested in Rankin Inlet. I believe the pilot project has already been completed. Can you provide a short overview of what results accrued from this pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before I answer that question, I'll go back to how the decision is made by the DMs and ADMs. The recommendation is put there, but ultimately, the buck stops at the minister. The minister of the day may have had something to do with it, but I'm not just going to speak ill of the past government or pass the blame. I'm just saying that the buck stops at the minister. The minister is accountable for

whatever decisions in any department that they run.

Going back to the point of sales for Rankin Inlet, yes, it's being tried out and we're still working on it. There are still a few bugs that have to be worked out on it, so it's not done. There are still a few bugs that have to be worked out. In essence, what it does is they have a better track of inventory electronically so that if you make a sale in Rankin Inlet, it's entered into data and it's communicated via the Internet. There is less chance for human error. If you have somebody entering all the data physically by hand, then the odds of having data errors are great.

Plus, with the point of sales, they know what their current inventory should be as opposed to the current system we use. They are always a few months behind in terms of if you ask them how much fuel they have, they don't have the accurate numbers for the current date. It's still a pilot project and we are still working on it. So far, in general, it's working out well. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us whether these are little bugs or big bugs? Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are minor bugs. They are small things. We want to make sure we smooth everything right out before it's used across the board in Nunavut because it's easier to fix with small, little tweaks here and there just to make sure

it's running smoothly, properly, and efficiently before we lay it out for all of Nunavut. They are just minor little things. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. When will the study on the system be completed? Will it be used as a model for possible use in other communities? When is this study expected to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would start to be rolled out one by one to each community, but I can't give a firm date on exactly when that would be. The goal is eventually to have all the communities on this point of sale once it's running smoothly. It will be phased in over all the communities, not all at once. As we just don't have the capacity to do it all at once, it has to be done gradually. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going to a different topic, I believe you have fuel contracts in all the communities. They are usually for ten-year terms. Do all the communities right now have someone contracted for ten years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the communities have contracts, but they don't all start and end at the same time. They are varied. I think

half are close to one time and half are close to another time. They are not all set at the same time. Contracts will be expiring at different times. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand correctly that all the communities, even though the contracts are not signed at the same time, each community has a ten-year PPD contract in every community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right. They are five-year with an optional five-year renewal. That is my understanding. I don't want to give him the wrong information, so what I'll do is - all the dates are here - turn it over to Ms. Kimball so that she can give all the numbers because she's better at that than I am. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball, remember we have interpreters. Ms. Kimball.

>> *Laughter*

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Kitikmeot, the dates the contracts were awarded ranges from August to October 2015. Those were done in an RFP back in 2014. In Kivalliq, again they were all tendered in 2014 and the range that they were awarded is between August and September 2015. In Baffin, we have RFPs for everywhere except for Iqaluit. There are a couple of communities that are still in process. The rest deal with July to September, again 2015. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand correctly that the PPD contracts for all communities in the Baffin are going to be renewed? Is that the way I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ones that are getting new contracts in the Baffin (Qikiqtaaluk) are 11. Iqaluit is on different terms with theirs expiring next year in 2017. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) And when will the RFPs be closed? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These contracts have already been awarded except for the Iqaluit one. When Ms. Kimball was going off with those dates, that's when the contracts were awarded. The contracts have already been awarded. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question. This winter, world oil prices are very low. Have you bought the fuel for this coming summer while it's cheaper? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we bought the jet fuel and we have bought the gasoline and the diesel, but we don't buy the diesel all at the same time because we don't have the storage capacity. We have to buy the gasoline in the winter because we buy winter-grade gasoline. If we wait 'til summer, there is no winter-grade gasoline available for us. The bulk of the fuel, yes, has been purchased and it's being stored for us. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Seeing no more names on page J-8, go to J-3. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$239,143,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Community and Government Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you to the minister. Do you have any closing comments? Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my officials that were here for helping me out and their staff for helping them out because it's a team effort to get here, to get the information here.

I would like to thank all the MLAs for doing their part. What we do is we present the budget and what we want to use the money for and we need the

MLAs to agree to it and if they don't agree to it, then changes could be made. I'm glad that all the MLAs have agreed to it because we're here to work as a team together for the betterment of Nunavut.

Just to remind the MLAs, CGS stands for "Community and Government Services," and I thought maybe it stood for something like "Let's get Savikataaq." Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. *Iqsuqtii*, can you escort the witnesses?

We will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 16:41 and resumed at 16:54*

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Welcome back. I would now like to ask the Minister of Education if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, yes, I would like officials here with me.

Chairman: Thank you. Does that committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Minister, please introduce your officials. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe you're asking me to introduce the officials who are here with me. On my left is someone everybody knows, my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, and I am very proud that she has been a deputy minister for almost 12 years in the government. On my right is Marc Rose, Financial Controller. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, please proceed with your opening comments. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to meet with my colleagues to discuss the 2016-17 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Education.

In our mandate document, *Sivumut Abluqta*, we stated that education is the government's top priority. Our goal is the development of self-reliance and education is the key to realizing this goal. We are committed to providing students in every community access to the same high-quality education and training needed to reach their career goals.

Mr. Chairman, it is important that the department has the financial means it requires to develop the resources needed and hire the staff required to deliver effective instruction.

For the 2016-17 fiscal year, we are requesting \$2,751,000 in new monies. This new funding is almost entirely within the Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Operations Division.

The amount of \$835,000 is included in this request for Nunavut Teachers Association salary increases. This funding requirement is a result of the ratification of the Nunavut Teachers Association Collective Agreement in 2014.

The 2013 Auditor General's *Report on Education in Nunavut* stated, "Implementation of inclusive education requires more support from the Department of Education."

Mr. Chairman, we responded to the Auditor General's report by ordering an external review of inclusive education. We wanted to identify how to create a model of inclusive education that gives all students the opportunity to attend regular classes with students of the same age group and receive education based on individual goals that are achieved by providing adequate support.

Our proposed 2016-17 budget provides \$1,916,000 in new funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Operations to develop and deliver inclusive education in all regions of Nunavut. Support for inclusive education will help us move forward with our departmental priorities:

- literacy;
- support for school staff;
- equity and standardization across the territory; and

- accountability for student achievement and program outcomes.

This funding request is broken down into the following amounts. We have budgeted \$1,145,000 to provide eight new positions to support inclusive education. Mr. Chairman, these positions include, and I'll say it in English:

- 1) (interpretation ends) A behaviour and social-emotional learning coordinator to support school teams in their work to implement and maintain positive behavioural interventions;
- 2) A counselling and development coordinator who will support *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* in their roles and coordinate ongoing, regular staff development for them;
- 3) A director of student achievement who will coordinate the programs, services, and curricula used in all schools and classrooms to support inclusive education; and
- 4) A student support coordinator who will work in partnership with education staff to provide effective social-emotional learning and academic programs.

(interpretation) These four positions will be based at headquarters in Iqaluit in order to provide standardized programming and support to the regional school operations across Nunavut. Currently, we only have one full-time position at headquarters to provide support for inclusive education.

We need sufficient staff to create the processes, tools, resources, and staff

development to build, put into action, and maintain a comprehensive, Nunavut-wide system of inclusive education. The support that these new positions will provide addresses the recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and the needs of students.

(interpretation ends) In addition, there will be a regional student support manager in the regional school operations offices in Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, and Pond Inlet, with a student support consultant to be in Pond Inlet. These positions will provide the leadership needed in the regions to ensure schools are supported to provide inclusive education that encourages student achievement and instructional success by coordinating, supporting, and monitoring specialist services that include occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, behavioural therapy, and hearing and vision impairment therapy. (interpretation) These positions are very beneficial for our schools.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, \$521,000 in the budget has been allocated for operations and maintenance and the funds will be used for travel and transportation, materials and supplies, contract services, and IT hardware and software to support the new positions.

(interpretation) The remaining \$250,000 of the inclusive education budget is allocated to Nunavut Arctic College to assist and enhance their capacity to incorporate quality inclusive education practices in their education programming. This will include a review of the courses in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program that develop the

knowledge and skills required by teachers in an inclusive education model.

(interpretation ends) This will also assist with the design and delivery of a Student Support Assistant Certificate Program to provide a much-needed professional development opportunity to existing and future student support assistants so that they will have the knowledge and skills needed to support effective teaching and learning based on best practices in inclusive education.

The monies we have requested for inclusive education will help us move towards establishing a functional inclusive education model that is effective, accountable, equitable, and standardized across Nunavut's three regions.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, in order to deliver consistent, quality education to Nunavummiut, we have put forward a total budget of roughly \$205.5 million for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The great majority of our proposed budget is allocated towards compensation and benefits, just as it has been in years past.

As a result of the annual increases in compensation and benefits costs, there have been small fluctuations in operations and maintenance costs across all divisions in order to fund these increases.

(interpretation ends) Responsibility for improving education outcomes is shared by everyone. My department has a leadership role and we will continue to work towards a higher quality education system in Nunavut. I look forward to working with the committee and my colleagues to provide Nunavummiut

with the best possible opportunities for the future.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I am happy to respond to questions from the committee. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2016-17 budget of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget is over \$205 million, including an increase of approximately \$2.7 million from its 2015-16 budget. The standing committee notes that the department is proposing to focus considerable effort and resources on inclusive education initiatives in the upcoming fiscal year.

The standing committee looks forward to receiving updated copies of the department's action plans which were developed in response to the Auditor General's 2013 reports on *Education in Nunavut* and the *Safety of Schools and Childcare Facilities in Nunavut*.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's focus on inclusive education is a welcome response to concerns that have been raised by parents and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut as well as being an issue addressed by the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act* and the

Auditor General. Committee members recognize that significant efforts will be required to ensure that a consistent approach to inclusive education is provided across all schools in Nunavut and that additional resources and specialized services must also be considered as well as additional training in the Teacher Education Program of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee looks forward to reviewing future updates as the inclusive education initiative is rolled out across the territory.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to review his draft main estimates for 2016-17, members were pleased to receive details on the department's work towards developing a complement of Inuit language material, such as levelled books and texts with health and northern themes for use in schools and at home. Initiatives such as these will go a long way towards supporting Inuit language learning.

Members recognize the importance of Inuit language standardization for use in Nunavut's schools and have noted recent commitments from other groups to work towards standardization in such areas as the use of Roman orthography for Inuktitut. The standing committee encourages the minister and his staff to work with other entities such as interpreter/translator organizations and Nunavut Arctic College to establish consistency in approach as well as ensuring consistencies in spelling and terminology.

Members note that the department faces a number of challenges in the area of bilingual language instruction and look forward to updates on the department's work in this area, as well as possible amendments to Nunavut's *Education Act*, which will address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department proposes to add a number of new positions to provide additional support and resources for teachers and principals across Nunavut's schools. In addition, recent announcements have indicated that there will be an overall increase in the number of teaching positions across Nunavut in 2016-17 based on student-educator ratios. Members note that some communities may experience a loss of teaching positions while others may see an increase.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that district education authorities have a wide range of roles and responsibilities with respect to the delivery of education in their communities. It has been recognized that more work needs to be done in this area and the committee encourages the minister and his officials to continue working closely with the coalition of DEAs as well as individual DEAs to ensure that the appropriate training and resources are provided to members and staff alike.

Committee members were very pleased to learn of the department's intention to continue working with communities to deliver summer literacy camps in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education also offers programs aimed at supporting adults who wish to improve

their educational qualifications, such as attaining a High School Diploma under the new PASS initiative. Members encourage the minister and his officials to work closely with their counterparts in Family Services to ensure that all adult Nunavummiut requesting or receiving services related to furthering their education or career opportunities are supported.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. I just wanted to remind all members that we are here to review the proposed operations and maintenance budget for 2016-17. I encourage members to focus their questions on the proposed budgets.

The floor is now open for general comments. Seeing none, we're on page G-4. Education. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Are we on page G-4? Yes. I would like to ask a question on this page, Mr. Chairman.

Also, let me start by welcoming Minister Quassa as well as one of my old fellow community residents, Kathy Okpik, and their official next to them. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

This question relates to a concern I hold about traditional Inuit social counselling. In your business plan, one of your priorities for 2016-17 is to hire Inuit workers, at least I understand that to be your direction. It states, "48 new Inuit employees." I would like to ask if these positions are Nunavut-wide or if they are

specific to a single community. Can you explain to me what the direction is for these employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for requesting that information. Perhaps I misspoke in trying to clarify that.

There are 16.5 new positions. When I was referring to new positions, I was talking about these numbers. If I break it down a bit further, there will be 9.5 positions for new teachers and these are actual teachers. Further, there are eight positions specified for (interpretation ends) inclusive education. (interpretation) These are two separate items.

Some positions are actual teaching positions while some positions are for providing support for, if I can state this here, (interpretation ends) inclusive education, (interpretation) which involves students with hearing problems or who are partially blind. We have to include these students in our schools, so these positions are set aside for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no formal experience as a teacher, which is why I am asking that question and obviously, I will ask questions if I don't understand.

You just remarked that some positions are for teaching positions, if I understood you correctly. I believe that

within each school, a real Inuk has to be involved, even if they are unilingual. I'm talking about a real Inuk. Do you have any goals specific to this as part of your business plan?

As an example, I refer to the elders who are brought in to speak to traditional Inuit knowledge, especially traditional social skills. These positions close, but I wonder if a position that could be there daily has even been contemplated. I believe they are necessary. Will this be yet another barrier in the future to hiring real Inuit to teach the students about Inuit social skills and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*? Does your business plan include any stipulation for this scenario? Can you elaborate, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for this question because this is very important.

Yes, we consider elders and traditional Inuit culture extremely important in our schools. In fact, pretty well annually - although I don't have the numbers in front of me - these elders are recognized as "Inuksiutilirijiit" and there are elders in those positions in every school. Further, the local DEAs submit elders' names to query about their eligibility to assume that role in their school. That is what I request from them. Recently, I just signed off another list of elders for that role. They serve as school-wide assistants.

What I can state here is that for the 2015-16 fiscal year, we have 134 elders recognized as cultural teachers within

our schools. I can further state that we expend about \$1.6 million a year specific to these elder cultural experts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very interested to hear that the department is working on the issue. Although I understand clearly when you are talking about traditional teaching, do you agree that we need a permanent position for elders? Will we be able to get a permanent position for teaching Inuit culture, a teaching position for a senior or elder? I would like to see an Inuk hired on a full-time basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The elders who teach traditional culture have their salaries paid by the DEAs, which receive funding for that. They are not a permanent employee within our department, but they work for the DEA. They aren't members with a full-time teaching position within our department. As I stated before, the DEAs pay for the elders' salaries and we allocate the funding to the DEAs.

With respect to your question, we don't have a permanent position within our department for elders who teach traditional culture in the communities. I can only respond that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to get that

clarified. I know there are elder teachers, but they aren't permanent positions like teachers. Would you consider some time in the future to have a permanent position? Have you ever considered having a permanent position? Would it be part of your goal to hire traditional cultural teachers into permanent positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many Inuit work in the schools. There are classroom teachers and counsellors who are usually Inuit. In addition, classroom assistants and language specialists are usually Inuit. There are various positions that are filled by Inuit. We have many employees working within our schools and elders are included as well.

It has been one of our objectives to have Inuktitut teachers. Although we have teachers, we lack the number of NTEP students. Arctic College is responsible for NTEP students. We would like to see hiring of Inuktitut-speaking teachers because it's very useful, as we are aware.

I'm sure that the members are aware that the students are taught and they are taken out on cultural outings such as hunting trips. We provide these various programs. The DEA can set up programs to be taught in Inuktitut. They can come up with those programs for the next calendar year.

I just wanted to say that Inuit culture and language is very important within our schools no matter where it is in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister. I just need clarification on your opening comments. I have a difficult time understanding English. On page 4 under the priorities, third bullet says, "equity and standardization across the territory." I need clarification on what this means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for the request. I have been stating that for quite some time. Everything inside the schools, such as learning materials, has to be standardized and more consistent no matter where you are in Nunavut. We are talking about consistency of curricula for our students.

As an example, it revolves around (interpretation ends) standardization (interpretation) so that throughout Nunavut, our schools offer the same type of courses. We have heard in the past that after a student took high school in one community and moved to a different community, although they remain in the same grade, the curriculum wasn't always similar. We wanted to see the curriculum standardized. That's what it means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that the minister himself and his staff have agreed and believe that there are different levels of education in all of Nunavut, so they have decided to

standardize the education system in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would like to see the curriculum standardized. For example, I'm not talking about standardizing Inuktitut, but we would like to see the language of instruction being standardized from Kugluktuk to Qikiqtarjuaq. There are also things being used in schools like tools that are being used by the teachers that need to be standardized.

What I'm basically talking about is to see standardization in the Nunavut schools. If a student moves from one community to another community in Nunavut, they should have the same curriculum. That's what it means. Maybe I am just repeating myself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister has been a deputy minister for 12 years, so I'm sure that she can respond to my question.

If we standardize the education system, how did it come about that there's so much difference from one community to another? There are some cases where a student goes from community A to community B and the education system is lower or higher. When did that start? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Probably some years back. If the member can recall, we had a different education system. We had the divisional boards. There were three of them, one in the Kitikmeot, one in the Kivalliq, and one in the Baffin. They had their own operating system at that time. Some of our schools had different subjects, so some subjects were taught in one school and not in another. That was the option the schools had.

At this time, we would like to standardize school operations Nunavut-wide. Of course, teachers specialize in different subjects. We had specialists at that time. Today, we are looking at how we can standardize the system Nunavut-wide and that's one of our goals right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't quite understand the minister's statement and I don't really agree with him. I used to be part of the Baffin divisional board and even at that time, they had to use the same *Education Act*, whether they were from the Baffin, Kitikmeot, or Kivalliq. That was at the time that I was involved with the divisional board. The foundation is, be it at the Kitikmeot divisional board or the Baffin divisional board, they all followed the *Education Act* from the Northwest Territories. That's where I don't quite understand where it's coming from.

My next question is on one of the goals... .

Chairman: Mr. Enook, the interpreter didn't get the question. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): My apologies, Mr. Chairman. On page 4, there are four bullets and the last bullet states, "accountability for student achievement and program outcomes." I'm trying to find out what that means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. What it means is that standardization would apply to guided reading, which would be utilized in all schools. Additionally, the same assessments would be used Nunavut-wide. That is what it means. As we indicated earlier, we keep saying, "inclusive education," and that applies to all students. Students who need special support will be taught the same subjects as the rest of the students and the same assessment will be used for those special students. I hope I provided an adequate response to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think you responded to my question or maybe we are not understanding one another.

On page 4, there are four bullets and the last one in English is, (interpretation ends) "accountability for student achievement and program outcomes." (interpretation) What does that mean? I seem to understand or maybe I don't understand "accountability for student achievement and program outcomes" at

all. That's why I'm trying to ask my question. I have read it in both languages and I think we should come to an understanding at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure how much more I can explain it, but I'll try.

The parents have to be fully informed about exactly where their child is. The student, even though they may have special needs, such as they are hard of hearing, we have to make sure that the parents know exactly where their child is. Even though they have special needs, for example, they would be taught the same subjects like guided reading or guided writing. Every student within that age range has to be in our schools. That is our policy.

I am not even a teacher, but all our teachers have to communicate to the parents along the lines of (interpretation ends) accountability to the parents, (interpretation) and this is what it is trying to express. It is specific to parents that they have to be kept informed. This includes the progression of all our students and where they stand. This is what it is trying to say, (interpretation ends) accountability for student achievement and program outcomes. (interpretation) That's what we're trying to do. We have to be accountable to the parents. That's what it means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no more questions on that for now. I move to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. *Iqsuqtii*, please escort the witnesses. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker: Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 13 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 4:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 12
 - Bill 13
 - Tabled Document 73 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 116 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 140 – 4(2)

- Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)
 - Tabled Document 70 – 4(3)
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
 22. Third Reading of Bills
 23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 4, at 9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:57*

